Heberden Society

Annual Report 1972

The President, Dr. L. E. Glynn, announced that the new Constitution for the Society would come into effect on January 1, 1973. He thanked all members of the Working Party and especially Dr. P. H. N. Wood who had given so much of their time to drafting this Constitution.

Dr. Selwyn Nelson and Dr. Ray Robinson of Australia had been elected to Honorary Membership.

The President recorded with deep regret the deaths of Prof. E. C. Kendall, Dr. I. G. Barnett, and Dr. Katrina Rhodes.

At the Annual General Meeting held on November 24 and 25, 1972, the following new members were elected:

Ordinary Members (from Associate Members):
- Dr. D. Burley, Dr. F. E. Bruckner, Dr. A. Chamberlain, Dr. A. W. T. Eade, Dr. J. A. Hicklin, Dr. T. E. Hothersall, Dr. D. R. L. Newton, Dr. P. J. R. Nichols, Dr. U. Steiger, Mr. A. R. Taylor, Dr. C. B. Wynn Parry, Dr. D. W. Zutshi.

Associate Members:
- Dr. P. Aichroth, Dr. Eleanor Arie, Dr. D. L. Beales, Dr. Victoria L. Beckett, Dr. M. Q. Birkbeck, Dr. Marita Brown, Dr. A. K. Clarke, Dr. Jean R. Colston, Dr. P. Davis, Dr. R. A. Durance, Dr. J.-P. Famaey, Dr. A. M. Freeman, Dr. T. J. Gibson, Dr. G. Gregg, Dr. Jacqueline Harris, Mr. W. Harvey, Dr. B. L. Hazleman, Dr. Carol M. Herbert, Dr. Hilary F. H. Hill, Dr. Anthea Howell, Dr. P. M. Humberstone, Dr. E. H. Innes, Mr. T. E. Jeffreys, Dr. J. N. Kacaki, Dr. Hazel Keith, Dr. G. B. L. Laird, Dr. B. A. Latham, Dr. S. P. Liyanage, Dr. K. Lloyd Jones, Dr. W. Y. Loebl, Dr. A. J. Richards, Dr. P. J. H. S. Sheldon, Dr. D. S. Smith, Dr. R. Sturrock, Dr. D. R. Swinson, Dr. A. G. White, Dr. J. Wojtulewski.

Activities

The Heberden Round, 1972, was conducted by Dr. H. L. F. Currey at the London Hospital on March 3 (Annals, 31, 534).

Dr. A. G. S. Hill (President 1970–1) generously presented a medal to be associated with the Round, for which the President expressed the Society’s grateful thanks.

A clinical meeting followed the Round (Annals, 31, 534).

The fourth combined meeting of the Society and the Dutch Society of Rheumatologists was held in Nijmegen on May 12–13 (Annals, 32, 83).

A meeting was held on July 14 at the Oxford Polytechnic and the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre at the invitation of Dr. A. G. Mowat (Annals, 32, 270).

The Heberden Oration for 1972 was delivered by Dr. A. C. Allison on November 24, 1972. He took as his subject ‘Mechanisms of Autoimmunity’ (Annals, 32, 283).

The Annual General Meeting took place at the Royal College of Physicians on November 24 and 25, 1972 (Annals, 32, 383).

The Annual Dinner was held on November 24 at the Royal College of Physicians. Among the guests were Lieut.-General Sir Robert and Lady Drew.

Finance

The Society is indebted to the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council for its continued support and records its grateful appreciation.

Library

Report of the Honorary Librarian, Prof. E. G. L. Bywaters

In the past year only eleven additional books published on or before 1900 have been added to the Library and only one of them dates from the 18th century. This reflects the infrequency with which such books appear on the market, the greatly increased prices they command, and the growing number of collectors. This is also an indirect tribute to Will Copeman, who managed to secure most of the classic historical works during a period of relative bibliographic neglect and unconcern. Our policy has been to acquire books directly or indirectly pertaining to the rheumatic diseases up to 1914 (when a large gap in publication appeared). A few years ago we started to lay down more recent publications (as the 'history of the future') and also congress publications. While we have occasionally added foreign works we have concentrated mainly on British authors, giving particular precedence to any books not
in the splendid collection of the Royal College of Physicians. With the greatly increased role of surgery in this field today, we would like to anticipate a survey of the Royal College of Surgeons collections.

We have not therefore this year fully expended the yearly income to the Librarian of about £120 and this is fortunate on two counts:

Firstly, that we have now a positive balance available for any particular rare and valuable book that may appear.

Secondly, we can put aside a sum of money towards printing a new Edition of the Heberden Library Catalogue. The last one was published in 1966 and there are therefore now six additional lists in alphabetical order, each of which has to be consulted: it would be useful to amalgamate these.

We propose therefore to establish a fund to reprint the catalogue in 1974 and we think this can be done from current income (given current expenditure) despite increased printing costs.

After discussion with Mr. Payne, the College Librarian, who has helped us so much each year, we think that the books should be shelved in four categories: (1) 18th century and before, (2) 19th century, (3) 20th century, and (4) Congress publications. We propose to catalogue them as (1) and (2) combined for present historians, (3) for future historians, and (4) for immediate access—not available elsewhere.

We still appeal to members of the Heberden Society for historical and quasi-historical books, but particularly for congress reports, since these are most difficult to find anywhere. I have thanked individual donors, who are acknowledged in the Report.

A list of books added this year is appended. For help with this and on many other matters the Society owes a debt of gratitude to the College Librarian, Mr. L. M. Payne.

Additions, 1972

Baylies, William (1724–87). Practical reflections on the uses and abuses of Bath waters, made from actual observations. To which is added . . . a narrative of facts, relative to the physical confederacy, in Bath, in the year 1757. pp. xxvi, 31l., pp. 254, 11., pp. vi, 64. 8vo. London: A. Millar. 1757.


Roth, Mathias. Notes on the movement-cure, or rational medical gymnastics, the diseases in which it is used, and on scientific educational gymnastics. illus. pp. 12. 12mo. London: Groombridge. 1860. (Bound with his The Prevention of spinal deformities, 1861.)

Roth, Mathias. The Prevention of spinal deformities, especially of lateral curvatures, with notes on the causes, the artificial production and the injurious modes of treatment of these complaints. illus. pp. viii, 80. 8vo. London: Groombridge. 1861. (Rep. from Brit. J. Homoeop., 19. 1861.)


Tilke, Samuel Westcott. Practical reflections on the nature and treatment of disease; founded upon sixteen years’ experience in the cure of gout, rheumatism, scrofula . . . 5 ed. port. pp. xxxi, 397. 8vo. London: Longman, Hurst, Rees, Orme, and Brown. 1821.


Baehr, George, and Klemperer, Paul. Systemic lupus erythematosus; ed. by G. Baehr and P. Klemperer. (A Mount Sinai Hospital monograph). illus (some col.), tables. pp. iv, 84. 4to. New York: Grune and Stratton. 1959. (Given by Dr. T. G. Reah. (Inserted are 19 papers on topics related to systemic lupus erythematosus, by A. H. T. Robbins-Smith and others.)


HOLBOROW, ERIC JOHN: see also GLYNN, L. E. AND HOLBOROW, E. J. Autoimmunity and disease. 1965.


LOUVAIN UNIVERSITY: see UNIVERSITÉ CATHOLIQUE DE LOUVAIN.


UNIVERSITÉ CATHOLIQUE DE LOUVAIN. International colloquium on the nature and future of rheumatic disease, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Chair of Rheumatology. illus, diagrs, tables. pp. 76. 8vo [Louvain: Université catholique. n.d.].


ZINN, WILHELM M. Idiopathic ischemic necrosis of the femoral head in adults; ed. by W. M. Zinn. illus (some col.), port., diagrs, tables. pp. xii, 220. 8vo. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1971. (Editor's presentation copy.)


HILL, ALAN GEORGE SEYMOUR: see also MODERN TRENDS IN RHEUMATOLOGY. ed. by A. G. S. Hill. 1971. (Given by Dr. A. G. S. Hill).


PROGRAMME FOR 1973

March 16: Heberden Round, Leeds, by invitation of Prof. V. Wright.

May 3: ARC Symposium—'Rheumatic Diseases in the Community and in Hospital'—The London Hospital.

June 1: Clinical Meeting, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs.

November 23–24: The Heberden Oration (Prof. S. Sit’aj) Annual General Meeting and Dinner, Royal College of Physicians, London.

Submission of Abstracts

All abstracts will be considered anonymously, that is without knowledge of the name(s) of the author(s) or the institution of origin, by the Executive Committee.

Members wishing to present original communications to the Society are therefore asked to prepare abstracts which provide sufficient information for assessing the paper on merit—an assessment which amounts to competitive selection between the various abstracts submitted.

In the preparation and submission of abstracts, the following points should be observed:

(1) Abstracts should not exceed 300 words. Each must be headed by a title, authors' names, institution and address.

(2) An actual summary of the communication is required. This will usually involve: (i) A brief introduction to the work. (ii) An outline of the methods used. (iii) A summary of the results. (iv) A statement of the main conclusions.

(3) Full references to previous work quoted must be given.

(4) Simple tables may be included. This is an excellent method of summarizing data.

(5) Accepted abstracts will be published as such with the proceedings of the Society in the Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases, so must be received in a form suitable for publication. In particular, statements such as 'The data will be discussed' are entirely unacceptable. Abstracts may be revised for publication after the meeting.

(6) Abstracts should be sent to the Senior Honorary Secretary, The Heberden Society, c/o Arthritis and Rheumatism Council, Faraday House, 8–10 Charing Cross Road, London, W.C.2. Abstracts received at least 2 weeks before each Executive Meeting (normally held on the same day as scientific meetings of the Society) will be assessed at that meeting.

(7) When submitting abstracts, authors must state whether the communication has been or is about to be read at another meeting; or has been or is about to be published.

(8) The normal length of time for presentation of papers is 10 minutes. However if authors would prefer a longer (15 minutes) or shorter (5 minutes) time, this should be stated when submitting abstracts. The final allocation of time will however rest with the Executive Committee.
Clinical meeting

The following papers were presented at the Annual General Meeting on November 24 and 25, 1972.

Articular Mobility in an African Population. By P. BEIGHTON, L. SOLOMON, and C. SOKOLNE (Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa)


Role of Thymic and Bursal Lymphocyte Subclasses in Chronic Allergic Synovitis in the Chicken. By D. C. DUMONDE, C. M. OATES, R. N. MAIN, and L. N. PAYNE (Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology, London, and Houghton Poultry Research Station, Houghton, Hunts)

Studies of experimental allergic mononuclear arthritis indicate that both cellular and humoral immune mechanisms are involved in the pathogenesis of these laboratory models of the rheumatoid joint. The present experiments investigated the ability of thymic and bursal lymphocyte systems to support antigen-induced chronic synovitis in sensitized chickens. Adult chickens were sensitized to bovine γ-globulin (BGG) by intramuscular injection of BGG emulsified in a mycobacterial adjuvant; 3 weeks later, a suspension of BGG coated on to silica particles was injected into the ankle joints. A chronic proliferative synovitis developed with widespread synovial infiltration by lymphocytes, macrophages, and plasma cells and the gradual formation of two types of ectopic lymphoid foci:

(a) large lymphoid follicles with mature germinal centres;
(b) large aggregates of macrophages and lymphocytes.

Neonatal thymectomy markedly suppressed synovial mononuclear cell infiltration and suppressed both types of lymphoid foci. Agammaglobulinaemic neonatally bursectomized birds supported a chronic allergic synovitis with intense lymphocyte-macrophage infiltration but absence of germinal centre follicles and plasma cells. Cell-mediated (thymus-dependent) mechanisms alone were therefore capable of supporting a chronic allergic synovitis; but both thymic (T-cell) and bursal (B-cell) systems were necessary for full development of the rheumatoid-like histology. Studies in vitro likewise showed that the peripheral lymphocytes of bursectomized chickens were able to generate mediators of delayed hypersensitivity (lymphokines), but that both T-cells and B-cells were needed for maximum lymphokine activity. It is suggested that an early event in the development of the ectopic synovial lymphoid foci involves the production of T-cell lymphokines which then recruit other lymphoid cells (e.g. B-cells and macrophages) into activity in the local (synovial) environment. On this basis local persistence of antigen might provide the continuing stimulus to generation of further T-cell and B-cell activation products which would facilitate the histogenesis of the synovial lymphoid foci.

Discussion

DR. W. CARSON DICK (Glasgow) Could you expand on the question of recruitment? Do you envisage the interaction of either a Lawrence type of transfer factor or an immunogenic RNA molecule in the recruitment phase in the model that you have described?

DR. DUMONDE We would not go as far as that. We think it is lymphokines which do the recruiting and once the cells get there lymphokines do the activating and the co-ordinating. There is no evidence for the existence of immunogenic RNA or of Lawrence type transfer factor in the bird but of course your suggestion is one which could well be investigated.

PROF. E. G. L. BYWATERS (London) I am not quite sure why the birds were irradiated before they were sensitized.

DR. DUMONDE It is difficult to knock out the T-cell or B-cell system by simple surgical intervention and the avian immunologists have got round this by following the surgery at birth by whole-body irradiation to suppress the activity of T-cells or B-cells in various peripheral areas. 5 or 6 weeks usually elapses before a newly-hatched chick given 900 rads whole-body radiation attains full recovery of the T-cell and B-cell systems in the normal non-surgically treated animals.

PROF. E. G. L. BYWATERS (London) So it is a question of dosage. If you give too much presumably in the bursectomized animal the thymic type of cells will not survive?

DR. DUMONDE If you give too much you will kill the bird. If you give too little you may end with such a low yield of totally bursectomized and adequately thymectomized animals that the difference between the groups is less significant.

Joint Capsule Collagen in Osteoarthrosis. By C. HERBERT, A. J. BAILEY, and M. I. V. JAYSON (Department of Medicine, University of Bristol, Meat Research Institute, Langford and Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Disease, Bath)

To be published in full in the Annals.

533 Patients with Ankylosing Spondylitis, seen and followed in the Period 1948 to 1971. By J. J. DE BLÉCOURT (Groningen, Holland)

Since 1948 the 'fight against rheumatism' in the Groningen-area (± 600,000 inhabitants) has been organized as a 'closed circuit', both the intramural (hospital) and extramural (general practitioner, public health nurse, social services) services being under the direction of one team of rheumatologists.