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The November 1974 Issue

THE NOVEMBER 1974 ISSUE CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING PAPERS

- Immunological studies in a case of T-cell leukaemia
G. STATHOPOULOS, M. PAPAMICHAIL, P. SHELDON, D. CATOVSKY, A. J. S. DAVIES, E. J. HOLBOROW, AND EVE WILTSHAW
- High counting rates from ¹²⁵I in radioimmunoassays
T. K. BELL
- The role of circulating hepatitis B antigen/antibody immune complexes in the pathogenesis of vascular and hepatic manifestations in polyarteritis nodosa
CHRISTIAN G. TREPO, ARIE J. ZUCKERMAN, RICHARD C. BIRD, AND ALFRED M. PRINCE
- Capillary blood collection in haematology
J. STUART, B. A. BARRETT, AND D. R. PRANGNELL
- Folates in human serum
K. RATANASTHIEN, J. A. BLAIR, R. J. LEEMING, W. T. COOKE, AND V. MELIKIAN
- A simple method for the clinical determination of the mitotic activity of the human prostate *in vitro*
K. E. O. SENIUS, J. PIETILÄ, I. ARVOLA, AND P. TUOHIMAA
- Culture of specimens other than sputum for Mycobacteria
D. A. MITCHISON AND V. R. ABER
- Unusual skin sepsis due to a strain of multiresistant *Staphylococcus aureus*
JOY HARRISON AND R. W. LACEY
- Comparison of the titres of ASO, anti-DNase B, and antibodies against the group polysaccharide of group A streptococci in children with streptococcal infections
L. E. GOEDVOLK-DE GROOT, N. MICHELSINK, M. M. VAN ES-BOON, A. H. VAN VONNO, AND M. F. MICHEL
- Sensitivity of *Streptococcus pyogenes* to sulphamethoxazole, trimethoprim, and cotrimoxazole
E. YOURASSOWSKY, M. P. VANDERLINDEN, AND E. SCHOUTENS
- The rapid recognition of Lancefield group B haemolytic streptococci
R. J. FALLON
- Bactericidal capacity of peripheral blood leucocytes in relation to bacterial infections in acute lymphoblastic leukaemia in childhood
EILEEN N. THOMPSON AND RALPH WILLIAMS
- Indirect immunofluorescence test for the detection of *Aspergillus fumigatus* antibodies
D. W. WARNOCK
- Separation of three isoenzymes of N-acetyl-β-D-hexosaminidase from human tissues by cellulose acetate membrane electrophoresis
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- Plasma alkaline phosphatase isoenzymes in hepatobiliary disease
A. O. AFONJA AND D. N. BARON
- Sterilization of the biological safety cabinet
S. W. B. NEWSOM AND B. M. WALSHINGHAM
- Technical method*
A simple and rapid method for the differentiation of the members of the genus *Klebsiella*
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- Book review
- Notice
The Association of Clinical Pathologists: 93rd general meeting

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Book reviews

Monographs in Clinical Cytology. Volume 4. Aspiration Biopsy Cytology. Part 1. Cytology of Supradiaphragmatic Organs. By J. Zajicek. Series edited by G. L. Wied. (Pp. xii + 208; illustrated; £12.90.) Basel, Munich, Paris, London, New York, Sydney: S. Karger A.G. 1974.

This is the first of a series of monographs on the technique, cytological appearances, and results of aspiration biopsy. This volume covers tumours of the supradiaphragmatic organs, including breast, lungs, salivary glands, thyroid, and lymph nodes, and other tumours in the neck. The second volume will cover tumours of the infradiaphragmatic organs, and the third, tumours of soft tissues, bone, and brain.

In the introduction there is a detailed account of methods of collecting specimens and preparing smears. Consideration is given to the possible complications for the patient, including the dissemination of disease. In describing the organization of an aspiration biopsy service the importance of the cytopathologist collecting, as well as interpreting, the specimen is stressed. When this is impossible the author emphasizes the necessity for close cooperation between clinician and cytopathologist to avoid aspiration cytology becoming an 'easy method for obtaining incomplete and unreliable information'.

The chapters on individual tissues provide an elegant demonstration of the excellent results of this policy. The numerous monochrome photomicrographs clearly show the morphology of the cytological preparations. In many cases the complementary histology is also illustrated. The text gives a detailed description of the essential features for each cytological diagnosis. In discussing diagnostic problems the author covers not only the purely cytological difficulties, but also those requiring clinical information and those arising from the cellular variation inherent in some types of tumour. Each chapter includes a careful evaluation of the contribution of aspiration biopsy to the clinical management of the patient and a critical review of the author's own results.

Dr Zajicek has been careful to emphasize the problems and limitations of the method and states clearly that 'cytologic

methods will never eliminate the need for histologic diagnosis.' Nevertheless this publication of the results of his own enthusiasm and experience will undoubtedly encourage others to extend the range of cytological techniques and provide an immensely useful guide for both the beginner and the experienced cytopathologist.

HELENA E. HUGHES

Immunological Aspects of Skin Diseases. Edited by Lionel Fry and P. P. Seah. (Pp. 289; illustrated. £7.50.) Lancaster: Medical and Technical Publishing Co. Ltd. 1974.

This is a book which certainly illustrates the leap forward which dermatologists have made in the last 10 years towards the utilization of immunological techniques. There are nine authors, including the two editors. The quality of the paper is extremely good and each chapter is well illustrated and the illustrations are of a high quality.

The first chapter on 'Pemphigus and pemphigoid' is a model of clarity. It discusses the relationship between these diseases, and provides good information about the techniques available for their differentiation and the hazards of interpreting immunofluorescent techniques.

The second chapter on 'Dermatitis herpetiformis' is similarly of a high quality although to my mind rather more emphasis is placed on the gut aspects of the disease than is really necessary. It is, however, useful to have the evidence for and against the relationship between gut and skin all set out in one chapter.

The third chapter on 'Lupus erythematosus' I found rather confusing. There seems to be a considerable tendency towards emphasizing clinical differences between the variations of this condition and the validity of the immunofluorescent and other techniques available for its investigation. Thirty pages of references imply that the authors have not been selective enough in their approach.

The fourth chapter on 'Malignant melanoma' is again very simply written and gives an up-to-date account of our knowledge and lack of knowledge about the immune response to melanoma cells. Specialized methods are set out in detail.

The fifth chapter on 'Vasculitis' does a lot to clarify the nature of the immune response behind the various subgroups in this condition. It is perhaps in this field

that there is likely to be most progress in the next few years in sorting out the role of complement and immune complexes in skin disease.

The sixth chapter is entitled 'Eczema', but, although the authors rightly define their use of the term, it is devoted mainly to atopic dermatitis and contact sensitivities of various kinds. The discussion on the role of the immune response in relation to 'atopic dermatitis' is particularly valuable.

One of the features of this book which impressed me was the regularity with which techniques were clearly described and discussed. This should enable beginners in this field to start off without too much difficulty. I am a little doubtful of its usefulness to immunologists but certainly any immunologist interested in skin disease would find it useful. I would consider it a must for any dermatologist who wishes to move with the times.

C. N. D. CRUICKSHANK

Notices

Molecular Variants in Disease

The proceedings of the symposium on 'Molecular variants in disease' held by the Royal College of Pathologists in February 1974 will shortly be published as a supplement to the *Journal of Clinical Pathology*, price £3.00. Those who participated in the symposium will receive copies without further payment, and a concessionary rate of £2.50 is offered to members of the Royal College of Pathologists and of the Association of Clinical Pathologists. Orders should be sent to the Publishing Manager, *Journal of Clinical Pathology*, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR.

Index for 1974

In order not to delay publication the index for the year 1974 will be printed separately from the journal and will be sent to all subscribers early in the New Year.