LEADING ARTICLES

Doubts about Lignocaine page 473
Pathogenesis of Motor Neurone Disease page 475
Narcolepsy page 476

Photochemotherapy for Psoriasis page 474
Involuntary Facial Movements page 476
Lesson Not Yet Learned page 477
“Psychological Medicine” page 478

PAPERS AND ORIGINALS

Treatment of Deep Vein Thrombosis with Streptokinase

Comparison of Debrisoquine and Guanethidine in Treatment of Hypertension
F. C. ADI, C. J. EZE, A. ANWUNAH ........................................ 482

Pulmonary Function in Asthmatic Patients in Remission
K. N. V. PALMER, G. R. KELMAN ........................................ 485

Detection of Continuing Gluten Ingestion in Treated Coeliac Patients
P. G. BAKER, R. E. BARRY, A. E. READ .......................... 486

Radiofibrinogen Catabolism in Nephritis
E. N. WARDLE, D. N. S. KERR ........................................ 489

Haematemesis: A New Syndrome?
A. T. R. AXON, A. CLARKE ........................................ 491

Oxygen Therapy for Pneumatosi Coli
R. H. L. DOWN, W. M. CASTLEDEN ................................ 493

Acute Disseminated Encephalomyelitis in Typhoid Fever
S. RAMACHANDRAN, H. R. WICKREMESINGHE, M. V. F. PERERA .... 494

Hypofibrinogenemia as a Cause of Bleeding in Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia
J. ALGERNON MANTELL ........................................ 495

MEDICAL PRACTICE

Psychological Medicine: Psychiatry in Britain: An Introduction
A. K. ZEALLEY .................................................. 497

Outbreak of Idiopathic Erysipelas in a Psychiatric Hospital
ELIZABETH G. DOWSETT, R. N. HERSON, W. R. MACKED, JEAN P. WIDDOWSON ........................................ 500

Surgery of Violence: III. Intensive Care of Patients with Bomb Blast and Gunshot Injuries
R. C. GRAY, D. L. COPPEL ........................................ 502

Outside Medicine: Gideon Algernon Mantell
W. E. SWINTON ........................................ 505

Any Questions? ........................................ 507

CORRESPONDENCE—List of Contents ................................ 510

BOOK REVIEWS ........................................ 523

NEWS AND NOTES

Epidemiology—Skin Infections in Meat Handlers—I ........ 526
Parliament—Mobility of the Physically Disabled ........ 526
Medical News—Letter from the Prime Minister; Review
Body Chairman ........................................ 527
Branch and Division Meetings to be Held ................ 528

OBITUARY NOTICES ........................................ 520

SUPPLEMENT

Central Committee for Hospital Medical Services .... 529
Consultants’ Contract—B.M.A.’s Summary of Outcome
on Talks about Talks ........................................ 530
General Medical Services Committee .................. 531
Resignations from N.H.S.:—Forms sent to G.P.s ........ 532
Realistic Contract Price Sought—B.M.A. Juniors Meet
in Birmingham ........................................ 533
B.M.A. Notices—Diary of Central Meetings ........ 534
**CORRESPONDENCE**

Long Survival from Acute Leukaemia in Childhood

Paulin H. Morris Jones, M.R.C.P., and F. N. Bamford, M.D., M.R.C.P.

Tubal Transplants

P. L. R. Sousa, M.D.

Liver Flukes: a Warning

A. T. Hunt, M.R.C.P.

Anticonvulsants in the Prevention of Intracranial and Vitamins D

J. Linde, M.D., and others

Possible Hazard of Nitrous Oxide for Hysterectomy

Judith A. Hall, F.F.A.R.C.S., and others

Plasma Levels of Antidepressants and Anticonvulsants

E. H. Reynolds, M.D., and others

Poisoned Children


Small Bowel Tumours

N. R. Failey, M.R.C.PATH.

Metoclopramide and Breast-feeding

P. L. R. Sousa, M.D.

Removal of Potassium from Fruit Juices by Ion Exchange

G. J. van Kamp, Ph.D., and others

Blow-out Fracture

M. Harris, M.B., F.R.C.S., and others; P. Feils, F.R.C.S.

S.L.E.-like Syndrome Associated with Mitochondrial Antibodies

A. Florman-Christensen, M.D., and others

Reorganisation in Yorkshire

B. Hazell

Genitourinary Disease

J. D. Oriel, M.D.; D. M. Grant, M.R.C.G.P.

Canine Smokers

N. Bassone

Adverse Effects of Publicity

Margaret J. Wilt, F.R.C.S.

Ousboom in Heart Failure

J. U. Walker, D.M.

Essential Thrombocythaemia, Polycythaemia, and Peripheral Gangrene

A. Teten, M.D.; and U. Ablidgaard, M.D.

Overseas Doctors in the U.K.

T. A. Reddy, M.B.

Klippesquats

R. B. Roe, B.M.

Splenectomy and Susceptibility to Malaria and Babesia Infection

P. G. Shutte, F.R.E.S.

Surgery in Rhodesia

W. O. O. Sangala, M.B.

Inhibition of Prostaglandin Biosynthesis by Analgesics in Relation to Asthma

J. C. Denley, M.R.C.P.

Patient-satisfaction in General Practice

D. Crudcock, M.D.

Lithium Poisoning Precipitated by Diuretics

A. M. C. Macne, M.R.C.PSYCH.

Antipolyplin and Imipramine Poisoning in Children

D. C. Carpenter, B.Sc., and others

Mycoplasma Pneumonia with Inappropriate Secretion of Antidiuretic Hormone

T. M. Little, M.R.C.P., and R. H. Dowdle, M.B.

Fatality after Fine-needle Aspiration

H. Riska, M.D., and C. Frisman, M.D.

Abortion Service

E. D. Irvine, M.D.

Owen Working Party

R. D. Lowe, F.R.C.P.

Time to See Patients

R. M. Griffin, M.R.C.P.

Consultant Contract

N. P. Read, F.F.A.R.C.S., and F. M. Hall, M.B.

Patients and the Work-to-Contract

R. M. E. Store, B.M.

Mucoviscidosis

J. Godlieb, M.R.C.P.

Unpleasant Caricature

Rt. Hon. Lord Platt, F.R.C.P.

**Correspondents are urged to write briefly so that readers may be offered as wide a selection of letters as possible. So many are now received that the omission of some is inevitable. Letters should be signed personally by all their authors.**

Long Survival from Acute Leukaemia in Childhood

Sir,—Your leading article (18 January, p. 111) on long survival from acute leukaemia in childhood raises some interesting points which deserve comment. You point out that with intensive combination chemotherapy and radiotherapy the percentage of patients achieving long-term remission is increasing. We wish to sound a note of caution about the possible quality of life in long-term survivors.

Recently we reviewed a series of 30 long-term survivors from intracranial neoplasms treated with surgery and irradiation. The results are disturbing because as well as physical handicaps attributable to the direct effects of the tumour, there are mental handicaps and we think that some children have had a progressive deterioration of intellect. In addition, all children treated before the age of 11 years are unexpectedly short in stature (only seven of the cases reviewed had had craniospinal irradiation). Further studies have indicated that these patients develop a growth hormone defect after treatment. It may be accounted for by the delayed effect of the tumour or raised intracranial pressure, but it is also possible that it is due to the effect of radiation.

Meadows has recently reported the results of a long-term follow-up of children treated for leukaemia with high dose intravenous methotrexate. These children have a high incidence of a bizarre encephalopathy with deterioration in mental ability and E.E.G. changes. While it is encouraging that significant improvements in survival from all forms of childhood malignancy are being made despite the fact that this condition is often fatal, it is clear that the incidence of post-irradiation syndromes is high and that some patients will be suitable for tubal transplant and others more suited to embryo transfer.—I am, etc.,

PATRICK STEPTOE

Oldham and District General Hospital,
Oldham.

Tubal Transplants

Sir,—The leading article on this subject (1 February, p. 230) mentions the role of research into in-vitro fertilization designed to help the group of infertile patients with severe tubal damage. The article also discusses the possibility that the viability of tubal grafts may prove to be only temporary but may be sufficient to allow a pregnancy to be established and that once pregnancy is under way rejection of the tube would be a negligible disturbance. Later on in the article a claim is made that tubal transplants could offer a childless woman a permanent cure of her tubal infertility. These statements appear to me to be contradictory. As yet successful tubal transplants in women with old pelvic inflammatory disease have not been achieved with subsequent uterine pregnancy. The risk of ectopic pregnancy may well be unacceptably high, and the whole article is speculative.

In-vitro fertilisation and embryo transfer can be repeated on several occasions until pregnancy occurs and, indeed, can be used to procure more than one pregnancy in the same couple. Its use may be regarded in the same way as any device which does not cure a condition but alleviates it absolutely. For example, spectacles for the use of defective vision. Surely the best approach to the problem of infertility due to tubal damage is that both of these methods of treatment should be encouraged and developed at the same time, for it is likely that some patients will be suitable for tubal transplant and others more suited to embryo transfer.—I am, etc.,

A. T. Hunt

Lydney, Glos

1 Meadows, A. Personal communication.

Liver Flukes: a Warning

Sir,—The agriculture officers warned farmers last year of the high incidence of liver fluke infestation in livestock during last year's very wet season. It is as well to remember that it is in the spring following such conditions that human cases most often occur. It is primarily a disease of country folk who contract the infestation in many ways, but also of town people who have eaten wild watercress while on holiday.

In the Tidenham epidemic of June 1972 the symptoms were pyrexia, anorexia, dyspepsia, loss of weight, abdominal pains especially in the hypochondrium, sometimes cough, and urticaria and dermatographia. Later in some cases obstructive biliary symptoms occurred. Most patients had eosinophilia, a definite diagnosis being made on the discovery of eggs of the parasite in the faeces or by the complement fixation test.—I am, etc.,

A. T. Hunt