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The February 1985 issue

THE FEBRUARY 1985 ISSUE CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING PAPERS

Biochemical enzyme analysis in acute leukaemia HG DREXLER, G GAEDICKE, J MINOWADA

Kinetics, distribution, and sites of destruction of indium-111 oxine labelled red cells in haemolytic anaemia AduP HEYNS, MG LÖTTER, HF KOTZÈ, P WESSELS, H PIETERS, PN BADENHORST

ICSH/ICTH recommendations for reporting prothrombin time in oral anticoagulant control INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION IN HAEMATOLOGY AND INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON THROMBOSIS AND HAEMOSTASIS

Erythrocyte deformability in peripheral occlusive arterial disease D BAREFORD, GS LUCAS, NM CALDWELL, PCW STONE, S BAAR, J STUART

Immunohistochemical localisation of tissue plasminogen activator and urokinase in the vessel wall Å LARSSON, B ÅSTEDT

Heart transplant pathology: the British experience ARIELA POMERANCE, PGI STOVIN

Giant cell myocarditis: evidence for the macrophage origin of the giant cells JM THEAKER, KC GATTER, A HERYET, DJ EVANS, J O'D McGEE

Immunohistological diagnosis of central nervous system tumours using a monoclonal antibody panel HB COAKHAM, JA GARSON, PATRICIA M ALLAN, EDNA I HARPER, BETTY BROWNELL, JT KEMSHHEAD, E BIRGITTE LANE

Assessment of dysplasia in colorectal adenomas: an observer variation and morphometric study LJR BROWN, NC SMEETON, MF DIXON

Immunocytochemical reaction of Ca1 and HMFG2 monoclonal antibodies with cells from serous effusions S SINGER, MM BODDINGTON, EA HUDSON

Liver aspiration in the diagnosis of hepatocellular carcinoma in the Gambia A AJDUKIEWICZ, A CROWDEN, ELIZABETH HUDSON, C PYNE

Serial study of C reactive protein concentrations in cardiac allograft recipients GD HARKISS

Study of discrepancies in rubella haemagglutinin titrations and a reappraisal of diluents used in the rubella haemagglutination inhibition technique HGS MURRAY, JUDITH STANTON, PS GARDNER

Comparison of five different methods of rubella IgM antibody testing HEATHER CUBIE, ELIZABETH EDMOND

A study of workload units in five microbiology laboratories RY CARTWRIGHT, JOAN R DAVIES, C DULAKE, RJC HART, CA MORRIS, PJ WILKINSON

Microcomputer system for multistep specimen processing and reporting in a microbiology laboratory R ASHLEY, B DOWNING

Development and application of an enzyme linked immunosorbent assay for *Clostridium perfringens* type A enterotoxin BARBARA A BARTHOLOMEW, MF STRINGER, GN WATSON, RJ GILBERT

Leucocyte esterase determination as a secondary procedure for urine screening PM LEIGHTON, JA LITTLE

Technical method

Effect of antibiotic concentration in a selective medium on the isolation of *Clostridium difficile* from faecal specimens PN LEVETT

Letters to the Editor

Book reviews

Notices

sion surprise is the inclusion of HMR in the group of T-zone histiocyte disorders and one is perhaps entitled to enquire what criteria the authors used in establishing the diagnosis of HMR—especially as there appear to have been some exceptions to the general rule of a T-zone histiocytic origin. One of the chief problems in investigating proliferative disorders of histiocytes is the rarity of some of these conditions and uncertainty as to how many separate entities exist. The authors freely acknowledge this and repeatedly stress the necessity of studying more cases. Another interesting problem concerns the distinction between certain malignant lymphomas of T-cell origin and primary neoplasms of T-zone histiocytes—a distinction which may not be easy to make.

The third chapter is entitled Symposium on Histiocytic or Large Cell Lymphomas and in this, seven contributors, mostly working in pairs, attempt to answer ten different questions posed by an imaginary chairman. It is difficult to believe that this was a real symposium in which the participants actually met to discuss these topics, since the replies to the questions from pairs of contributors often cover the same ground and there is much tedious repetition. Furthermore, some of the questions are interpreted quite differently by different authors and much confusion arises over the use of the term "histiocytic lymphoma". The four North American participants understand the term to mean any large-cell lymphoma, as implied in the Rappaport classification, while the Japanese and British participants apply the term only in the strict sense of a neoplasm of histiocytic derivation. Imagine what a garment would look like if knitted by four different people, each choosing their own pattern, their own wool, and different sized needles, and some idea can be gained of how this symposium hangs together.

A lengthy essay on plasma cell disorders is contributed by TR Callihan, JM Holbert and CW Berard under the verbose title "Neoplasms of terminal B-cell differentiation—the morphologic basis of functional diversity" which runs to 99 pages and includes 428 references. This valuable and comprehensive review discusses first the development of B and T lymphocytes and their interactions before going on to the immunoglobulins and the occurrence of monoclonal gammopathy. Guidance is given on the differentiation of "benign" gammopathy from that associated with neoplasms. A detailed account of multiple myeloma and solitary plas-

myctoma follows and then sections on Waldenstrom's macroglobulinaemia, the various heavy chain diseases, and finally amyloidosis. The lymphoplasmacytoid immunocytomas of the Kiel classification are here dealt with under "Waldenström's macroglobulinaemia" despite the fact that a majority of such cases are not associated with a detectable paraprotein in the serum, as Lennert has pointed out. It is perhaps significant that not one single mention is made of the work of Lennert and his co-workers in clarifying this group of lymphoid neoplasms.

The fifth and sixth articles in this volume are both much briefer. P Haghghi has written on "Primary Small Intestinal Lymphoma and Immuno-proliferative Small Intestinal Disease: an update". Readers who are not already familiar with the subject may find this paper confusing and even to the initiated it makes difficult reading, partly owing to the wealth of abbreviations in the text. In the discussion of alpha chain disease there is of course some overlap with the previous article, just as there is between the second and third articles in the book on the subject of "true" histiocytic neoplasms (S Watanabe contributes to both chapters).

In the final article, MH Zarrabi and SB Chandor have written on the "relationship of Hodgkin's disease and the non-Hodgkin's lymphomas". The approach is initially historical, outlining the evolution of ideas on this relationship, on the nature of the Reed-Sternberg cell, and the continuing uncertainty surrounding its origins. One of the several quotations in this section is wrongly ascribed to van den Tweel et al. It should have been attributed to Willis (RA Willis, Pathology of Tumours, 1960, 3rd edition, Butterworth p 785).

After concluding that our ignorance of the nature of the Reed-Sternberg cell alone justifies the separation of Hodgkin's disease from the "non-Hodgkin's lymphomas", the authors go on to discuss the occasional occurrence of the two disorders in the same patient and the significance of this observation.

Although there is much to criticize in this collection of papers there is also some merit, and the volume can be commended to those wishing to keep abreast of current thinking in the difficult field of malignant lymphomas. The book is beautifully produced and there are admirably few spelling mistakes.

A STANSFIELD

Chemical Pathology and the Sick Child. Ed Barbara E Clayton and Joan M Round. (Pp 595; £32.50.) Blackwells. 1984.

It is most welcome to have a book which is specifically devoted to the chemical pathology of infants and children. The editors have aimed this book particularly for those working outside major centres who may not have ready access to specialist text books. In fact, the standard of content is high and a copy should be readily available not only in district general hospitals but also all teaching centres.

Contributions are from clinician's and clinical biochemists covering a wide variety of topics but the text is selective rather than comprehensive and inevitably there are omissions.

The chapter on the newborn which includes many useful reference ranges for full term and low birth weight neonates, the concise and informative chapter on acute poisoning, and Martin Barratt's chapter on renal disorders are particularly interesting. I hope when they produce the next edition it will include more reference ranges of biochemical values for children.

The presentation is pleasing and the text easily readable. At £32.50 this book will find its way to the shelves of most Chemical Pathology laboratories, paediatric departments, and medical libraries.

BRENDA M SLAVIN

Notices

10th European Symposium on Hormones and Cell Regulation

This symposium will take place at Sainte-Odile, Strasbourg, France, from 30 September to 3 October 1985. Abstracts should be submitted for poster presentations.

Information can be obtained from: Dr RJB King, Imperial Cancer Research Fund Laboratories, Hormone Biochemistry Department, PO Box 123, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PX, England.

Computers in Histopathology

A one day meeting on Computers in Histopathology will be held at the Institute of Child Health under the auspices of the British Postgraduate Medical Federation on 3 April 1985. The meeting is part of a course organised for histopathologists in training but this meeting is open generally to all who are interested. No charge will be made other than for refreshments. Full details may be obtained from Dr J Pincott, Department of Histopathology, Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street.