

JOURNAL OF CLINICAL PATHOLOGY

*The Journal of The Association
of Clinical Pathologists*

VOLUME THIRTY
1977

EDITOR

H. E. M. KAY

ASSISTANT EDITOR

G. SLAVIN

Editorial Board

R. A. B. DRURY

M. S. DUNNILL

G. L. GIBSON

N. R. GRIST

M. S. R. HUTT

W. J. JENKINS

D. M. JONES

E. J. L. LOWBURY

B. NAYLOR

M. G. RINSLER

M. SANDLER

A. I. SPRIGGS

J. STUART

C. SULTAN

A. VOLLER

R. G. F. PARKER
(Publications Secretary,
Association of Clinical
Pathologists)

JOAN F. ZILVA
(representing the Association
of Clinical Biochemists)

I. C. M. MACLENNAN
(representing the British Society for Immunology)
and the Editor of the *British Medical Journal*
BERYL FLITTON (*Technical Editor*)

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
TAVISTOCK SQUARE · LONDON WC1H 9JR

Broadsheets prepared by the Association of Clinical Pathologists

- 20** Investigation of porphyrin/porphyria 1958 (Reprinted 1962) C. RIMINGTON
- 31** Investigation of haemorrhagic states with special reference to defects of coagulation of the blood 1961 (Revised 1967) E. K. BLACKBURN
- 33** The laboratory detection of abnormal haemoglobins 1961 H. LEHMANN and J. A. M. AGER (revised 1975 by H. Lehmann and R. G. Huntsman as The laboratory detection of haemoglobinopathies)
- 38** Augmented histamine gastric function test 1961 M. LUBRAN
- 39** Investigation of haemolytic anaemia 1961 (Revised 1968) J. G. SELWYN
- 40** Short-term preservation of bacterial cultures 1962 E. JOAN STOKES
- 41** Serological tests for syphilis (Revised 1969) A. E. WILKINSON
- 42** Determination of red cell enzymes (Revised 1970) C. A. WEST and T. A. J. FRANKERD
- 43** Mycological techniques 1962 (Reprinted 1966) R. W. RIDDELL
- 45** Diagnostic test for hereditary galactosaemia 1963 V. SCHWARTZ
- 48** Laboratory investigation and control of the defibrination syndrome 1964 R. M. HARDISTY, G. I. C. INGRAM, and A. A. SHARP
- 49** Rapid diagnostic section technique 1965 (Revised 1967) N. J. BROWN and A. T. SANDISON
- 51** Histological fixation of human tissues 1966 A. C. LENDRUM
- 53** Preparation of sections from bone marrow biopsies 1966 A. G. SIGNY and D. ROBERTSON SMITH
- 54** The investigation of blood transfusion reactions 1966 (Revised 1974) G. H. TOVEY and W. A. GILLESPIE
- 55** Antibiotic sensitivity tests by diffusion methods 1966 (Revised 1972) E. JOAN STOKES and PAMELA M. WATERWORTH
- 56** Haemoglobinometry by the cyanmethaemoglobin method 1967 S. M. LEWIS
- 57** Compatibility test for blood transfusion 1967 G. H. TOVEY and W. J. JENKINS
- 58** The isolation and identification of salmonellae 1967 JOAN TAYLOR
- 59** Techniques for the histological examination of the eye 1967 N. ASHTON
- 61** Screening tests for inborn errors of amino acid metabolism 1967 D. C. CUSWORTH
- 62** Preparation of undecalcified bone sections 1968 H. A. SISSONS
- 63** Tests of combined bactericidal action 1969 L. P. GARROD and PAMELA M. WATERWORTH
- 64** Histochemical enzyme techniques 1969 I. M. P. DAWSON and M. I. FILIPE (This Broadsheet is illustrated by eight colour transparencies which can be obtained from Dr J. Burston, Department of Histopathology, Central Laboratory, St Mary's General Hospital, Milton Road, Portsmouth PO3 6AG. Price £3.00, including postage.)
- 65** The immunofluorescent test for serum antinuclear factor 1969 E. L. HOLBOROW and G. D. JOHNSON
- 66** Cytological techniques for serous fluids 1970 A. I. SPRIGGS and O. A. N. HUSAIN
- 67** The laboratory investigation of muscular dystrophy 1970 V. DUBOWITZ, J. N. WALTON, B. P. HUGHES, and J. N. CUMINGS
- 68** Simplified radial immunodiffusion 1970 J. R. HOBBS
- 69** Immunofluorescence techniques in immunopathology and histopathology 1971 J. SWANSON BECK
- 70** (Revised Broadsheet 36) Quantitative determination of porphobilinogen and porphyrins in urine and porphyrins in faeces and erythrocytes 1971 C. RIMINGTON
- 71** The British comparative thromboplastin: The use of the national thromboplastin reagent for uniformity of laboratory control of oral anti-coagulants and expression of results 1970 L. POLLER
- 72** The preparation of ultra-thin sections for light microscopy 1970 C. E. LUMSDEN and S. R. APARICIO
- 73** Nervous system techniques for the general pathologist 1970 J. HUME ADAM and LEONARD MILLER
- 74** Techniques for chromosomal analysis 1971 SYLVIA D. LAWLER
- 75** Quality control in haematology 1973 I. CAVILL and A. JACOBS
- 76** A guide to the choice of optical equipment and reagents for immunofluorescence techniques 1973 C. E. D. TAYLOR, A. H. TOMLINSON, and G. V. HEIMER
- 77** Diagnosis of vitamin B₁₂ deficiency 1973 I. CHANARIN
- 78** Radioisotopic assay of vitamin B₁₂ in serum 1973 J. L. RAVEN and P. BARKHAN
- 79** Diagnosis of folate deficiency 1973 A. H. WATERS and D. L. MOLLIN
- 80** Estimation of bacteria and white cells in the urine 1973 W. BRUMFITT, A. PERCIVAL, and J. D. WILLIAMS
- 81** Blood culture technique 1974 E. JOAN STOKES
- 82** Estimation of catecholamine metabolites in urine 1974 M. SANDLER and C. R. J. RUTHVEN
- 83** Platelet function tests 1975 J. H. SANDERSON
- 84** Methods for estimating oestrogen in urine from pregnant women 1977 R. E. OAKLEY
- 85** Mycological Techniques 1977 RONALD W. RIDDELL, YVONNE M. CLAYTON and HOWARD J. WINGFIELD
- 86** Photomicrography 1977 R. S. FAWKES and A. C. LENDRUM
- Notes on sterilization No. 1* Sterilization and disinfection of cytosopes 1967
- Notes on establishment of a hospital radioactive tracer service* 1969
- Reprint No. 1 (J. clin. Path., 22, 383)* The histology and cytology of changes in the epithelium of the cervix uteri 1969 A. D. T. GOVAN, R. M. HAINES, F. A. LANGLEY, C. W. TAYLOR, and A. S. WOODCOCK
- Reprint No. 2 (J. clin. Path., 24, 159)* The perinatal postmortem examination 1971 F. A. LANGLEY
- Reprint No. 3 (J. clin. Path., 27, 590)* The use of SI units in reporting results obtained in hospital laboratories 1974 D. N. BARON, P. M. G. BROUGHTON, M. COHEN, T. S. LANSLEY, S. M. LEWIS, and N. K. SHINTON

glomerular nephritis. The role of mesangial cells was discussed by de Martino and his colleagues (Rome and California), and they listed as many as six different functions. Although, incidentally, mesangial cells are commonly thought to be phagocytic, Thomson (Edinburgh) and others implied that substances deposited in the glomerular capillary wall were transported *via* the intercellular matrix of the mesangium to the glomerular hilum; that is, it seems that the role of such cells is propulsive rather than phagocytic. Churg, similarly, stressed that it is within the mesangial matrix that deposits and other inclusions are found, including, for example, those thought to characterise hepatic glomerulosclerosis. Thomson (Edinburgh) claimed that there was a lack of mesangial proliferative response in rapidly progressive glomerular nephritis, as compared with proliferative glomerular nephritis, an observation he correlated with the former's more severe prognosis.

Shigematsu (Chiba, Japan) made the interesting suggestion that monocytes of the bloodstream (a source of tissue macrophages) might enter the mesangium, thus contributing to the transient glomerular hypercellularity seen in acute glomerular nephritis. This, to my mind, is difficult to accept unless one is convinced that typical macrophages can be found in the mesangium. This aside, Schmitz-Hübner and Hammer (Freiburg) discussed the role of cell-mediated immunity in experimental chronic nephrotoxic nephritis, basing their claims on the fact that evidence of lymphocyte-sensitisation can be found in a proportion of affected animals. This and other similar claims have aroused interest recently. However, in a consequent discussion—and the discussions as published make fascinating reading—Mauer (Minneapolis) wondered whether it had ever been demonstrated that lymphocytes can injure the glomerulus. That mesangial cell function can be abnormal was shown elegantly by Hoyer and his colleagues (New York) in experiments in which unilateral renal disease was produced in rats: in these animals it was shown that the capacity of the mesangium of abnormal glomeruli to remove colloidal carbon was possibly impaired. A rather similar impairment of mesangial function was noted by Mauer (Minneapolis), and he also

Notice

International Symposium

It is proposed to hold a three-day international symposium on enzyme-labelled nonradioimmunoassay of hormones in general, especially of clinical importance, at the University of Ulm, West Germany, during the late summer or early autumn of 1978. The pioneer investigators in this particular field will be asked to present papers, and the language of the symposium will be English. Those who are interested in presenting papers and prospective participants should write for further information to: Dr S. B. Pal/Dr V. Maier, Universität Ulm, Department für innere Medizin, 1, Steinhövelstrasse 9, 79 Ulm (Donau) Postfach 38 80, West Germany. reported that recovery from the diabetic state was accompanied by return of the mesangial region to normal. His observations are likely to excite considerable interest in those concerned with the treatment of renal lesions in humans with diabetes mellitus.

J. C. SLOPER