

conditions would be comparable to that of secondary or congenital syphilis in man in which immune complex deposits were reported (Kaplan, Wigglesworth, Markes, and Drummond, 1972; Wiggelinkhuizen, Kaschula, Uys, Kuijten, and Dale, 1973). However, it is possible that the infection in rabbits limits itself much faster than in humans and, being generally without recurrences, immune complexes might not be formed. From another point of view we may speculate that some very small soluble antigen-antibody complexes could be formed without detectable involvement of complement and without damaging consequences to the kidney, especially if such complexes appeared only transiently. In man, relapses in secondary syphilis may occur in approximately 20 per cent. In such privileged conditions the nephrotic syndrome might develop. A similar situation may occur in congenital syphilis. The intra-uterine infection may be present for months before diagnosis. The presence of responsible antigen and antibody may create in the newborn suitable conditions for immune complex glomerulonephritis.

In our experiments we have not produced immune complexes in rabbits infected with *T. pallidum*. However, in process of these experiments, some new immunological phenomena were observed:

(1) A delayed appearance of Wassermann antibodies and a delayed appearance and selective decrease of treponemal antibodies in animals kept at 17°C. This could most likely explain why rabbits infected with *T. pallidum* produce more severe lesions when kept at a lower temperature.

(2) The action of methotrexate caused an earlier appearance of Wassermann antibodies (19S) but the production was suppressed as compared with infected non-treated rabbits.

(3) Methotrexate also caused a significant increase of haemolytic complement, the mechanism of which remains unknown.

Yours faithfully,

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Medical Society for the Study of Venereal Diseases

Programme, 1974-1975

General Meetings of the Society, to which guests are welcomed, will be held at 11 Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London W1M 0EB, on Fridays at 7.30 p.m., refreshments being served from 6.45 p.m., on the following dates:

- October 25 Annual General Meeting
Health Education Film 'Bristol 24416', introduced by Dr. A. L. Hilton
'Health Education for Adolescents' by Dr. A. J. Dalzell-Ward
November 29 'Trichomoniasis.' Papers by Dr. J. A. McFadzean, Dr. P. G. Hammond, and Prof. W. H. R. Lumsden
January 31 'Aetiology of Homosexuality' by Dr. John Randall

- March 28 'Aortic Valve Replacement in Syphilitic Heart Disease' by Dr. Richard Emanuel
April 25 Presidential Address, 'Ten-Year Study of Homosexuals' by Dr. J. L. Fluker

In addition, on February 21, 1975, a one-day symposium on 'Recent Advances in Sexually-Transmitted Diseases' will be held in collaboration with the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. Speakers to be arranged.

The Spring Meeting of the Society will be held in Malta, on April 18 to 20, 1975, after the general assembly of the International Union against the Venereal Diseases and Treponematoses.

perfection that the difficulties common to most venereological departments in this country, of too many patients and too little help, made him drive himself unremittingly and probably contributed to his final illness. He had done first-class research work and published a number of excellent papers and other contributions to the literature. He had a special talent for writing and became Editor of the *British Journal of Venereal Diseases*, a post which he held from

1968 to 1972. During this period the Journal increased considerably in importance and from 1970 it was published at intervals of two months instead of three.

A man of this quality is a serious loss to his profession and his specialty. He will be mourned by a host of friends and colleagues who will wish to extend their heartfelt sympathy to his wife and son.

Ambrose King

International Union against the Venereal Diseases and Treponematoses

28th General Assembly, Corinthia Hotel, St. Anton, Malta, April 13 to 17, 1975

Scientific papers on the following themes and allied subjects are invited:

- (1) Sexually-Transmitted Diseases (STD) among Tourists
Sexually-Transmitted Diseases (STD) among Immigrant Workers
- (2) Sex Education of the Public
Sex Education of Doctors
- (3) The Role of the Practitioner, the Public Health Officer, the Dermatologist, and other Specialists in the Teaching, Investigation, and Treatment of STD
- (4) The present position in microbiological and serological research in *Neisseria* infections.

An exhibition of material used in different countries in Public Health Education concerning V.D. will be arranged. The official languages will be English and French with simultaneous translation. Summaries of papers should be submitted *before December 31, 1974*, to the Secretary-General, Dr. F. J. G. Jefferiss, The Praed Street Clinic, St. Mary's Hospital, LONDON W2, England.

Information regarding participation, travel, and hotel arrangements will be circulated in October, 1974, by the Conference Secretary, Dr. A. Ferrante, IUVD, c/o National Student Travel Service, 220 St. Paul Street, Valletta, Malta, to whom all enquiries should be addressed.

The Society of Apothecaries of London

Diploma in Venereology, 1974

The following candidates have satisfied the Examiners:

WAHEEB ATALLA ATIA, M.B., B.Ch. Cairo,
L.M.S.S.A. Lond., M.R.C.P. Lond.
HIKMET JAMIL, M.B., Ch.B. Baghdad.
LOW BIN TICK, M.B., B.S. Singapore, M.R.C.G.P.
AMAR KISHORE SHARMA, M.D. Delhi.
ADELANI OLUWAJI SOGBETUN, M.B., B.S. Ibadan.

OSMAN MOHAMED AHMED TAHA, M.B.,
B.S. Khartoum, D.T.M. & H.
MICHAEL ANTHONY WAUGH, M.B., B.S. Lond.,
D.H.M.S.A.
Ernest Busby, M.B.E., L.M.S.S.A. (Hon.)
Registrar