

meetings will be arranged if necessary. Abstracts of papers delivered are published in this Journal.

March Meeting.—A Meeting of the Heberden Society was held at the Nuffield Rheumatism Research Centre, Royal Infirmary, Manchester, on March 10, 1950, Dr. J. H. Kellgren being the host, with Dr. W. S. C. Copeman, the President, in the Chair.

The demonstrations included methods of measuring joint flow through the knee, power of grip, and joint tenderness, which could be used, particularly in rheumatoid arthritis, in assessing changes as a result of therapeutic measures. A paper was read by Dr. O. Janus on "The Assay of Rapidly Acting Remedies in Rheumatoid Arthritis", illustrating that by means of these methods with others, it might be possible to recognize the potency of, for example ACTH, even when given in such small doses that no obvious clinical effect is apparent. Dr. J. Ball gave an illustrated demonstration of tendon lesions in rheumatoid arthritis which has since been published in this Journal (1950, 9, 48). Dr. J. H. Kellgren with Dr. E. P. Samuels gave a similar demonstration of the sensitivity and innervation of articular capsule, which has also been published (Kellgren, J. H., and Samuel, E. P. (1950). *J. Bone Jt Surg.*, 32b, 84). Prof. S. L. Baker described an unusual disease of bone collagen, Dr. J. S. Lawrence read a paper on "Preliminary Findings of the Walkden Survey" (now being carried out in association with the department), and Dr. Kellgren showed a film illustrating the effects of ACTH on a case of rheumatoid arthritis.

On the following day, March 11, there were visits to the Walkden Miners' Clinic, and to the Devonshire Royal Hospital, Buxton.

Heberden Round.—Prof. F. Coste, of the University of Paris, gave the Heberden Round at the Hôpital Cochin, Paris, on May 20, 1950, and cases and short papers were presented by his associates and members of his unit. A full report will appear in the September issue of this Journal.

NEW YORK RHEUMATISM ASSOCIATION

The Annual Meeting of the New York Rheumatism Association was held at the New York Academy of Medicine on April 12, 1950. Dr. Edward F. Hartung presided.

Drs Leon Sokoloff, Sigmund L. Wilens, and Joseph J. Bunim presented a paper entitled "Arteritis of Striated Muscle in Rheumatoid Arthritis". In five of fifty cases of rheumatoid arthritis, muscle biopsy revealed an arteritis similar to that seen in rheumatic fever, but unlike that of periarteritis nodosa. The authors felt that this lesion was part of the rheumatoid disease process which had involved the blood vessels.

Drs Maurice E. Wolf, Adolph Weissman, and Sigmund P. Winter gave a preliminary report on "A New Approach to the Problem of Periarticular Calcifications". The opinion was expressed that periarticular calcifications may be associated with some

metabolic disorder since a large percentage of these patients had an elevation of their blood cholesterols.

"The Effect of the Hyperadrenal State on Connective Tissue" was reported upon by Drs Charles M. Plotz, Edward L. Howes, Karl Meyer, James W. Blunt, Raffaello Lattes, and Charles Ragan. It was noted that biopsy wounds in patients receiving Compound E or ACTH healed poorly. Re-biopsy of the original biopsy site, showed little evidence of healing. Only a small amount of granulation tissue and a few fibroblasts were seen. This delay in healing was demonstrated experimentally in skin, muscle and visceral wounds as well as in bone fractures. Various other steroids, which were tried, did not delay wound healing.

"The Effect of ACTH on Gout; Possible Significance" was discussed by Drs Alexander B. Gutman and T. F. Yu. They found that all cases of acute attacks of gouty arthritis were helped by ACTH. Some cases had complete remission, others had only partial relief. Some, but not all, cases had recurrence of symptoms when ACTH was stopped. Patients with chronic tophaceous gout, who were not having attacks were given ACTH. Only one developed an acute attack when treatment was stopped. ACTH was found to cause an increase in uric acid excretion, the mechanism probably being on the basis of inhibition of tubular reabsorption.

"The Use of Epinephrine, Pregnenolone, and Testosterone in the Treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis" was reported upon by Drs C. Maynard Guest, William H. Kammerer, Solomon A. Berson, and Russell L. Cecil. Epinephrine was used in one-half mg. doses every six hours. Pregnenolone was used daily, 300 mg. by injection. Testosterone was given hypodermically, 200 mg. a day. None of the patients improved while under treatment with any of the above-mentioned agents.

Drs John Staige Davis and Harry Bartfeld described the use of "Acetoxypregnenolone (Artisone) in the Treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis". In their series, 59 per cent. of the patients had improved, 18 per cent. having a striking improvement. Their opinion was that results may be excellent in occasional cases, but that these are few and far between.

The following members were elected to be officers of the New York Rheumatism Association for the coming year :

President :	Cornelius H. Traeger.
Vice-President :	Robert L. Preston.
Secretary-Treasurer :	Robert M. Lintz.

NATIONAL DANISH ASSOCIATION AGAINST RHEUMATIC DISEASE

In spite of the general scarcity of money, the Association is still in a strong position. In its annual report for 1948 to 1949, it is pointed out that during the last year the Association made its largest financial contribution ever for the treatment of impecunious rheumatic patients. A film has recently been completed to show to the public the significance of rheumatic disease. There are several research problems under investigation, such as the study of the relation of hyaluronidase to rheumatic disease, the question of allergy, and the circulation and metabolism in the smallest blood vessels. The Association is co-operating with the Pathological Institute of the University of Copenhagen in

an investigation into morbid changes in joints. The questions of social and occupational factors in rheumatism are being studied in co-operation with factory inspectors and insurance societies.

NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE

At a special meeting arranged by the Committee on Medical Education of the New York Academy of Medicine and held on January 12, 1950, a Symposium was presented on the Present Status of Cortisone and ACTH.

The seven articles listed below, which comprise the Symposium, have been published in the *Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine* for April, 1950, and abstracts will appear in the September issue of this Journal.

Effects of Cortisone and ACTH on Rheumatoid Arthritis.

R. H. Freyberg

The Effect of Cortisone and ACTH on Rheumatic Fever.

C. McEwen, J. J. Bunim, J. S. Baldwin, A. G. Kuttner, S. B. Appel, and A. J. Kaltman

Treatment of Disseminated Lupus Erythematosus with Cortisone and Adrenocorticotropin.

G. Baehr and L. J. Soffer

The Use of ACTH and Cortisone in Neoplastic Disease.

O. H. Pearson, L. P. Eliel, and T. R. Talbot, Jr.

Physiology of the Pituitary-Adrenal System.

J. A. Russell

The Effect of ACTH and Cortisone on Connective Tissue.

C. Ragan, E. L. Howes, C. M. Plotz, K. Meyer, J. W. Blunt, and R. Lattes

The Relationship of Adrenal Cortical Activity to Immune Responses.

E. E. Fischel

BRITISH BRANCH OF THE EUROPEAN LEAGUE AGAINST RHEUMATISM

Clinics.—ADULT RHEUMATISM.

HARROGATE, *Royal Bath Hospital.*

Monday, 9 a.m., Dr. Reah.

Tuesday, 2 p.m., Dr. Yeoman.

Wednesday, 9 a.m., Dr. Yeoman; 4 p.m., Dr. Reah.

Thursday, 9 a.m., Dr. Hartfall; 2 p.m., Dr. Yeoman.

Friday, 9 a.m., Dr. Yeoman; 2 p.m., Dr. Reah.

These times replace those given on p. 79 of the March 1950 issue of this Journal.