

tors, such as E.A.C.A., in the control of thrombocytopenic purpura in man: reference is made to a reduction in purpura in three patients with Werlhof's disease, and eight with thrombocytopenia due to marrow failure or leukaemia, treated in this fashion.

Finally, miscellaneous remarks are made concerning 50 cases with arterial and four with venous occlusion treated by streptokinase or streptokinase-plasmin mixtures.

J. L. STAFFORD

SYMPOSIUM ON RENAL FUNCTION

The Proceedings of the Symposium organized by the Association of Clinical Pathologists on 'Renal function' and published in the July issue of the Journal may be obtained bound separately from the Publishing Manager, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1. It costs 12/6d, including postage.

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desire for their mortuary attendant to receive instruction to enable them to enter for the examinations of the Royal Institute. A few indicated their willingness to take part in arranging and conducting courses of instruction on their own or in conjunction with their neighbouring colleagues. Unfortunately the number of those offering in this way did not permit a general beginning to be made in the autumn of 1964. Offers to undertake instruction are again invited.

However, the results of the examinations so far are encouraging and they refute the suggestion that those over 50 years old among the mortuary attendants will not submit to examination. The results demonstrate clearly that there is a desire and a need for qualifications by mortuary attendants, who by their additional duties are indeed post-mortem room technicians. Their duties

today include the care of specimens for all kinds of examinations—bacteriological, chemical, and histological—and they have the care of case-notes, the care of the mortuary and post-mortem room registers, and they possess valuable working knowledge of the certificates relating to death, including cremation, and affecting removal of eyes for corneal grafting, as well as for the disposal of the dead in cases of anthrax or smallpox and of patients dying during treatment with radioactive gold.

It should be abundantly clear now that these invaluable members of a service ancillary to medicine have indeed come a long way in the last two decades and the old conception of their being associated with the undertaker's shilling should be dispelled for ever.

J. F. HEGGIE.

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