Gas-liquid chromatographic analysis of synovial fluid


Book review


These 2 new journals are to my mind representative of certain persisting differences between American and European approaches to medicine. Clearly if you have pheresis hardware and a budget for it, it is important to stay up to date with benefits, safety, clinical indications, mechanisms, and technology. It is worth noting, however, that in California a State Senate Bill is being produced to exempt private apheresis clinics from regulations which require any new medical facility to prove that a need exists for it. The State Chapters of the Arthritis Foundation are opposing this Bill, as they regard the whole thing as premature commercialisation. If Goodpasture’s syndrome were rather commoner perhaps a stronger case could be made. However, pheresis in all its form (leucapheresis, plasma exchange, etc.) is here to stay and must be evaluated. Millward’s piece on the historical development of automated haemapheresis, from its beginnings in the Swedish dairy industry makes interesting reading. So does a report from the National Centre for Health Care pointing out the startling potential cost of widespread apheresis for rheumatoid arthritis (even if it does work: for Ivan Illich it would confirm ‘high technology’ medicine’s conspiracy). Another uncontrolled study of 6 patients with lupus nephritis is also reported.

In his editor’s foreword to the first number of Connective Tissue Diseases Professor Giordano states, ‘essentially the spirit of this journal lies in considering the Connective Tissue as the protagonist of different pathologic events and therefore lies in proposing it as a point of inter-disciplinary encounter’. This journal seems to be aiming at those who feel that the present subspecialty organ-orientation impairs understanding of ubiquitous pathological processes. Two introductory articles by the editor and 3 on eosinophilic fasciitis, all in English, are followed in Italian by notes and reviews of articles in other journals and an appreciation of the late Professor Delbarre in French.

The ‘apheresis’ journal has an undoubted predetermined readership. Whether Connective Tissue Diseases has one also remains to be seen. With shrinking personal and library budgets I have my doubts.

M. L. SNAITH