hydroxide as an additive appeared to be minimal. Hyalase too has less effect on abolishing the Alcianophilia and radioactivity from older animal tissues, but this may well be due to the relative increase in keratosulphate. 

With regard to your doubts as to the accuracy of the assumption that sulphate uptake can be regarded as an index of mucopolysaccharide production, I am aware that at least some of the radioactivity has not been incorporated into the mucopolysaccharide but, as shown by Katsura and Davidson (1966), is merely loosely associated with the mucopolysaccharide molecule, probably being chelated with calcium. In view of this it may well be that quantitative studies of mucopolysaccharide production using sulphate uptake as an index may have to be regarded with some caution, but from a qualitative point of view, since there is no dispute that the label is, in fact, associated with the mucopolysaccharide molecule, whatever the nature of the bond, the observation of intracellular uptake followed by extracellular transfer would still seem to be a valid index of mucopolysaccharide metabolism.

Finally with regard to your comment that, even at the early phases of the experiment, some of the label was present in the extracellular tissues, I would concede immediately that this is indeed so. All the early sections tend to have a very high background of radioactivity and it may be that the intracellular pattern of labelling, so characteristic of this period, is superimposed on a tide of inorganic sulphate diffusing into the avascular disc.

References

The Heberden Round was due to be given by Dr. Rowland Alexander, but his sudden and unexpected death shortly before the meeting prevented this. In place of the Round, Professor Ian Duthie demonstrated a series of rheumatological cases.

Book Review


The British Medical Journal published a series of articles in 1969 giving practical advice on common disorders of the joints. These excellent articles have now been revised by their authors and collected together to form a booklet which is worth buying; they will succeed in their advertised attempt to bring doctors up-to-date where important therapeutic advances have taken place in the field of arthritis and rheumatism.

However, the metamorphosis of articles into a volume called 'Diseases of the Joints', proclaimed by the editor to be a handbook on the management of arthritis, entitles the reviewer to question whether this claim is justified. 'Not quite' is the answer. There must be a limit, but ankylosing spondylitis, psoriatic arthropathy, disorders of the lumbar vertebrae (although the cervical spine is dealt with), and the surgery of joints should not have been omitted. Perhaps this was because the compilation of the booklet was an afterthought, so that no plan was formulated at the start to make it fully comprehensive.

Nevertheless, it is packed with practical information, and well written and illustrated. The stimulating introductory article, 'Arthropathies and Allied Disorders' by Dr. Dudley Hart, demonstrates why rheumatology can be such an interesting speciality, as troubles in bones and joints embrace the whole of medicine and the entire world of patients. That the differential diagnosis is wide, is shown by the list of about 180 possible conditions. Perhaps rheumatology will be the last refuge of the general physician.

CLIFFORD HAWKINS

Correction

In the November, 1970, issue of the Annals, in the paper by W. Carson Dick, M. F. Grayson, A. Woodburn, G. Nuki, and W. Watson Buchanan, vol. 29, on p. 645 (footnote), please insert plus sign to read:

Placebo: corrected mean = overall mean + \( 2b \).