

## Broadsheets and symposia

From the very first years of its life there have appeared in the *Journal of Clinical Pathology* review articles which have become a notable feature. The demands on our space made by original articles and technical methods have, however, reduced the number of review articles which we have been able to provide, although bigger volumes have been produced each year. And from time to time there have been other bonuses for our readers. Long ago in the history of haematological studies we devoted an issue to the discussion of blood coagulation and another issue to hospital cross infection. We have also published some of the groups of papers which formed symposia at various meetings of the A.C.P. and are now about to offer further facilities specifically to our parent, the A.C.P., and also to pathologists who may not be members, or indeed may be working in countries outside the orbit of the A.C.P.

In May the symposium on the thyroid, organized by the Chemical Pathology Committee of the A.C.P., will be issued as a supplement to the Journal. This is edited by G.K. MCGOWAN and M. SANDLER and should be of great value to the hundred and more pathologists who were able to be present at the symposium and to the many others who need a comprehensive review of modern thyroid studies (the contents are set out on page 198).

Also for the A.C.P. we are about to publish the first broadsheets to be issued in 1967. For many years these broadsheets have been invaluable to clinical pathologists, and their sale overseas is an indicator of their wide usefulness. The list of titles already available, and prices, is printed in the back inside cover of the Journal, and two new broadsheets will soon be ready. But this does not mean that the Technical Methods section will disappear from the Journal, as this section is a most important part of our regular service to our readers and to those who have devised and tested these new methods. The broadsheets, produced under the general direction of D. ROBERTSON SMITH, are in some cases practical bench guides and others are up-to-date reviews of techniques which are available at the time of printing.

Although we have no official link with the College of Pathologists, in many unofficial ways we have been able to help the College. Before our readers have the March issue of the Journal in their hands the first symposium organized by the College will have taken place. The subject is organ and tissue transplantation and these papers too will be published as a supplement to the Journal, on 1 June 1967. (The Journal does not appear in June but we decided on this date so that the published symposium should be ready for an international meeting in Paris early in June.)

All supplements to the Journal will have the pages numbered in sequence with those of the accompanying issue of the Journal so that the references should not be lost to future research workers. The broadsheets are paginated and issued independently of the Journal.

The thyroid symposium (and others sponsored by the A.C.P.) is free to members of the A.C.P. and for other subscribers to the Journal a special price will be announced. The symposium organized by the College of Pathologists on organ transplants will be sent without further payment to all those who paid the registration fee for that symposium, irrespective of whether they are members of the College. The contents list and prices for other subscribers will be published in the May issue of the Journal.

We are confident that the Journal is in the way we have outlined offering the fullest possible discussion of all aspects of clinical pathology by publishing original papers, symposia, reviews, and broadsheets, at the same time maintaining its first aim which is to ensure that when we have accepted a paper, that paper should be published with the minimum of delay.

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## The January 1967 Issue

THE JANUARY 1967 ISSUE CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING PAPERS

### The developing pattern of clinical pathology

Extracts from the Presidential Address to the International Society of Clinical Pathology meeting in Rome

Obituary: Gordon Roy Cameron JOAN STOKES and R. A. B. DRURY

Squamous differentiation in carcinoma *in situ* of the cervix uteri CHANDRA GRUBB and IVAN JANOTA

Incidence and origin of non-systemic microdeposits of amyloid MORDECHAI RAVID, JOSEPH GAFNI, EZRA SOHAR, and HANS-PETER MISMAHL

Clinical and electron microscopic studies of a case of glycolipid lipoidosis (Fabry's disease) ANGUS I. RAE, JOHN C. LEE, and JAMES HOPPER, JR

Subacute necrotizing encephalomyelopathy of infancy and childhood DAVID YASHON and JOHN A. JANE

Myocardial ischaemia in infancy and childhood C. L. BERRY

Adult Fanconi syndrome with monoclonal abnormality of immunoglobulin light chain J. F. HARRISON and J. D. BLAINEY

Possibility of normokalaemic primary aldosteronism as reflected in the frequency of adrenal cortical adenomas I. DÉVÉNYI

Blood lipid levels, thyroid status, and glucose tolerance in progressive partial lipodystrophy B. M. RIFKIND and J. A. BOYLE with the technical assistance of MORNA GALE

Some interactions between human platelets and glass: von Willebrand's disease compared with normal J. R. O'BRIEN and JOAN B. HEYWOOD

Measurement of platelet adhesiveness including the use of diatomaceous silica (celite) G. D. PEGRUM, S. SHAW, and SYLVIA E. WOLFF

Urinary amino acid excretion in subjects with leukaemia MAUREEN B. LEE, D. W. NEILL, and J. M. BRIDGES

Occurrence of various types of penicillinase plasmid among 'hospital' staphylococci K. G. H. DYKE and M. H. RICHMOND

Candida in the faeces of children receiving oral tetracycline and phenoxymethyl penicillin R. J. HOLT and R. L. NEWMAN

Incidence of the fimbriate phase amongst *Escherichia coli* isolated from urinary infections A. C. BUCK

Use of thiosemicarbazone and para-nitrobenzoic acid in screening tests for anonymous mycobacteria JOHN D. BARRIE

Determination of serum thyroxine using a resin sponge technique JOHN A. KENNEDY and DENIS M. ABELSON

### Technical methods

Simple method for estimating plasma haemoglobin during open heart surgery SIDNEY SHAW

Automated screening for sheep erythrocyte agglutination T. K. MORRIS and F. J. BYWATER

Electrophoresis using a constant potential across the separation field G. W. R. DIKE and F. E. BEW

Association of Clinical Pathologists: 77th General Meeting

Book reviews

Copies are still available and may be obtained from the PUBLISHING MANAGER,  
BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, TAVISTOCK SQUARE, W.C.1, price 18s. 6d.

tested) whereas only four out of 15 colonies randomly selected from cultures of wounds from the three patients in ward B carrying this type of staphylococcus were resistant. This suggests that neomycin resistance of the epidemic strain was gradually lost in the absence of the antibiotic and was confirmed by the laboratory studies. However, the other neomycin-resistant strain tested showed no loss in resistance to neomycin in similar tests, resembling in this respect strains described in another study (Lowbury, Babb, Brown, and Collins, 1964).

Further studies on the mechanism of variable neomycin resistance in these organisms are in progress.

We wish to thank Dr. E. J. L. Lowbury for his advice, Mr. L. W. Aldridge, Senior surgeon, and the nursing staff of Dudley Road Hospital for their cooperation, and Miss S. Louis for technical assistance.

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## A.C.P. Symposium on the Thyroid

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slow acting or non-metabolized and the intermediate or fast acting (*i.e.* metabolized) is adequate for our clinical purposes. Lee and Ames (1965) base their decisions for haemodialysis on the group and level of barbiturate present and whether taken concurrently with phenothiazines.

Jackson (1963) describes a system of paper chromatography which covers a considerable number of drugs but the chromatography requires at least two hours. The reverse phase high temperature paper chromatography technique developed by Street (1962) provides a more rapid screen. However, thin-layer chromatography, apart from its rapidity, is extremely robust, giving good resolution of barbiturates over a range of 1 to 150  $\mu\text{g.}$ , making it applicable for cases both of addiction and overdose.

The simple method of using one reagent to detect all the neutral and acidic drugs has proved to be rapid, reliable, and sensitive. The plates are easier to read at the low levels frequently encountered than the method of alkalization and viewing under ultra-violet light at 253 m $\mu$ . Podmore (1962) reports a sensitivity of 10 to 20  $\mu\text{g.}$  for barbiturates by the latter method.

Sunshine (1963) and Cochin and Daly (1963) also use thin-layer chromatography for the detection of a wide array of compounds, but on the standard 20 cm. plates, thereby increasing the time interval before identification.

The microchromatoplates provide a simple, rapid technique and it was found that, with the system

described, the separation was not improved when the larger plates were used.

We wish to thank Mr. J. T. Wearne for his help in this study.

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## Reports and Bulletins prepared by the Association of Clinical Biochemists

The following reports and bulletins are published by the Association of Clinical Biochemists. They may be obtained from Mr. J. T. Ireland, Biochemistry Laboratory, Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool, 12. The prices include postage, but airmail will be charged extra.

#### SCIENTIFIC REPORTS

- 1 Colorimeters with Flow Through Cells. A Critical Assessment of 4 Instruments. 1965. P. M. G. BROUGHTON and C. RILEY. 13s 6d.
- 2 Colorimeters: A critical assessment of 5 commercial instruments. 1966. P. M. G. BROUGHTON, C. RILEY, J. G. H. COOK, P. G. SANDERS and H. BRAUNSBURG. 15s.

#### TECHNICAL BULLETINS

- 2 A Report on the Enzyme Questionnaire Circulated by the Scientific Committee. December 1964. A. H. GOWENLOCK. 1s.
- 3 Non-recording Spectrophotometers for the Visible and Ultraviolet Ranges. A comparative table of instruments available in Great Britain. May 1965. A. H.

GOWENLOCK, P. C. NICHOLAS, and J. H. WILKINSON. 1s. 6d.

- 4 Control Solutions for Clinical Biochemistry. June 1965. P. M. G. BROUGHTON and A. H. GOWENLOCK. 1s. 6d.
- 5 Recording Spectrophotometers. A comparative list of low-priced instruments readily available in Britain. July 1965. P. SEWELL. 2s. 6d.
- 6 A Guide to Automatic Pipettes. A list of more than 100 instruments compiled from manufacturers' literature. August 1965. P. M. G. BROUGHTON. 5s.
- 7 Variability Between Auto-Analyzer Modules. August 1965. B. E. NORTHAM. 1s. 6d.
- 8 Flame Photometers. A comparative list of 15 instruments readily available in Britain. June 1966. C. RILEY. 4s.

paper by Herman Suit deals with radiotherapy under conditions of local tissue hypoxia (readily produced in the distal part of a limb by the application of a pneumatic tourniquet) in the hope of eliminating differential radiosensitivity of normal and relatively anoxic areas of tumour tissue. It still remains to be shown, however, that better results are obtained than with more conventional methods.

The section on tumours of soft tissues is of outstanding interest to the surgical pathologist in that it directs attention to a number of recently recognized entities—variously known as ‘infantile fibromatosis’, ‘calcifying aponeurotic fibroma’, ‘nodular fasciitis’, and ‘desmoid fibrosarcoma’—which are not infrequently confused histologically with frankly malignant lesions but are relatively benign. The papers of Enzinger and of Butler, in the present volume, are commended as a source of useful information on these interesting and important lesions.

H. A. SISSONS

**PROGRESS IN CLINICAL PATHOLOGY** Edited by Mario Stevanini. (Pp. ix + 654; illustrated. \$23.75). London and New York: Grune and Stratton. 1966.

It would be hard to conceive a volume for which a greater need exists than this, in view of the astonishing rapidity with which new methods of laboratory diagnosis are introduced and become indispensable. Against a background of continually increasing requests, chronic staff shortage, and claims and counterclaims about the value of computers, the subject of clinical pathology has become highly charged with *angst*.

This book consists of 15 chapters each written by an expert or group of experts consisting of university staff, hospital staff, and one medical student. Nine chapters are devoted to clinical chemistry, two to bacteriology, one to haematology, one to the scope of clinical pathology, one to normal values, and finally an excellent, but perhaps over-condensed, chapter on computers. It is plain that the book is not comprehensive and there are obvious gaps, *e.g.*, the investigation of non-haemolytic anaemias and in virology. The preface, however, explains that further volumes are planned. Most of the material is first class, but particular mention should be given to the chapters devoted to plasma proteins.

The standard of production is high: each chapter includes a full bibliography and there is a good index. The book would be invaluable reading for all those interested in hospital laboratory investigations, which should include a very large proportion of the medical profession.

W. G. SPECTOR

**PRACTICAL PHOTOMICROGRAPHY** By J. Bergner, E. Gelbke, and W. Mehliß. (Pp. 228; 174 figures. 63s.). London: Focal Press. 1966.

This book is based on the collective experience of three scientists working on microscopy in the East German factory of Carl Zeiss. The first 50 pages are devoted to a pedantic consideration of optical principles probably too detailed for the average practical worker. The section that distinguishes this book from others is the lucid treatment of macrophotography, low-power photo-

micrography, and associated special forms of illumination. Most other special techniques are usefully if briefly covered. The index is not as comprehensive as it should be for practical reference and the range of equipment described is necessarily restricted. Most of the illustrated examples are apposite and useful.

PETER HANSELL

**PHOTOELECTRIC COLORIMETRY IN CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY** By G. E. Delory. (Pp. xi + 80; illustrated. 25s.). London: Hilger and Watts. 1966.

This short book of little more than 70 pages consists of two almost equal parts. The first gives an account of the principles of colorimetry, ending with a few pages on how to use library facilities; the second considers examples of colorimetric methods for 15 commonly determined substances, though for only eight are full details of the technique included. There are four pages of references.

This is a rewritten version of a similar book by Dr. Delory, ‘Photoelectric methods in clinical biochemistry’, published in 1949. At that time this was useful in drawing attention to what was a relatively new type of instrument. One wonders if now it would have been better to concentrate on the first part on ‘Principles and instrumentation’ and to expand this, for example, by including fuller descriptions of instruments in use today?

H. VARLEY

**THE CRIME DOCTORS** By Robert Jackson. (Pp. xiii + 236; illustrated. 28s.) London: Frederick Muller. 1966.

This book is written by a journalist but it is reasonably free from some of the extravagancies one might expect from a journalist writing on a sensational theme. It is an account of 22 murder trials in which British forensic pathologists, ranging from the late Sir Bernard Spilsbury to those practising today, have given important or material evidence.

These are not all famous cases but, as pathologists well know, some of the most interesting scientific and legal problems are found in trials which do not achieve notoriety. Pathologists will find interesting light reading in these accounts, which are well written, and may even be led to seek further details of some of the points discussed. The book has seven pictures of forensic pathologists.

G. STEWART SMITH

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#### BROADSHEETS

The list of Broadsheets published for the Association of Clinical Pathologists will in future be found on the inside back cover of the Journal. Kindly note revised prices and where orders should be placed.