
The fact that malignant tumors often produce neurological disorders without invading or compressing the nervous system was virtually unknown twenty years ago. This is all the more strange because neoplasms are encountered commonly in every type of medical practice, and their remote neurological complications are not rare. Since 1948, when Denny-Brown called attention to the association between peripheral neuropathy and carcinoma, there has been an increasing number of reports linking remote malignancies of every organ with disorders at every level of the nervous system. Nevertheless, we do not yet understand the mechanism by which a single one of these disorders is brought about.

At this stage of our knowledge, it is timely to take stock, not only of the established facts, but also of the theories and speculations concerning the remote effects of cancer on the nervous system. The symposium edited by Lord Brain and Forbes Norris, Jr., encompasses the body of clinical information available on the subject and presents many relevant scientific and experimental contributions.

The first half of the book is devoted to the clinical syndromes which occur in association with malignancies. Descriptions of most of these syndromes have been scattered in various journals over the past years, and it is useful to have them collected in one volume. The chapters are arranged in order from the highest to the lowest level of the nervous system:

- Progressive Multifocal Leukoencephalopathy
- Subacute Cerebellar Degeneration
- Carcinomatous Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis
- Carcinomatous Neuromyopathy
- Myasthenia Gravis and Thymoma
- Myasthenic State and Lung Cancer
- Neoplasms and Muscle Disease

This list includes most of the known neurological complications of remote tumors, although subacute necrotizing myelopathy and long tract degenerations of the spinal cord have been omitted.

The relationship between amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and malignancies remains controversial. Norris and Engel found associated tumors in 10 per cent of a series of 130 patients with ALS, while several contributors felt that such a high incidence was not in accord with their experience.

The chapter on incidence of carcinomatous neuromyopathies is a crucial link in proving that the association between carcinoma and neurological disorders is not merely fortuitous. Croft and Wilkinson personally examined nearly 1500 patients with cancer of various organs, and found that the incidence of remote neurological complications was as high as 16 per cent in cancer of the lung or ovary. It is unfortunate that they do not devote more space to describing and defining "neuromyopathy," which is the most common of the clinical syndromes encountered.

The second half of the book is concerned with known or hypothetical effects of tumors which might exert a remote influence on the nervous system. Among the mechanisms discussed are endocrine and metabolic disturbances, dysproteinemia, nutritional deficiencies, autoimmunity and porphyria. The problem of selecting subjects for inclusion in this section must have been a difficult one, but the editors have generally chosen well. Conspicuously absent is a chapter on infections of the nervous system. The possibility of latent
or slow virus infection of the central nervous system is raised by many of the authors, most convincingly with relation to progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy.

Although macroglobulinemia, porphyria, hypoglycemia and hypercalcemia may account for a small proportion of the neurological complications of remote neoplasms, the authors concede that we are still far from understanding the pathogenetic mechanism in most cases. In this regard, the final chapter, Epilogue: A Guide to the Classification and Investigation of Neurological Disorders Associated with Neoplasms, points out the directions which future research may take.

This short book is well worth reading for those with an interest in neoplastic disease or neurology. It will provide the internist with a clearer understanding of some of the disabilities suffered by his cancer patients and will furnish the student of neoplasia with fascinating background material.—Daniel B. Drachman, M.D.


This monograph has an arresting title likely to raise the eyebrows and whet the critical interest of many clinicians and internists. Its author, Dr. Bernát, is Director of the 2nd Department of Internal Medicine at the Robert Karoly Hospital in Budapest.

The term "ozena" is not now commonly used in North American and British medicine, where the syndrome is usually called "chronic atrophic rhinitis," and this would seem to correspond to Dr. Bernát's use of the term. Dorland's Medical Dictionary defines "ozena" as "a disease of the nose with an offensive discharge." Mr. Ronald Macbeth, Director of the Department of Otolaryngology at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, points out in a short foreword that this syndrome is not now often seen in western countries and its etiology remains baffling. Thus, a new attempt to elucidate it is welcome. It is Dr. Bernát's firm contention that ozena is a complication of iron deficiency and this view is supported by a variety of arguments.

Sixty-five personal cases are reviewed. A large number showed evidence of iron-deficiency anemia, although the author's statement, "We have thus been able to demonstrate hyposiderosis in all these 65 cases of ozaena," is surely an overstatement, since at least 16 of the patients had normal hemoglobin and serum iron values in the figures quoted. The author also states that associated abnormalities of bone development in the skull and face are a "direct consequence of intrauterine iron deficiency." Variations in social and geographical incidence are discussed and a preponderance of cases in the female is noted. The author reports his own results with iron therapy in 53 patients followed for up to 4 years. The large majority were cured or considerably improved.

These clinical findings are supported by experimental observations in mice on an iron-deficient rice and milk diet. It is stated that characteristic development changes were seen in the nasal bones and that there were accompanying histologic changes in the nasal mucosa resembling those of ozena and of iron deficiency. These experiments are of considerable interest and it is unfortunate that insufficient detail is given. For instance, a high mortality is implied, which would be unexpected in uncomplicated iron deficiency. No figures are given for hemoglobin levels or for serum and carcass iron values in the experimental animals. No exact references to the author's previous publications are given, although six references appear under his name in the Bibliography, all apparently in Hungarian journals, which are not easily accessible or generally read by English-speaking workers.

Dr. Bernát has recorded an association which may be of some importance. The evidence presented in this monograph fails to prove the author's thesis: that iron deficiency is the cause of ozena. The method by which the results of treatment are assessed—namely, the clinical impressions of one author—is notoriously unreliable in judging the effects of treatment in chronic and relapsing conditions for which more rigid and critical types of trial are
now well established. Nonetheless, the monograph will interest those working on general and tissue effects of iron deficiency. It is surprising that the significance of such effects of a very common condition is still so poorly understood despite considerable clinical and experimental work, some of which is discussed by the author (for example, the earlier studies of Helen Mackay and the more recent work of Beutler).

The book is nicely produced and the illustrations are of good quality. The translators and the editor, Miss Edme Hadfield, are to be complimented on an excellent English text. A useful series of references is collected at the end of the monograph, although regrettably a few of these are incomplete, lacking titles and authors' initials.—Robin M. Bannerman


The International Committee was established some 10 years ago to bring order into the chaos of clotting nomenclature. This mission was achieved, after a fashion, by the use of Roman numerals to name the various plasma coagulation factors. However, with the designation of fibrin stabilizing factor as factor XIII in 1963, the nomenclature problem did not remain a sufficient task for a full-fledged international meeting.

Actually, a transition had been taking place in the preceding few years: A progressively greater degree of emphasis had been given to the presentation of formal papers in certain areas of blood clotting chosen by the Committee. A sort of “Coagulation Congress” had been developed, in which the participants were the Committee members and selected guests. Each of the recent meetings has applied itself to a topic or two.

The current publication is a reflection of the limitations imposed by a congress of this composition. Although it is evident that the “cascade” concept of blood coagulation has received widespread acceptance, a systematic review of the various steps is not available. Instead, those reactions are covered which correspond to the interests of the designated speakers. Similarly, application to genetics is haphazard rather than systematic. Moreover, reports of the outstanding developments are not guaranteed, since no opportunity is given for the preliminary submission of abstracts at large. It even turned out that many of the speakers had material not related to the specified topics, so that miscellaneous sessions had to be conducted.

An assemblage of elder statesmen and many distinguished investigators cannot fail to produce a certain amount of mutual stimulation. It is less certain that there is corresponding benefit to be derived from a publication of their activities, particularly when the great majority of material, interesting as it may be, will be found in the indexed literature. The present volume is insufficiently digested for the general reader, and it is superfluous for the professional coagulationist.—Theodore H. Spaet, M.D.

BOOKS RECEIVED—SEPTEMBER, 1965


THE SCANDANAVIAN JOURNAL OF HEMATOLOGY (10 journals). By Sven Erik Bjorkman. Selected papers from the Xth Congress of the International Society of Hematology, Malmö, Sweden.

ISOTOPEG IN EXPERIMENTAL PHARMACOLOGY. By Llody J. Roth, Department of Pharmacology, University of Chicago. Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 481 pages, $12.50.
MICROHEMOCIRCULATION. By Elio Maggio. M.D., F.I.C.A., Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology, University of Illinois College of Medicine, Chicago, Illinois. Springfield, Ill., Charles C Thomas, Publisher, 160 pages, $16.50.

ANTICOAGULANT THERAPY. By Louis B. Jaques, Ph.D., Professor and Head, Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada. Springfield, Ill., Charles C Thomas, Publisher, 150 pages, $7.50.

FOUNDATIONS OF ANESTHESIOLOGY, Vols. I and II. By Albert Faulconer, Jr., M.D., M.S., Head, Section of Anesthesiology, Mayo Clinic, and Professor of Anesthesiology, Mayo Graduate School of Medicine, University of Minnesota, Rochester, Minnesota; and Thomas E. Keys, A.B., M.A., Librarian, Mayo Clinic, and Associate Professor of the History of Medicine, Mayo Graduate School of Medicine, University of Minnesota. Springfield, Ill., Charles C Thomas, Publisher, 1337 pages. $38.50.