

NEWS AND NOTES

**Gonorrhoea and chemotherapy : cured cases or carriers ?**

A warning is given by Koch, Mathis and Geiger against the over-optimistic interpretation of the immediate results of chemotherapy in gonorrhoea. The drug used was principally sulphathiazole and the case material reported on consists of 926 cases of acute and chronic gonorrhoea which were treated in a large municipal clinic in America between January 1941 and July 1943. Some local adjuvant treatment was given. Of the total number, 358 patients were under observation until they were discharged as cured, 168 were transferred for treatment elsewhere ; the very large remainder, of whom 196 were free from symptoms, defaulted before cure was complete. The cure required consistently negative physical and laboratory findings for a period of not less than three months, including a minimum of three consecutive negative gonococcal cultures taken not less than one week apart. When the patients were still under treatment it was found that of 640 cases of gonorrhoea in which the patients became symptom-free after a single course of sulphathiazole, 205 (32 per cent) yielded positive cultures up to three months and over after the close of treatment, although they remained asymptomatic. At the end of three months 4.9 per cent of these patients were still harbouring gonococci. It is pointed out by Pelouze that in a considerable number of similar cases the patients must have eluded any medical control and be actively contributing to the spread of what is called the present and still more the future epidemic of gonorrhoea in the United States. Great care should be taken to avoid referring to asymptomatic cases as "cured" unless laboratory tests have really shown absence of infection. It is stated that the reliance placed on systemic treatment has led to a lessened use of local treatments continued over a considerable period which kept the patient still under medical control.—*Venereal Disease Information, Washington, February 1944. Venereal Disease Information, Washington, March 1944.*

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EDITORIAL NOTES

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- American Journal of the Medical Sciences*
- American Journal of Syphilis*
- British Journal of Dermatology*
- British Journal of Urology*
- British Medical Journal*
- Indian Journal of Venereal Diseases*
- Indian Medical Gazette*
- Journal of the Cape Town Post-Graduate Medical Association*
- Journal of Experimental Medicine*
- Medicina Espanola*
- New England Journal of Medicine*
- Revista de la Asociacion Medica Argentina*
- Revista de medicina Tropical y Parasitologia Bacteriologia clinica y Laboratio*
- Revista de Sanidad y Asistencia Social*
- Revista del Instituto de Salubridad y enfermedades tropicales*
- Revista médica de Chile*
- Revista médica de Yucatan*
- South African Journal of Medical Sciences*
- Urologic and Cutaneous Review*
- Venereal Disease Information*

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