NEWS AND VIEWS

(a) Histochemistry, W. Laves, Medical Clinic, Munich, Germany and E. Storti, Medical Clinic, Pavia, Italy. (b) Phase Contrast Microscopy, H. Lüdin, Medical Clinic, Basle, Switzerland. (c) Ultraviolet Adsorption Microscopy, B. Thorell, Nobel Institute, Stockholm, Sweden (Microspectrographical Methods in Hematology). (d) Electron Microscopy, M. Bessis, Centre de Transfusion, Paris, France.

Thursday afternoon.

3. Main topic: Reticulosis, Reticuloendotheliosis and Reticulosarcomatosis. (a) Pathological Anatomy of Reticulosis, Ahlström, Institute of Pathology, Lund, Sweden. (b) Reticulosis and Its Relationship to Sarcomatosis, Van der Meer and Zeldendrust, Institute of Pathology, Leiden, Holland. (c) Reactive Reticulosis, K. Rohr, Zurich, Switzerland. (d) Clinic and Hematology of Malignant Reticulosis, Cazal, Montpellier, France.

Friday morning.


Friday afternoon and Saturday morning: Special meeting of the Section on the Study of Coagulation.

First Theme: Anticoagulation Therapy, Jorpes, Stockholm, Sweden and F. Koller, Zurich, Switzerland.


Announcements for short lectures on the Section on the Study of Coagulation are to be addressed directly to Priv. Doz. Dr. F. Koller, Med. Univ. Klinik, Zurich, Switzerland.

Saturday afternoon and Sunday: Group excursion in buses of the vicinity of Rome by participants of the congress (Villa d’Este in Tivoli, etc.).

Friday evening: Official dinner and reception of the European Society of Hematology.

Women’s Committee: A special committee will take care of the ladies during the scientific sessions and arrange receptions, excursions and sight-seeing tours.

Exhibitions and Practical Demonstrations: A relatively large exhibit will take place during the Congress which is especially directed to those who received no lecture time.

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BOOK REVIEWS


This monograph on Cooley’s anemia and related forms, now grouped under the heading of thalassanemia, seems to contain about everything known of these conditions. It is written in an easy and agreeable style which penetrates rapidly into the essential aspects of the numerous hematologic problems. It is well illustrated with 69 figures and 17 tables. The 13 chapters are grouped in two parts. The first deals with the genetic, anatomico-clinical and hematologic aspects of thalassanemia; the second part deals with the pathologic-physiology of erythropoiesis.

Although thalassanemia is an ancient disease, dating back to the paleolithic period in Sicily, it is only since Cooley called attention to this disease in 1925 that extensive investigations have been carried out. It is now recognized that there are three forms of thalassanemia, viz., the major, or Cooley’s anemia; the minor, or Rietti-Greppi-Micheli disease; and the minima, or microcytemia of Silvestronni and Bianco. Genetically the first condition is homozygotic while the last two are heterozygotic. The major form is a fatal disease, the minor is compatible with life and the minima form is a hematologic condition without disability.
The bone marrow in all three forms of thalassanemia is hyperplastic with an increase in erythroid elements. Maceroerythroblasts that have been derived directly from the histioytic system are present. In spite of this there is a disharmony in the increase of cytoplasm with respect to the nucleus. In all three forms the diameter of the cytoplasm is below normal. The mitotic indexes for all forms of erythroblasts indicate that the duration of prophase has been shortened while that for the ana-telaphase has been lengthened. There is an increase in the basophilic and a decrease in orthochromatic forms. The former condition has led some American hematologists to believe that megaloblasts are present in the marrow from patients with Cooley's anemia. Careful morphologic studies have revealed that the cells in question resemble megaloblasts, or are megaloblast-like but are not identical with genuine pernicious anemia megaloblasts. The nuclear pattern of the macroerythroblasts is that of reticulo-normoblasts which have been derived directly from the reticulo-endothelium without passing through the hemocytoblast stage. The authors illustrate and discuss why these cells are not genuine megaloblasts.

In order to study the pathologic-physiology of the erythroblasts, various methods were devised to study tissue culture material. These investigations were originally done with Fieschi (Blood 2: 308, 1947) and subsequently by Astaldi and his many colleagues. The proliferative activity of basophilic erythroblasts is above normal while that for later stages of development falls within normal limits. It seems that there is a delay in the passage of cells from the basophilic to the polychromatic stage. When erythroblasts from patients with thalassanemia are grown in cultures with normal plasma their proliferative activity in not diminished. Furthermore, normal erythroblasts are not influenced by plasma from thalassanemia patients. It would seem, therefore, that the biologic activity of the erythroblast is dependent upon characteristics peculiar to the cells and not the plasma.

Considerable space is devoted to the clinical forms of thalassanemia and their diagnosis, prognosis, therapy and prophylaxis. There is a 12 page summary in English which covers adequately the essential material. This is certainly a valuable publication.—O. P. Jones


This is the twenty-second or Semi-Centennial Edition of a now famous medical book. The defined words are in bold, highly legible type; the definitions which are in clear, simple English being given in smaller type. The various tables, diagnostic tests, syndromes, etc. together with the definitions make this a veritable store-house of information in its 1736 pages. The binding and the thin paper make this large book easy to handle.

Most of the tables and plates are excellent although that dealing with the morphology of blood cells is a very old and faded plate which would well be redone in the next edition.

The nomenclature for the Rh groups is given entirely according to Wiener's system and thus there is no mention whatever of the CDE nomenclature of the Fisher-Race School. In defining the blood groups there is peculiarly no mention of the Rh factor. An excellent new feature is a preliminary article dealing with fundamentals of medical etymology. This is a very fine book to possess and is a necessity for most physicians and their secretaries.—W. Dameshek.