

these does not correlate closely with ability to sensitize to DNCB nor with depletion of small lymphocytes.

#### References

WALDORF, D. S., SHEAGREN, J. N., TRAUTMAN, J. R., and BLOCK, J. B. (1966) *Lancet*, 2, 773

**The Choroid Plexus in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus.** By C. J. ATKINS, J. KONDON, F. QUISMORIO, and G. FRIOU (*University of Southern California, Los Angeles*).

Autopsy studies were carried out in six patients with systemic lupus erythematosus in whom there were overt clinical features of cerebral disease. When the brains were examined by conventional as well as immunofluorescent techniques, no distinctive changes were noted.

It was then realized that the choroid plexus was a filter and that as in lupus nephritis circulating immune complexes might also be deposited here.

In the two patients studied, gammaglobulin deposits were demonstrated in the choroid plexus using the direct immunofluorescent technique. These deposits were decreased by elution at pH 3.2 and by treatment with DNAase. Electron microscopy in one case revealed dense deposits in the connective tissue of the choroidal villi similar to those described in the glomeruli of lupus nephritis.

The absence of significant perivascular inflammation and gammaglobulin deposition about the nutrient vessels is contrary to the prevalent view that the central nervous system symptomatology in systemic lupus erythematosus

is the result of cerebral vasculitis. These observations focus attention on the possible role of the choroid plexus in the pathogenesis of the nervous and mental manifestations of systemic lupus erythematosus.

#### Discussion

DR. K. WHALEY (*Glasgow*) Have you noted any correlation between the findings in the choroid plexus and in the kidney, and whether you found free DNA or anti-DNA antibody in the serum of patients with choroid plexus immune complexes?

DR. ATKINS We found anti-DNA in high titre in both patients with choroid plexus complexes. Both kidneys were conventionally stained but in the one examined by immunofluorescence we found both IgG and IgM deposits.

DR. K. WHALEY (*Glasgow*) Have you examined the subarachnoid granulations which remove the cerebrospinal fluid?

DR. ATKINS No. This obviously must be done.

DR. K. WHALEY (*Glasgow*) Have you measured the cerebrospinal fluid pressure?

DR. ATKINS No. This finding reveals many further problems.

## Book review

**First and Last Experiments in Muscle Mechanics.** Edited by A. V. HILL. 1970. Pp. 141, 62 figs. Cambridge University Press, London (£2.75)

In the study of muscle physiology A. V. Hill stands out as one of the giants, and his account of his work in this field is therefore of immense interest, both for its scientific content and as a personal testament to a great scientist.

As is only to be expected, the standard of production and presentation in this slim volume is high.

It will probably be of no more than academic interest to the average rheumatologist, but it provides a valuable study in depth for those practitioners whose work involves a therapeutic application of muscle exercise.

J. G. P. WILLIAMS

## Notes

### Report of the British Branch of the Ligue Européenne contre le Rhumatisme

*From the Delegate, E. G. L. Bywaters, November 21, 1970*

The Heberden Society has represented British rheumatology on the world front since 1927 when the International Ligue was born. Because, however, of the Heberden Society's limited and selective membership, with then only 100 full members entitled to vote, the British Branch of the Ligue was started in 1947 and included all members, full and associate, of the Heberden Society as well as others

who joined directly. All that was needed for membership of the British Branch was an application and a fee of one guinea, later 5s. and recently £1. There have been no proposers or seconders, no selection, no criteria, and no exclusions. Up to a week or so ago, out of 238 members, only eight were not full or associate members of the Heberden Society. In the last week a further 33 members have been enrolled.

May I on behalf of the President and the Executive Committee welcome all these enthusiastic new members and hope that they will play their full part in the fight against rheumatism. For our new members, in particular, I should like to illustrate our place in the international structure.

### International League

PRESIDENT Herrera Ramos (*Uruguay*)

PRESIDENT-ELECT Barceló (*Spain*)

#### VICE-PRESIDENTS

|                                 |                             |                              |
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| Valenzuela<br>( <i>Pan Am</i> ) | Nelson<br>( <i>Seapal</i> ) | Kersley<br>( <i>Europe</i> ) |
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#### SECRETARIES

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|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Engleman<br>( <i>Pan Am</i> ) | Robinson<br>( <i>Seapal</i> ) | Delbarre<br>( <i>Europe</i> ) |
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### European League

PRESIDENT de Sèze (*France*)

PRESIDENT-ELECT Laine (*Finland*)

VICE-PRESIDENTS Tzonchev (*Bulgaria*)

SECRETARY Jung (*Switzerland*)

ASSISTANT SECRETARIES Dixon (*U.K.*) Fallet (*Switzerland*)

There are 27 National Branches in the European Ligue including the British Branch.

### British Branch

Our present constitution 1969-70 is as follows:

PRESIDENT Alan Hill

PRESIDENT-ELECT H. F. West

SECRETARIES (1) H. L. F. Currey (2) V. Wright

TREASURER F. Dudley Hart

HON. SECRETARY AND DELEGATE E. G. L. Bywaters

DEPUTY DELEGATE Alan Hill

OTHER MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE (EX OFFICIO)

G. D. Kersley A. St. J. Dixon W. S. C. Copeman

Your executive has proposed the following as your committee for 1970 to 1971:

PRESIDENT Alan Hill

PRESIDENT-ELECT L. E. Glynn

SECRETARIES (1) V. Wright (2) C. G. Barnes

TREASURER F. Dudley Hart

HON. SECRETARY AND DELEGATE E. G. L. Bywaters

DEPUTY DELEGATE Alan Hill

#### OTHER MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE (EX OFFICIO)

G. D. Kersley A. St. J. Dixon W. S. C. Copeman\*

My report covers the period from our last Annual General Meeting (November, 1969) to the present. After the XIIIth International Congress in Prague, our thoughts turned increasingly to our own particular responsibilities for 1971, when for the first time we are hosts in Brighton for a European Congress. We are trying to break new ground in the organization of scientific communication, to avoid the chaos into which recent congresses have descended, and we hope that this will not only be successful but will be a model for other types of international communication.

As the Convenor and Secretary of the Subcommittee of the International Ligue for the Structure of Future Congresses, I shall report on our Brighton conference for the benefit not only of the Japanese in 1973 but for all those who feel that the structure of post-war congresses has reached the state when something radical must be done to make them worthwhile.

Other matters to report are our nomination of a second Vice-President for the European Ligue, Dr. De Haas of Holland, and our nomination of Dr. W. S. C. Copeman\* for honorary membership of the Ligue.

We should note with regret the premature death of Dr. Rowland Alexander, of Professor Barnett, and of Dr. Barford: and in the international field the deaths of Lenocho, Richter, and Tichy. At the same time we should rejoice that there are many capable new people coming into the field.

The Heberden Executive Committee, with similar membership to your Committee, has participated in discussions with the Royal College of Physicians on specialist registration, and this will form a later item on the programme.

Apart from the proceedings of the Heberden Society and the meetings of its 1971 Committee planning the Brighton Congress, there is little to report to the British Branch of the Ligue. Some information about the International Ligue and its branches was disseminated by two issues of the *Bulletin* started by Robecchi, of which we received 25 copies only.

\*Since, unfortunately deceased (Ed.)

## VIIth International Conference on Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

*Barcelona, July 2-6, 1972*

All correspondence to the Congress Secretariat, Palacio de las Naciones, Barcelona, Spain.