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EDITOR

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REGULATION 33B

Notes to paragraph (5)

Reports by special practitioner of default by contact.—A contact commits an offence against the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939, for which the punishment is prescribed by Regulation 92, if he either (1) fails to attend for or to submit to medical examination when required to do so by a notice in Form 1 personally served on him as required by paragraph (2), above ; or (2) fails to attend for or to submit to medical examination in contravention of any treatment notice (see paragraph (3), above) ; or (3) fails to comply with any directions given by the practitioner who is treating him pursuant to the treatment notice ; or (4) fails to attend the special practitioner named in a transfer notice he has given within seven days, contrary to paragraph (4) above.

It is only in regard to (2) and (3) that the present paragraph applies, and the sole duty imposed on the special practitioner is that of reporting the default. It must, however, be emphasized that the Regulation does not leave him any discretion. It does not give him a right to report defaults but imperatively requires that he shall do so. If, default having occurred, the special practitioner failed to report it, he would himself be committing an offence against the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939.

The enforcement of the Regulation is dealt with in the next issue.

MEDICAL SOCIETY for the STUDY of VENEREAL DISEASES

PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS

All General Meetings will be held at 11, Chandos Street, London, W.1, on Saturdays at 2.30 p.m. The Annual General Meeting in July will be held at 2.0 p.m.

May 29 Subject : *Trichomonas Vaginalis Infestation.*

Speakers : Sqn./ldr. Jean Morton and Capt. Eva Gallagher.

June 26 Subject : *The Use and Significance of Serum Tests for Syphilis.*

Speakers : Col. L. W. Harrison and Lt.-Col. T. E. Osmond.

July 24 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Business Meeting at 2.0 p.m.

Subject : *Hyperthermia in the Treatment of Resistant Gonococcal and Non-Specific Urethritis.*

Speakers : Lt.-Col. A. J. King, Major D. I. Williams and Capt. C. S. Nicol.

Followed by a paper on *Physiological Changes in Fever Treatment* by Capt. J. Wallace and Lieut. S. R. Bushby.

“ SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION ”

By well-chosen changes of sequence this film shows a doctor raising the question of venereal diseases for one of the weekly discussions that have been instituted by the occupants of a Wardens' post. The Senior Warden, an elderly man, objects to the topic being discussed in front of a mixed audience but is converted by the sincerity and truth of the doctor's words. Emphasis is laid on the danger to others resulting from untreated venereal diseases and the importance of early treatment. The film is not sensational or over-sentimental and should be of considerable help in the campaign against venereal diseases recently inaugurated and sponsored by the Ministry of Health.

The film gains appreciably because professional actors are employed, which gives it a welcome degree of polish which has been lacking in some other films recently.

Treatment of congenital v. adult syphilis

“ I believe you will agree that the problem of treating congenital syphilis is entirely different from that of adult syphilis, possibly because of the uncertain line of demarcation of stages in the former. In congenital syphilis it frequently takes weeks and months before a definite diagnosis is established. During this period valuable time is lost while the disease progresses. It is my hope that we may learn to diagnose congenital syphilis much earlier than we are doing today.”
—Dr. Samuel J. Hoffman of Chicago in discussion of a paper on Congenital and Acquired Syphilis in Infants and Children before the American Medical Association, June, 1942.

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reparative processes. The current meagre theory of the action of the iodides is not satisfactory since the quick augmentation of healing processes is a feature of the iodides when used alone for such lesions. It is curious that comparatively little research has been expended on the action of iodides in gummatous tissues since it became evident that these salts do not have any direct anti-spirochaetal effect and apparently little or no healing effect on early syphilitic lesions.

The further history of the child was uneventful but as with all cases of congenital syphilis in children it is by no means devoid of interest. The young patient was under treatment with neoarsphenamine (N.A.B.), sulpharsphenamine and bismuth preparations, moderate in intensity and of fair regularity, for nearly five years. From the time of healing the scarring and puckering of the rather blunt extremity of the tongue became less and less perceptible, and eventually there was a fair representation of a normal tongue extremity. Recurrence of ulceration did not appear in the tongue, nor did other manifestations of the disease occur elsewhere. The Wassermann reaction became negative and remained negative after one year's treatment. The Kahn reaction showed some positivity, although reduced in intensity, up to the fourth year. The cerebrospinal fluid examined in the fourth year did not show any abnormality in cell or protein content; the Wassermann and Lange reactions were negative.

From then on, until the child developed into a healthy young woman of nineteen, serological tests carried out at six-monthly intervals remained consistently negative. The young woman was given permission to marry in the following year, but a subsequent history is not available.

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DIRECTIONS TO CONTRIBUTORS

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Contributions should be concisely written and revised for press. They should be typewritten on one side of the paper only, with double spacing and a wide margin.

The names of authors, their chief positions and, when appropriate, the department from which the work is produced should be indicated in the sub-title. Illustrations and tables should be on separate sheets. All illustrations should be supplied in a form suitable for photographic reproduction. Drawings should be large-scale in Indian ink on a smooth white surface. Magnifications of all photomicrographs should be indicated. The loan of any illustration should be acknowledged in the legend.

References should be verified and listed at the end of the article in alphabetical order according to the first author's name, as given below.

Colson, T. P., and Maine, K. (1943) *Brit. med. J.*, 1, 67.
Davis, L. M. (1942) *J. Amer. med. Ass.*, 120, 8.

Titles of journals are abbreviated according to the *World List of Scientific Periodicals*. Works by the same author should be arranged in chronological order. Each work cited in the text should be followed by the author's name and year of publication, for example, Browning (1919).

Abbreviations of words familiar to British readers are often obscure to readers in other countries. Examples of abbreviations which should be given in full are: G.C., W.R., R.B.C., W.B.C., M.O.H., B.P., L.C.C., N.V.D., B.M.R., Sp.P., T.A.B., and C.S.F.

Abbreviations are permissible in charts and tables when their meanings are specified in the accompanying legend.

Incidence of syphilis in Canada

"The man in the street has not yet realized the menace of syphilis as a major health problem. Available statistics (Conference on Venereal Disease Control Work, Canada, 1936) reveal that 10 per cent of the population is or has been at some time affected with syphilis and that the number of those receiving sufficient and rational treatment is rather inconsiderable. Recent figures regarding the rate of positive serological findings among the first million selectees and volunteers in the United States of America were 4.5 per cent. There was no pertinent difference found between the rural and urban population; . . . the majority of men examined were in their early twenties."—Frederick Kalz, M.D., in the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, October, 1942.

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early cases is regarded as strongly suggestive of an abnormal spinal fluid. The technique of lumbar and cisternal puncture are fully described but would be more complete with a description of the Dättner needle which is now widely used.

A special chapter is devoted to the five-day intensive arsenotherapy of early syphilis in which details are presented of the clinical and serological results of this method as well as the toxic effects. The method of the continuous drip therapy and that of multiple divided injections are described. The incidence of relapses appears to be similar to that following the customary long term treatment. Some of the more grave toxic effects such as encephalitis haemorrhagica and peripheral neuritis appear to have been disturbingly frequent. From the public health aspect Moore considers that intensive arsenotherapy has failed to attain the ideal of regularly, quickly and permanently rendering the patient non-infectious. In fact it appears to offer no advantage over a few standard injections of arsphenamine. The lack of experimental data on this subject is deplored and it is considered that intensive arsenotherapy is still a problem for the laboratory rather than for the clinic.

This volume provides an excellent account of standard American methods of treatment and their results and should find a prominent place in the library of every syphilologist. The work is enhanced by an excellent index and a comprehensive bibliography.

V. E. L.

New Measures for Obtaining Better Control and Prevention of Venereal Diseases. By M. F. Liston, O.B.E., M.B., Ch.B. 36 pp. E. and S. Livingstone. Edinburgh, 1942. Price 3d.

In this small brochure the author propounds her opinion, from clinical observation, that the *Micrococcus catarrhalis* is the primary organism involved in the production of gonorrhoea and meningococcal meningitis. Attention is drawn to the lack of evidence of the formation of toxins from *Spirochaeta pallida* and it is suggested that the bacterial flora in the oro-nasal passages and sinuses plays a considerable if not the major part in the production of the signs and symptoms of syphilis.

In a somewhat rambling style Dr. Liston expresses her dissatisfaction with the results of the existing system of venereal disease control and discusses the necessity for a new outlook in which psychological changes in the patient, the general public and the physician are suggested.

The dissertation is handicapped by prolixity and lack of logical sequence. The frequent and unexpected changes into heavy type, which appear so capricious to the reader, are just as unnecessary as they are irritating.

V. E. L.

Catalogue to Lewis's Medical and Scientific Lending Library, Supplement, 1938-1941. Lewis's Library, London, 1942. 168 pp. Price 4s. net. (to Subscribers 2s. net.)

This useful supplement to the main catalogue of books available in Lewis's lending library is here brought up to date to 1941. The list of medical and scientific books added to the library in the three-year period is both full and comprehensive. The general lists and subject index include all recent publications on venereal diseases, bacteriology and virus diseases.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Editors beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following Journals, etc.

American Journal of Syphilis, Gonorrhoea and Venereal Diseases
American Journal of the Medical Sciences
British Journal of Dermatology and Syphilis
British Journal of Urology
British Medical Journal
Indian Journal of Venereal Diseases and Dermatology
Indian Medical Gazette
Journal of Experimental Medicine
Medical Times
Medicina Española
New England Journal of Medicine
Prescriber
South African Journal of Medical Sciences
Urologic and Cutaneous Review
Venereal Disease Information