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laboratories who have cheerfully undertaken extra work on these studies. The work was supported by a grant from Messrs F Hoffmann-La Roche and Co, Basel, Switzerland.

\* Grüneberg RN. Susceptibility of urinary pathogens to various antimicrobial substances; a four-year study. *J Clin Pathol* 1976;**29**:292.

#### References

<sup>1</sup> Stokes EJ. *Clinical Bacteriology*. 3rd ed. London: Arnold, 1968;179.

Requests for reprints to: Dr RN Grüneberg, University College Hospital, Gower Street, London WC1E 6AU, UK.

## The August 1980 Issue

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Distribution of pathogenic yeasts and humoral antibodies to candida among hospital inpatients FC ODDS AND EGV EVANS

A new neutrophil candida killing test: chromium-51 release from *Candida guilliermondii* S MARTIN, ATM GHONEIM, AND JA CHILD

Serotyping of *Campylobacter jejuni/coli* JD ABBOTT, BAS DALE, JOAN ELDRIDGE, DM JONES, AND ENID M SUTCLIFFE

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Clinical applications of immunofixation: a more sensitive technique for the detection of Bence Jones protein JT WHICHER, L HAWKINS, AND J HIGGINSON

Clinical applications of immunofixation: detection and quantitation of complement activation JT WHICHER, J HIGGINSON, PG RICHES, AND S RADFORD

Human  $\alpha_1$ -microglobulin levels in various body fluids K TAKAGI, K KIN, Y ITOH, H ENOMOTO, AND T KAWAI

Comparison of various assays for detection of AFP in differentiating patients with primary hepatocellular carcinoma from controls SH CHAN, SH HENG, SL YO, AND CJ OON

#### Technical method

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biopsy adds nothing to management and may have disastrous consequences; high-dose nephrograms do not affect treatment and may render an oliguric patient anuric. Steroid regimens have been used in the treatment of bacteraemic shock in the USA, but they can have major complications and are employed only as a last resort in the moribund patient in Great Britain. Heparin infusions should only be used to treat disseminated intravascular coagulation in these patients in the complete absence of bleeding and, in my opinion, if circulating fragmented red cells confirm the coagulopathy.

#### Reference

- <sup>1</sup> Hawkins DF, Sevitt LH, Fairbrother PF, Tothill AU. Management of septic abortion with renal failure. *N Engl J Med* 1975;292:722-5.

Requests for reprints to: Professor DF Hawkins, Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Hammersmith Hospital, Du Cane Road, London W12 0HS, UK.

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