

cent.) was infrequent, most of the ulcers gave rise to complications. A series of 104 cases from the West London Hospital was compared with the eight-centre survey. Dyspepsia was higher (47 per cent.); of cases of dyspepsia 43 per cent. were mild and transient, 34 per cent. moderate with a negative barium meal, and 23 per cent. (11 of the 104 cases) had proven ulcers. The average dose in the cases developing ulcers was 25 mg. prednisolone per day. In the cases of dyspepsia with negative radiology the average dose differed little from those without indigestion. The importance of aspirin in addition to steroids in producing dyspepsia was discussed.

There seemed to be no doubt that, in conditions such as ulcerative colitis and asthma, where long-term steroid therapy was used without the addition of aspirin, dyspepsia was uncommon. Hypertension was quite common (13 per cent.), but very rarely necessitated withdrawal of steroids.

Other side-effects (such as fractures, peripheral neuritis, bruising, and mental changes) were under 5 per cent. It was concluded that in order to reduce the incidence of side-effects it was imperative to keep the dose below 15 mg. prednisolone per day, and to recognize that other drugs such as aspirin might play a part in their production.

When dyspepsia occurred with long-term steroid therapy aspirin should be withdrawn and replaced with enteric-coated salicylates.

**Discussion.**—DR. A. ST. J. DIXON (*London*) said that he had found no difference in faecal blood loss between patients on steroids and aspirin and on aspirin alone, during tests lasting a week or so. But one should avoid giving the two together, as rheumatoid patients receiving both aspirin and corticosteroids for long periods developed serious intestinal complications more frequently than patients suffering from skin diseases or ulcerative colitis who were given corticosteroids without aspirin.

DR. A. G. S. HILL (*Aylesbury*) said that sixty patients treated with a daily dose of 5 mg. prednisolone, the incidence of dyspepsia was 10 per cent., but it had been sufficiently severe to stop treatment in only two patients. Purpura was common and had been detected in 20 per cent. There was one case of peri-colic abscess and one of melaena.

THE PRESIDENT asked whether the bruising occurred only in females.

DR. A. G. S. HILL (*Aylesbury*) replied that it was almost always in females.

DR. SAVAGE said that he agreed. He had never seen bruising in a male patient receiving steroids.

DR. G. D. KERSLEY (*Bath*) asked how far this was a controlled series. Quite a lot of women bruised without prednisolone, but 20 per cent. was a high figure. He asked if these were big patches of skin bruising.

DR. A. G. S. HILL (*Aylesbury*) replied that the observations were completely uncontrolled, and that all the bruises were as big as sixpences or bigger.

#### *Alteration in Programme for 1960*

The Heberden Round will be conducted by Dr. W. S. Tegner at the London Hospital on September 16, 1960, and not on September 23 as previously announced.

## BRAZIL

### RHEUMATOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF RIO DE JANEIRO

This new branch of the Brazilian Society of Rheumatology has recently been formed. The following officers have been elected:

*President:* Dr. Jacques Houli.  
*Vice-Presidents:* Dr. Nelson Senise.  
Dr. Caio Villela Nunes.  
*Secretary:* Dr. Israel Bonomo.  
*Executive Committee:* Dr. Ideal Peres.  
Dr. R. E. Araujo Leitão.  
Dr. Waldemar Werttreich.

*Treasurers:* Dr. Berel Bejler.  
Dr. Odir Mendes Pereira.  
*Librarian:* Dr. Jacob Gamarski.

### NEW CHAIR OF RHEUMATOLOGY

Dr. Pedro Nava has been appointed to the Chair of Rheumatology which has been created in the Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. His undergraduate and postgraduate teaching courses will start this year.

W.S.C.C.

## GREECE

**The Rheumatic Diseases and their Treatment.** By G. Spanopoulos. 1958. Pp. 175, figs. Athens.

Dr. George Spanopoulos is the author of the first well-documented book on the rheumatic diseases to be published in the Greek language. He uses the British

classification and many of his references are to English work in this field.

He has also recently published a small book entitled "The importance of the sensitized sheep-cell agglutination test in the diagnosis of the rheumatic diseases and the prognosis of rheumatoid arthritis". W.S.C.C.

## NEW YORK RHEUMATISM ASSOCIATION

### *Officers, 1960-61*

At the Annual Meeting of the New York Rheumatism Association, held on April 19, 1960, at New York University-Bellevue Medical Center, the following

officers were elected:

*President:* Dr. Ronald W. Lamont-Havers.  
*Vice-President:* Dr. Sidney S. Berkowitz.  
*Secretary-Treasurer:* Dr. Albert W. Grokoest.

## SOCIETÀ ITALIANA DI REUMATOLOGIA

### SEVENTH ROME RHEUMATOLOGY DAY, 1960

A successful meeting, remarkable both for the excellence of the papers given and the large number of persons attending, was organized by Prof. T. Lucherini, Prof. C. Cervini (*Secretary*), Dr. A. Ciocci, and Dr. C. Longo, on March 19 and 20, 1960.

Among the principal contributors were the following:  
Prof. A. Fieschi and Prof. V. Bianchi (*Institute of*

*Medical Pathology of the University of Genoa*): "Raynaud's Phenomenon and Scleroderma."  
Prof. C. B. Ballabio and Prof. G. Grampa (*Milan*): "Clinical Deterioration and Collagen Pathology in Patients Treated with Cortisone."

A symposium on the Immunology of the Rheumatic Diseases was conducted by Prof. L. Michelazzi (*Genoa*), Prof. C. Cavallero (*Pavia*), Prof. G. Della Pietra (*Naples*), Prof. V. Carcassi (*Siena*), Prof. L. Bonomo (*Bari*), and Prof. A. Marmont.