

HEBERDEN SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting.—This was held at the Royal College of Surgeons, London, on November 25 and 26, 1955. The following papers were read:

DR. J. SHARP (*Manchester University*): Spondylitis and Heart Disease. A group of patients was encountered who appear to have developed valvular heart lesions, an unusual form of spondylitis, and in some cases a chronic peripheral polyarthritis, after repeated and prolonged attacks of rheumatic fever. A few patients with typical ankylosing spondylitis were found to be suffering from aortic incompetence. The relationship of heart and joint lesions in these patients was discussed.

DR. H. F. WEST (*Sheffield*): Δ^{-1} Cortisone. An account was given of the structure and nomenclature of the recently discovered cortisone analogues. Their ability to suppress the output of urinary 17-hydroxy-corticosteroids was compared to that of cortisol. The theoretical considerations to be kept in mind in comparing the therapeutic value of Δ^{-1} cortisone with that of cortisone acetate was emphasized as a prelude to a general discussion on the value of this new steroid.

PROF. J. H. KELLGREN (*Manchester University*): Rheumatoid Arthritis in a Population Sample. An urban population sample in the 55-64 age group was investigated for clinical, radiological, and serological evidence of rheumatoid arthritis. The clinical disease showed the customary four-fold preponderance in females, but the serological and radiological findings did not show this preponderance.

DR. J. S. LAWRENCE (*Manchester*): Osteo-Arthritis in a Population Sample. Radiological studies were undertaken on persons between the ages of 55 and 64 included in the original Leigh survey of rheumatic complaints. The high prevalence of osteo-arthritis and the tendency to multiple joint involvement, particularly

in females, was confirmed. The joint pattern in osteo-arthritis was discussed in relation to possible causative factors.

DR. V. WRIGHT (*Stoke Mandeville*): Arthritis and Psoriasis. The clinical manifestations and the results of laboratory tests (D.A.T., measurements of serum proteins, and alkaline phosphatase) in 32 patients with psoriasis and arthritis were analysed. The modifying effect on the picture of erosive arthritis of the association with psoriasis, and the relation of the arthritis to lesions of the skin and nails was discussed.

DR. D. S. JACKSON (*Manchester University*): Isolation and Some Properties of a Neutral Salt-Soluble Collagen. A new method of isolating and purifying the so-called "alkali-soluble collagen" was reported. This involved extraction of the skins of young rabbits with neutral salt solutions followed by repeated precipitation with saturated NaCl or $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$. Physico-chemical methods suggested that the particle in solution was rod-shaped, the rods aggregating to produce fibrils of 100 Å diameter having a 2,000 Å spacing, which are transformed on warming to 37° C. to fibres of 1,000-2,000 Å diameter and the typical collagen spacing of 640 Å.

DRS. I. C. GILLILAND, I. ISDALE, and E. M. ABD WAHAB (*Postgraduate Medical School, London*), introduced by E. G. L. Bywaters: Serum Protein Studies in the Course of Rheumatic Fever. A study of serum proteins in rheumatic fever by electrophoresis on paper confirmed that changes occur in the course of the disease, which may be clinically useful. The consistent changes were a fall in albumin concentration and a rise in globulin concentration, so that the ratios albumin/globulin appeared to reflect the course of the disease. A method of obtaining this ratio without detailed fraction analysis was presented.

CORRIGENDUM

In the article by A. M. Lefkowitz and I. J. Farrow in the September, 1955, issue of the *Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases*, on p. 165, col. 1, l. 25, after "fifteen" insert "Stage III".