Anaemia in Laboratory Study

J. negative staphylococci'. The 4 lymphocytic (excluding cases blood samples submitted by the general practitioners of the N.E. Region) detected centralization.

A Laboratory Study of Macrocytic Anaemia in the North-east Region of Scotland, 1965-70

R. J. L. DAVIDSON (City Hospital Aberdeen)

This survey is based on 812 laboratory proven cases of macrocytic anaemia (excluding macrocytic anaemia of pregnancy) detected on routine screening of blood samples submitted by the general practitioners of the N.E. Region during 1965-70 inclusive. Some of the epidemiological and laboratory findings, including the serum B12 and folate status, are presented and briefly discussed.

Of the 1,158 cases initially suspected of having a macrocytic anaemia on morphological grounds, 991 (85.6%) were followed up by the laboratory and of these 812 (81.9%) were found to have low serum B12 and/or low serum folate levels. Only 257 (25.9%) of the patients followed up were admitted to hospital for further investigation. The potential value of a diagnostic and advisory service in haematology for general practitioners is emphasized.

Association between Pernicious Anaemia and Rheumatoid Arthritis: a Serological Study.

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We have attempted a study of a possible association between rheumatoid arthritis and pernicious anaemia by screening 99 patients with pernicious anaemia (40 men, average age 65-2 years; 59 women, average age 66-2 years) for rheumatoid factor and 135 latex fixation sero-positive patients with rheumatoid arthritis (55 men, average age 52.7 years; 80 women, average age 49-3 years) for intrinsic factor antibody. Control sera from 172 subjects (87 men, average age 59-7 years; 95 women, average age 53-8 years) not known to be suffering from pernicious anaemia, rheumatoid arthritis, thyroid disease, or diabetes mellitus were tested for both rheumatoid factor and intrinsic antibody. The latter was detected by a modified charcoal adsorption technique and rheumatoid factor by latex fixation (Rheuma-Wellcottest).

Intrinsic factor antibody was not found in any of the 135 latex fixation-positive rheumatoid sera or 182 control sera, whereas 51 (99 pernicious anaemia sera were intrinsic factor antibody positive. Of the 96 patients with pernicious anaemia five had evidence of clinical rheumatoid arthritis and 11 (five men, six women) had rheumatoid factor in the serum. Seven of 15 control sera were latex fixation positive (four men, three women); a comparison with the pernicious anaemia group showed a significantly greater incidence of rheumatoid factor in the latter (x2 = 5.6, p = 0.025-0.010). On excluding all subjects below the age of 50 from the study, the incidence of rheumatoid factor was 11/94 in patients with pernicious anaemia (five men, six women) and five 15 controls (two/63 men, three/52 women). On comparison, again there was a significantly higher incidence of rheumatoid factor in the patients with pernicious anaemia (x2 = 3.94, p = 0.05-0.02).

Within the pernicious anaemia group, the incidence of rheumatoid factor was not significantly greater among those with intrinsic factor antibody (seven/51) than those without the antibody (four/44) (x2 = 0.78, p = 0.50-0.30).

Fetal Pneumonia of Infant Associated with Group O Streptococci

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Group O streptococci may occasionally cause acute tonsillitis (Boissard and Wormald, 1950) and have been isolated from the blood of an adult with pneumonia (Duma, Weinberg, Medrek, and Kunz, 1969). Recorded here is an isolation from a 3-month-old baby. The child was well the night before death, but was heard gurgling at 6.45 am and found dead at 9.20 am.

At necropsy, seven hours later, the infant appeared well nourished and of the appropriate size for its age. Appearance suggested the child had died lying on its right side. The larynx, trachea, and bronchi contained fine froth. Both lungs were mottled by slight patchy collapse and histology showed marked oedema and patchy, but heavy, infiltration of the alveoli by mononuclear cells. Scanty coeds were seen in some sections. There was no evidence of aspiration of vomit.

Smears from lung parenchyma showed moderate numbers of pus cells but no organisms. A moderate and pure growth of beta-haemolytic streptococci was cultured. The bacteria showed characteristic colonies and biochemical reactions.