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## The March 1963 Issue

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Iron storage in human disease Fractionation of hepatic and splenic iron into ferritin and haemosiderin with histochemical correlations E. H. MORGAN and M. N. I. WALTERS

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The levels of the plasma coagulation factors after trauma and childbirth E. DAVIDSON and S. TOMLIN

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Spinal cord compression following vertebral osteomyelitis due to *Alkalescens-Dispar* J. BRIGGS and R. G. LASCELLES

Observations on the use of the Coulter model D electronic cell counter in clinical haematology A. N. BLADES and H. C. G. FLAVELL

Platelet counting using the Coulter electronic counter M. J. EGGLETON and A. A. SHARP

Technical methods

Rapid whole-blood platelet counting using an electronic particle counter ROBERT D. EASTHAM

A double sampler unit for the AutoAnalyzer D. EVERARD and G. SEYMOUR

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Book reviews

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# **Book Review**

A HISTORY OF AMERICAN PATHOLOGY By Esmond R. Long, (Pp. xiv + 460; illustrated. \$12-50.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1962.

While this purports to be a history of American pathology it contains a great deal more for there are important accounts and facts concerning hospitals, medical schools, journals, and societies. Almost until the beginning of this century the leaders in pathology were also foremost clinicians—the same is true today in some specialities—and so the early part of the book is largely the history of American medicine and the influence on it of various European schools of thought.

As was the case in Bologna, Paris, and London the morbid anatomist appears to have been the first of the pathologists on the American scene. On one of Jacques Cartier's voyages to Newfoundland in the year 1535, both at sea and ashore there was a heavy mortality from scurvy and so he had one of the crew, who seems to have had a penchant for human dissection, open up no less than 50 of the bodies to ascertain the cause of the bleeding. By 1641 the importance of morbid anatomy seems to have been recognized because in that year, when it was surmised that Governor Henry Sloughter of New York had been poisoned by an enemy, a verdict of natural causes was proposed by Johannes Kerfbyle, formerly of Leyden, who had been entrusted with the post-mortem examination.

The influence of Benjamin Rush on American pathology was considerable but there were others who played their parts: they included Samuel Jackson, William Wood Gerhard, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Alonzo Clark, and William Edward Horner who, while training in Europe, had been greatly impressed with Broussais and his work. In the year 1848 there appeared the famous textbook of Alfred Stille in which he maintained that pathological anatomy had already run its course and the future lay with the microscope to discover facts 'deep within the recesses of organized matter'. This same mistaken prophecy that morbid anatomy has had its day has been made many times since and it has often been said of morbid histology, but Francis Delafield set the view at nought on his return to America from Germany where he had been studying with Virchow. It was Delafield who inspired W. H. Welch, the lifelong friend of Osler, and the greatest of influences in America on the teaching of

Just as clinical pathology in Britain as we know it today had its origins in the provinces, the same was true in the United States. It was Philip Hillkowitz (1873-1948), a hospital pathologist in Denver, who founded a Denver Society of Clinical Pathology in 1921, which later that year became the Colorado Society of Clinical Pathology. In the following year the American Society of Clinical Pathologists was convened with Hillkowitz as President and Ward Burdick (1880-1928), also of Colorado, as Secretary. The first society on the American continent

to be devoted to pathology was that founded in Philadelphia in the year 1839.

The final chapter in this interesting book is devoted to the important subject of support for research. Current trends in pathology are studied and the recent remarkable expansion in medical research is regarded as part of the general speeding up of all aspects of technical research in the interests of national security. Dr. Long is not dismayed because of the increasing tendency in America for diagnostic laboratories to spring up in the various clinical departments of big hospitals seemingly in opposition to the economic ideals of a centralized hospital department, because clinical pathologists today seem to be fully cognizant of their growing responsibility in teaching and in the prosecution of research and have on several occasions recently so expressed their views in public.

W. H. MCMENEMEY

#### THE COLLEGE OF PATHOLOGISTS

Following a postal ballot amongst the 1,118 subscribers to the College of Pathologists, the following Office Bearers and Council have now been elected by the procedure accepted at a meeting of subscribers:—

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The first tasks before the Council will include the completion of the procedures for legal incorporation of the College as a Limited Company and for the admission of Founder Members.

## Broadsheets prepared by the Association of Clinical Pathologists

The following broadsheets (new series) are published by the Association of Clinical Pathologists. They may be obtained from Dr. R. B. H. Tierney, Pathological Laboratory, Boutport Street, Barnstaple, N. Devon. The prices include postage, but airmail will be charged extra.

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- 43 Mycological Techniques. 1962. R. W. RIDDELL.3s. 6d.

#### CORRECTIONS

In the paper 'Observations on the use of the Coulter model D electronic cell counter in clinical haematology' (Blades, A. N., and Flavell, H. C. G., J. clin. Path., 16, 158-163) Fig. 9 should be Fig. 8 and vice versa. Also on page 163, col. 1, line 3 should read 'gives a blank count at a threshold level of 5 of about 300 per 0.5 ml.'

In the book reviewed on page 185 by E. S. Anderson of ENTEROBACTERIACEAEINFEKTIONEN the sentence '(There is a misprint . . . 1923-1928.)' should read '(There is a misprint in the text at this point, the English figures being erroneously quoted as covering the period 1933-38 instead of 1923-1938.)'