with labelled $N_{11}$, which showed that the miscible pool or uric acid was twice as large or larger in gouty individuals than in controls.

Gout occurs frequently enough to warrant a practical knowledge of the old, established, as well as some new therapeutic agents. Talbott's chapter on therapy discusses these drugs authoritatively, particularly colchicine, cortisone, ACTH, benemid and butazolidin. He rightly stresses the value of colchicine in acute attacks and of benemid, a strong uricosuric agent, which he and his co-workers have studied intensively, during the intercritical phase. The use of small amounts of colchicine as a prophylactic given over long periods is recommended, but seems to this reviewer a somewhat risky procedure with little evidence that recurrent attacks can thus be prevented.

While the treatment of gout will always need individualization, the physician has a much greater choice of effective drugs at his disposal today than he did ten years ago. As Talbott points out, the physician can forego dietary restrictions for his patients and practice moderation in their treatment.

The book is well written and contains a selected bibliography, a few tables, and twenty-four x-ray pictures. The reviewer hopes that in another edition some of these pictures can be replaced by a few selected clinical and pathologic reproductions.—H. G. Brugsch.

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**NEWS AND VIEWS**

**Foreign Newsletter—Scotland**

To the Editor:

The four Scottish universities are all active in the field of hematology, and it is worth remembering that the attitude toward this subject in Scotland differs in some respects from that prevailing in many of the English medical schools. In Scotland, hematology and its related research is primarily directed by internists who have developed a special interest in blood disorders. In England, on the other hand, both routine work and investigation in hematology are largely left to the clinical pathologist, who is usually a laboratory worker rather than a clinician.

**Aberdeen**

Professor H. W. Fullerton and Dr. W. J. A. Davie have studied blood coagulability following ingestion of fat and the effects of heparin on such lipemia. Dr. W. R. Gauld, in collaboration with Dr. J. Innes, in Edinburgh, and Dr. H. N. Robson, has surveyed the incidence and types of six hundred and forty-seven cases of leukemia observed in Aberdeen and Edinburgh. Dr. Robson, who has continued to be interested in capillary resistance and in myelosclerosis, has now left Aberdeen for Adelaide, Australia where he will be Chairman of the Department of Medicine. Dr. J. Walker has studied fetal blood at various stages of normal human pregnancy.

**Edinburgh**

Professor L. S. P. Davidson toured Africa for three months at the beginning of 1953, visiting many hospitals and clinics and discussing, in particular, the problem of nutritional anemia in Africans.

Dr. J. Blake, a Dublin graduate (who has been spending a year as an Assistant in the Department of Medicine at Edinburgh University) has collaborated with Dr. P. Rechnitzer (a Canadian graduate from London, Ontario who holds a similar appointment in Edinburgh) in a study of postgastrectomy anemia.
Dr. R. H. Girdwood has continued his investigations on the metabolism of cyanocobalamin, folic acid, and citrovorum factor in health and disease, and has devised a differential folic acid excretion test for the diagnosis of intestinal malabsorption. If the findings are confirmed in a larger series of patients, the test may be used to supplement the present fat balance test. Experiments have been continued with a simpler folic acid excretion test which may help in the diagnosis of advanced malignant disease. Investigations on the use of ACTH and cortisone in the treatment of blood disorders have been continued.

In addition to continuing clinical trials of various chemotherapeutic agents in the treatment of leukemia and allied disorders, Dr. James Innes has collaborated with Mr. A. I. S. Macpherson of the Department of Surgery in studying various aspects of the problem of portal hypertension.

In the Department of Biochemistry, Dr. W. N. M. Ramsay has published a paper on the Determination of Iron in Blood Plasma and Serum. He describes a new and simple method of determination, which gives higher results than those now generally accepted.

Dr. H. T. Swan, who is Registrar in Hematology in the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, has been given leave of absence for a year to work with Dr. E. H. Reisner in New York, N. Y.

During 1952, members of the staff of the Edinburgh Medical School were pleased to welcome from overseas many old friends who were in Scotland after attending the International Congress of Biochemistry in Paris or who visited Britain for other purposes. We are always especially pleased to greet visitors at the time of the International Festival of Music and Drama which takes place annually in Edinburgh in August and September.

Glasgow

In Professor Sir John McNee's unit at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, Dr. Hugh Conway has continued the studies in erythrophagocytosis he began in cooperation with Dr. L. E. Young at the University of Rochester, New York. Erythrophagocytosis occurs frequently after incubation of peripheral blood and bone marrow of patients with autoimmune hemolytic disease. The effect of ACTH, cortisone, and splenectomy is being investigated.

In Professor L. J. Davis's Department at the Royal Infirmary, hematological investigations in 1952, have proceeded along the lines of the previous year. Cases of megaloblastic anemia, both of the Addisonian and non-Addisonian type, and iron-deficiency anemia have been studied from various points of view. It has been found, in particular, that the serum-iron combining power and the histologic demonstration of stainable iron in the sternal marrow have, in several cases, provided information of clinical value concerning the underlying nature of the anemia. Observations on the use of ACTH and cortisone in various hematologic disorders have been extended. The impression has been gained that these substances are of value only in some cases of acquired hemolytic anemia and of thrombocytopenic purpura; thus far, however, there appears to be no method of determining in advance which cases are likely to respond favorably. Evaluation of newer anticoagulants has been continued. More extended studies on experimental lead poisoning in laboratory animals have confirmed earlier work on the nature of the anemia in lead poisoning.

A guest worker from Greece, Dr. D. Valtis (who is a lecturer in Medicine in the University of Salonica) has been a welcome visitor throughout the year. He will shortly publish interesting findings on the properties of the erythrocyte in various pathologic conditions.

St. Andrews

In the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, Professor R. B. Hunter and his staff have studied treatment of pernicious anemia with single large doses of cyanocobalamin given at very infrequent intervals. Their work on blood coagulation has also been continued and a paper will soon appear on the "Mode of Action of Tromexan".

Dr. West of the same Department and Dr. Riley of the Radiotherapy Department, Dundee Royal Infirmary, are studying the location of heparin in various tissues, its connection with the mast cells, and its relation to the histamine content of the latter.

When it is remembered that the total population of Scotland is only about five million,
NEWS AND VIEWS

considerably less than that of New York City, it is perhaps surprising that there should be sufficient clinical material to allow adequate hematological research in the four university centers. Still, hematologic material is not lacking. This is especially the case in regard to pernicious anemia, apparently a much more common disorder in Scotland than in many other countries.

Overseas readers may be interested to learn that the coming of the National Health Service has little influenced the academic and hospital activities in Scotland. Indeed, the number of general medical outpatients and the waiting list, both for admission to medical wards and for total admissions to Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, have declined in recent years, due to better facilities and staffing of peripheral nonteaching hospitals. The main problem remains the accommodation of the chronically ill patient. As always, the general practitioners cooperate admirably with the consultants and research staff, in assuring early consultation of untreated hematologic cases. The cooperation between consultant, general practitioner, and patient under the Health Service in Scotland is good, and complaints from patients or medical men are seldom heard.

R. H. GIRDWOOD, M.D.
JAMES INNES, M.D.

Foreign Newsletter—Japan

To the Editor:

The increasing interest in hematology on the part of both clinicians and investigators is clearly shown by the bulk of papers which were presented at the fifteenth annual meeting of the Japan Hematological Society held at the University of Tokyo in April. A total of two hundred and fifty nine papers covered such fields as cytology, blood proteins, immunity, anemias, leukemias, pigment metabolism, blood coagulation, hemopoiesis, and radiation injuries. Special lectures on hemoglobin and on gastric pernicious anemia were delivered by the foremost investigators on the subjects. All sessions, covering a period of three days, were attended by several hundred members of the society, representing practically all universities and colleges throughout Japan. Most of these papers are to be published in various scientific journals, particularly in Acta Haematologica Japonica which is the official journal of the society. In addition to the regular annual meeting in April, the society holds an autumn session which features a symposium on some specified subjects. The next autumn symposium will be held in Tokyo in November, the subject of discussion being the blood platelets.

One of the noteworthy developments in the field of hematology in 1952 was the organization of the Japanese Society for the Study of Blood Transfusion, which will aim at the perfection and promotion of the blood bank system throughout Japan. Already, plans are under way to establish new blood banks in all large national hospitals as well as in many Red Cross hospitals. The Welfare Ministry sets aside, out of the annual budget, a substantial sum to be awarded to those blood banks which are engaged in research on various problems related to blood transfusion. This new organization has recently decided to undertake publication of a bimonthly journal entitled Blood and Blood Transfusion, the first issue of which will appear in January 1954. This society functions, therefore, as a clearing house for all blood banks and will hold an annual meeting in conjunction with those of other scientific societies in the spring. A close cooperation with the society in various activities has been offered by the Hematological Society as well as by the Japanese Society of Clinical Pathology.

KATSUJI KATO, M.D.