women, nor with the isolation of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* or *Trichomonas vaginalis* from the women attending the clinic for sexually transmitted diseases. Serotyping showed a predominance of types II and III in non-pregnant women and an overall incidence of non-typable strains of 14·8 per cent. There was no relationship between serotype and antibacterial susceptibility.

Authors' summary

Isolation of Oxidase-positive Gram-negative Cocci not belonging to the Genus *Neisseria*, from the Urogenital Tract

PLATT, D. J., and SNELL, J. J. S. (1976) *J. clin. Path.*, **29**, 537

The isolation of oxidase-positive, Gram-negative cocci not of the genus *Neisseria* from the urogenital tract of 39 patients is reported. Of these patients, nineteen were men and twenty were women. Five patients presented with symptoms referable to trichomoniasis or candidosis (confirmed by culture), and in ten patients the clinical diagnosis of 'non-specific genital infection' was made. The remaining 24 patients were asymptomatic and attended either as sexual contacts of patients with established clinical disease or for routine or post-treatment examination; *N. gonorrhoeae* had been isolated from nine of these 24 patients within the preceding month.

The organisms were isolated on a modified Thayer-Martin medium, and incubated for 48 hrs in candle-extinction jars. Direct microscopy on the patients' secretions revealed extracellular Gram-negative cocci on two occasions. The organism grew profusely on nutrient agar, forming mucoid, pink pigment-producing colonies. However, they showed fundamental biochemical differences from the genus *Neisseria*. In particular, they did not produce acid from glucose, lactose, sucrose, or maltose. Staining of the organisms with fluoroscein-coated antigonococcal globulin gave variable and poorly reproducible results. However, eleven of 45 strains examined exhibited an intensity of fluorescence comparable to a *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* control. On disc testing, resistance to penicillin, ampicillin, cephaloridine, colistin, sulphonamide, cotrimoxazole, and nitrofurantoin was demonstrated, with sensitivity to streptomycin, kanamycin, gentamicin, and tetracycline.

The authors were unable to assign the organisms to a specific genus or species. In view of their Gram-negative nature, the possibility that the strains might be classified in the genus *Micrococus* was rejected. Exclusion from the genera *Neisseria* or *Acinetobacter* was done by examination of DNA base pairing, by which method similarities to either *Pseudomonas* or *Achromobacter* were demonstrable. No pathogenic role is proposed for the organisms but the risk of confusion with the gonococcus is stressed; tests useful for differentiating them from *N. gonorrhoeae* are shown. [More clinical detail about the patients would have been helpful.]

G. L. Ridgway

Hepatitis B. Surface Antigen and Antibody in Asymptomatic Blood Donors SINCLAIR, J. C., FEINMAN, S. V., WROBEL, D. M., and BERRIS, B. (1976) *J. Amer. med. Ass.*, **235**, 1014

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SIBOULET, A., CATALAN, F., and DEUBEL, M. (1976) *Bull. Soc. franç. Derm. Syph.*, **85**, 419

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Norwegian Scabies ESPY, P. D., and JOLLY, H. W., JR. (1976) *Arch. Derm.*, **112**, 193

Notice

Western Pacific and S.E. Asian Regional Conference on S.T.D.

The First Western Pacific and South-East Asian Regional Conference on Sexually Transmitted Diseases and Allied Subjects will be held in Singapore from January 6 to 9, 1977. Papers will be accepted on clinical, therapeutic, social, and other basic scientific aspects of STD and allied subjects. The official language will be English and the Conference will be held at the Regional English Language Centre. Further particulars may be obtained from Dr. V. S. Rajan, c/o Middle Road Hospital, Singapore 7, Republic of Singapore.