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## The December 1974 Issue

### THE DECEMBER 1974 ISSUE CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING PAPERS

- Quality control in cervical cytology O. A. N. HUSAIN, E. BLANCHE BUTLER, D. M. D. EVANS, J. ELIZABETH MACGREGOR, AND R. YULE
- Observer variation and quality control of cytodiagnosis D. M. D. EVANS, GLENYS SHELLEY, B. CLEARY, AND YVONNE BALDWIN
- Comparative cytogenetical and morphological studies in ovarian dysgenesis MAGDOLNA GAÁL, J. LÁSZLÓ, AND P. BÖSZE
- A functioning black adenoma of the adrenal cortex: A clinico-pathological entity J. W. VISSER, J. K. BOEIJINGA, AND C. V. D. MEER
- Tietze's disease H. U. CAMERON AND V. L. FORNASIER
- Nodular, non-cirrhotic liver associated with portal hypertension in a patient with rheumatoid arthritis M. HARRIS, R. M. RASH, AND I. W. DYMOCK
- Leukaemic reticuloendotheliosis: A morphological and immunological study of four cases D. G. HAEGERT, J. C. CAWLEY, R. D. COLLINS, R. J. FLEMANS, AND J. L. SMITH
- Morphological abnormalities in lymphocyte mitochondria associated with iron-deficiency anaemia J. H. JARVIS AND A. JACOBS
- The effect of age upon the coagulation system P. J. HAMILTON, MARY ALLARDYCE, D. OGDON, AUDREY A. DAWSON, AND A. S. DOUGLAS
- The elution of  $^{99}\text{Tc}^m$  from red cells and its effect on red-cell volume measurement A. FERRANT, S. M. LEWIS, AND L. SZUR
- The pre-albumin fraction: A useful parameter in the interpretation of routine protein electrophoresis R. I. HARRIS AND J. KOHN
- An evaluation of low voltage counterimmunoelectrophoresis for the detection of hepatitis-B antigen (HB Ag) E. O. CAUL AND P. C. ROBERTS
- A case of acute measles meningoencephalitis with virus isolation D. R. PURDHAM AND P. F. BATTY
- Bacterial flora of the appendix fossa in appendicitis and postoperative wound infection D. A. LEIGH, KATE SIMMONS, AND EDELGARD NORMAN
- Progress towards agreement in reports of antibiotic sensitivity R. H. GEORGE
- Implementation of a British computer system for laboratory data handling C. H. GRAY, A. D. HIRST, P. J. N. HOWORTH, T. P. LOCKE, B. MELLOR, AND M. WALTER
- Training and career appointments in the pathological sciences in the United Kingdom D. N. BARON
- Micro method for manual analysis of true glucose in plasma without deproteinization B. B. BAUMINGER
- Technical method*  
Assessment of amoebiasis: serodiagnosis by immunofluorescence with lyophilized entamoebae J. C. COX AND R. C. NAIRN
- Book reviews
- Notices

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Thanks are due to Dr B. Thompson of the Department of Clinical Research for providing the radioactive serum and for the calculations, and Mr R. McDonald who performed some of the antibiotic sensitivity tests.

#### Reference

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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 The Publishing Department, British Medical Journal (ACB Technical Bulletins), B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR. Overseas readers should remit by British Postal or Money Order.

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**33 Definitions of some Words and Terms used in Automated Analysis** November 1974 A. FLECK, R. ROBINSON, S. S. BROWN, and J. R. HOBBS

with a CLED purity plate. In all, little technical time is involved and a 24-hour service can be provided giving results in less than two hours of the taking of the specimen. This rapidity and ease of execution are important advantages in clinical laboratory practice. The fact that most technicians can become proficient in the use of this method facilitates on-call arrangements and is an important advantage over the adenyase method, which requires greater skill, constant attention during performance, and the handling of radioactive material. A method that can only be performed by a few key persons inevitably runs into problems during weekends, holidays, and sickness. In addition, the adenyase method requires the use of expensive isotopes and purchase of a liquid scintillation spectrometer (£5,000 or more) which virtually excludes its use outside of teaching hospital laboratories. Even in most of the latter such expensive equipment will have to be shared with other departments to justify such expenditure and this may impede access for emergency assays.

The rapid plate assay is performed by many laboratories and if properly done is better than no assay service at all. Nevertheless it takes considerably longer to perform and can only just be fitted into a normal laboratory working day. Where the danger of initial undertreatment of septicaemia is the problem, six hours is too long a time to wait for a result. Most technicians find plate assays at least as time consuming and no easier to perform than the urease assay.

The urease method is currently being used successfully in over a dozen laboratories to our knowledge. If there are microbiology technical or medical staff who wish to try the method or are having problems with it then they should contact Dr Noone at the Microbiology Department, Royal Free Hospital. Arrangements can be made for a visit to the department to learn the technique or sort out difficulties.

PAUL NOONE

*New Royal Free Hospital, Pond Street,  
London, NW3*

J. R. PATTISON

*London Hospital Medical School,  
London E1*

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## Book reviews

**Host Environment Interactions in the Etiology of Cancer in Man: Proceedings of a meeting held at Primosten, Yugoslavia, 27 August to 2 September, 1972**. IARC Scientific Publications No. 7). Edited by R. Doll and I. Vodopija. (Pp. xix + 464; illustrated. Sw.fr. 100.-) Lyon: International Agency for Research on Cancer, 1973. Distributed by IARC by the World Health Organization, Geneva. Available through HMSO, London.

Organizers sometimes seem to overstrain themselves in dreaming up titles for conferences which, in reality, cover a not unusual range of topics. This book records the proceedings of a week-long meeting which took place in Yugoslavia in the autumn of 1972 and at which 140 participants discussed certain epidemiological, endocrinological, immunological, and metabolic aspects of cancer. Among the more interesting points to emerge was the description of statistical methods suitable for testing whether the apparent space-time clusters of cases of Hodgkin's disease described by Vianna and his colleagues are chance phenomena or support the hypothesis that it is a communicable disease. There is, also, Sir Richard Doll's conclusion that the shape of the age-incidence curve for any form of cancer is seemingly not dependent on any 'aging' process other than might be secondary to the duration and degree of exposure to environmental carcinogens. Female laboratory rats fed *ad libitum* tend to become adipose and experience a

high age-standardized incidence of mammary cancer, and dietary restriction reduces the incidence of mammary cancer. According to de Waard, lean ladies in Holland, São Paulo, and the United Kingdom have a lower age-specific incidence of breast cancer than do fatter ones. Later in the book, Higginson rightly states that nutrition 'is one of the most important and yet neglected aspects of carcinogenesis in man'. McLean, however, in a systematic review of the modifying effects of diet in carcinogenesis, fails to deal specifically with what might be regarded as 'overnutrition'. But Bras, on the last page of the book, makes up for this deficiency where he writes '... we know from extensive work ... that different intakes of protein, carbohydrates, fat and/or calories will cause profound differences in the activity of enzyme and in the incidence of both benign and malignant tumours. Unless, therefore, the dietary intake of experimental and control animals is *made identical*, we may easily misinterpret the outcome of our experiments. . . .'

The book is well produced and has much of interest in it. The editors are to be congratulated in their decision to reproduce, in a chapter by Paffenbarger, three cartoons by the American cartoonist Charles M. Schulz. On the other hand, it is to be hoped that the inclusion of 'funny pages' is not destined to become a feature of future IARC or other publications on cancer.

FRANCIS J. C. ROE

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