EDITORIAL

Blood Journals, Old and New

Within the last three years, a great expansion in the field of hematologic journals has taken place. Beginning with the British Journal of Haematology, which was launched in January 1955, there has been a steady parade of new journals: Blut (East Germany, 1955), Journal of Hematology of Kyushu University (1955), Sangre (Spain, 1956*), Problems of Hematology and Blood Transfusion (U.S.S.R., 1956), the new Vox Sanguinis (Switzerland, 1956), the new Folia Haematologica (West Germany, 1956), and the British-U.S.A. translation from the Russian of the above Problems of Hematology and Blood Transfusion. This brings the total of hematologic journals, as of January 1958, to nineteen.

Vox Sanguinis, founded in 1951 by Dr. J. J. van Loghem, of Amsterdam, as little more than a “house journal” to record blood-grouping experiences, gradually grew more popular and thus needed the assistance of an experienced medical publisher. The new journal, which is published bimonthly by the publishers of Acta Haematologica, is known as the “Journal of Blood Transfusion and Immunohaematology” and is the Bulletin of the International Society of Blood Transfusion. Van Loghem remains as editor-in-chief but has a greatly expanded board of editors, contributing editors, and an advisory board. Thus, it may be considered as the first of the “specialty” journals in the special field of hematology.

More recently, another specialty journal has appeared: Thrombosis et Diathesis Haemorrhagica (Stuttgart, West Germany) with P. Matis as the “Redactor” and Buchner, Deutsch, Jorpes, Jürgens, Koller, Rohr, Roskam, and Irving S. Wright as editors. This Journal (to appear every two to three months) proposes to collect under one roof papers devoted to thrombosis and hemorrhagic diatheses, and to provide an international link between research workers interested in these problems. Papers will be published in English, French, or German with summaries in all three languages. Whether the “clotters” will be satisfied for losing to be associated in the same journal with the “thrombosers” remains to be seen. The first issue is devoted almost exclusively to papers on blood clotting and is completed with a 36-page review of the 1956 literature (“First Series”) by Koller of Zürich.

Folia Haematologica (West Germany) is a handsome, almost crimson-covered journal, somewhat smaller in its format than Blood, and excellently printed. One notes on the cover the same familiar emblem of the Akademische Verlaggesellschaft M.B.H. that was present on the old Folia, but this time from Frankfurt A.M. rather than from Leipzig. It is edited by Professors Schulten (Cologne) and Heilmeyer (Freiburg), and represents West Germany’s answer to the continued publication of the old publication Folia Haematologia in East Germany, under the editorship of V. Schilling. There has long been dissatisfaction in West Ger-

* Not to be confused with Sangre, published for a few years beginning in 1948 by the Chilean Society of Transfusion and Hematology.
† A list of hematologic journals is appended (table 1).
many that this pioneer of hematology journals, and for many years the great leader of hematologic thought, should be languishing behind the Iron Curtain.

The decision was evidently made in the ever dynamic and now wealthy West Germany to go ahead with the attempt to inherit the mantle of Pappenheim, Naegeli, and Hirschfeld. Following the practice of the parent Folia, the editorial board is international in scope, with Professors Alder (Switzerland), Croizat (France), Di Guigiolo (Italy), Haddow (England), Henning (Germany), Hittmaier (Austria), Lamlin (Belgium), and C. J. Watson (U.S.A.). The journal will appear “Zwandlos” which, one assumes, means indefinitely, and in either the German, French, or English languages. The first issue (April 1956) has four nice clinical and investigative articles and an excellent review of “macroglobulinemia” (Waldenström’s disease) by Haus Schulten and U. Kaznow. The authors conclude that “this macroglobulinemia is a special form of paraproteinemiac reticulosis closely related to but distinctly not identical with plasmacytoma (i.e., multiple myeloma).”† There are some well done book reviews.

A very interesting newcomer (1957) to the journal field is the red-colored Problems of Hematology and Blood Transfusion (white letters) published “on the initiative and with the financial support of the National Institutes of Health, Public Health Service, U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare” and in collaboration with the Pergamon Institute of England. This is a complete and unexpurgated translation of the Soviet journal of the same name. The first issue is a translation of Vol. 2., No. 1 (1957) of the Soviet journal. It contains articles indicating the often unorthodox approach (by American standards) of Soviet hematology to such problems as the therapy of leukemia, its etiology, the use of alcoholized blood transfusions, etc. The issue closes with a colossal (9-page) book review of the Kassirski and Alekseev text on Clinical Hematology

*This list may be incomplete. If any omissions are noted, the Editor will be glad to be apprised.

† One wonders whether the term “macroglobulinemia,” referring to a chemical abnormality, should be retained for a disease which is apparently on a proliferative basis and in which an abnormal heavy globulin is produced. Should one call multiple myeloma “hypergammaglobulinemia (M type)”? The chemical abnormality in the blood is evidently symptomatic of a fundamental disease, and this might well be stressed rather than the perhaps nonspecific protein that is produced.
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published in 1955. After 8.9 pages of highly critical review taking the authors to task for almost every one of their chapters and verse, one is surprised to see the concluding sentence, "Taken as a whole, the book under review undoubtedly presents a sound guide to clinical hematology."

The new translation is certainly an interesting and laudable venture, making accessible to the Western world, almost for the first time, some of the wealth of material in the Soviet medical journals. Soviet physicians, as I know from personal observation, read and know all our important literature, but our ignorance of their trends of thought and accomplishments is indeed appalling. This bold new assault on the language problem should help to clear up that deficiency.

While on the subject of "behind-the-curtain" literature, one should mention a new journal (Haematologica) that I came across recently in Cracow, Poland, published as a private venture in Polish (with Latin summaries) by the III Clinic of Internal Medicine of Cracow. This is evidently the first hematologic journal to be published in Poland and comes out of the Clinic headed by the very active and often unorthodox Professor J. Aleksandrowicz. Knowing the difficulties of research in Poland (except at the various Institutes), it is indeed amazing to see this first issue, its articles by Aleksandrowicz and his devoted assistants on electron microscopy, leukemia, etc. There is a report on the blood findings in a young man who was inoculated with blood from a patient with acute leukemia. One gathers that the journal does not have general support from the Polish hematologists. We of the relatively ancient journal Blood (1946) wish it all success, however, as we do all the blood journals. May they continue to multiply (but in somewhat less exponential fashion!).

WILLIAM DAMESHEK

* Professor Kassirsky presented me with a copy of his newly published book upon the completion of my lecture (on immunohematology) at the Moscow Institute of Hematology and Transfusion in January 1956. It is a large tome of 700 pages, rather well printed. The black and white illustrations suffer from lack of glazed paper. The colored lithographs of blood cells do indeed look rather artificial, as the book reviewer, Professor Dultsin, says, but are adequate for teaching purposes. The bibliography seems rather incomplete, particularly for the years 1950 and on.

†The specimens are prepared in Cracow; the observer then flies to Warsaw, 250 miles away, where the electron microscope is located.
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