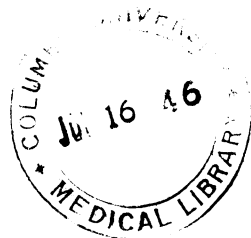


# POST-GRADUATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

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VOLUME XXI

NEW SERIES

1945

UNWIN BROTHERS LIMITED

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1945

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into urobilin by shaking with a few drops of hydrogen peroxide.

The concentration of the sulphonamide in the urine is with the usual dosage greater than its solubility. Like most supersaturated solutions, *sudden crystallisation* out is liable to occur, and this may take place in any part of the urinary tract. Prevention is by the maintenance of an adequate fluid intake and urinary output. The administration of alkalies in a dosage sufficient to keep the urine alkaline is of assistance in preventing crystalluria from sulphathiazole or sulphadiazine. When *oliguria*, *haematuria*, or *renal pain* occur the drug should be stopped and fluids forced, but persistent severe oliguria or the occurrence of persistent anuria calls for urethral catheterisation and irrigation of the renal pelvis with a warm 2.5 per cent solution of sodium bicarbonate. This complication is liable to occur with any of the heterocyclic derivatives, but is less likely with sulphadimethylpyrimidine. It has occurred with sulphaguanidine, although the possibility with this compound is much less. Sulphanilamide and sulphacetamide are virtually free from this danger.

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## NEW PUBLICATIONS

The following books have already appeared or are being published in the near future. Reviews of some of them will be presented in these pages at a later date.

### *The Premature Baby*

1st Edition. By V. MARY CROSSE, M.D. With introduction by Professor LEONARD G. PARSONS. Size: 8 × 5 ins. About 150 pages. Price: about 10s. 6d. Publisher: J. & A. Churchill, Ltd.

"... intended for the use of the Medical and Nursing professions, and the statistical summary will be of importance to Medical Officers of Health and others. The author is head of the City Maternity Unit at Birmingham."

### *Intestinal Obstruction*

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The physical Aspect of the Living Cell. With an Epilogue on Determinism and Free Will, by ERWIN SCHRODINGER, Senior Professor at the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies. Cr. 8vo. 100 pp. 12 text-figures. 4 plates, one in colour. Price: about 6s. Publishers: Cambridge University Press.

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### *The Foetal Circulation*

and cardiovascular system, and the changes that they undergo at birth. By A. E. BARCLAY, D.M., K. J. FRANKLIN, D.M. and M. M. L. PRICHARD. Cr. 4to. 160 plates and diagrams. Price: 50s. Publisher: Basil Blackwell.

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## BOOK REVIEWS

### HANDBOOK OF DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF VENEREAL DISEASE

By A. E. W. MCLACHLAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., F.R.S.(Edin.). Pp. 364, 159 illustrations (19 in colour). E. & S. Livingstone, Edinburgh. 1944. Price 15s.

As the preface states, this handbook provides concise instruction for the elementary student and a profitable guide for the busy practitioner.

Venereal lesions, other conditions commonly mistaken for them, their differential diagnosis, and the drugs used in treatment, are admirably catalogued, mostly in tabular form. This important feature of the book, augmented by carefully chosen, well-reproduced photographs, should appeal especially to students taking their finals.

The chapter on the diagnosis of primary syphilis is particularly valuable. The characteristics of chancres are establi-lished, and their differential diagnosis is painstakingly set out in a large table. Another, giving the chief positions in which they are found, shows that the commonest site of chancres in the female is on the cervix (40-50 per cent.). This simple anatomical fact enables the painless, symptomless, but deadly chancre to spread its disastrous infection so unsuspectingly, that this little-known danger is one of the root causes of syphilitic dissemination.

Although, as the author rightly states, "the end results have not as yet been fully evaluated," more than a meagre page might have been given with advantage to the treatment of early syphilis by massive arsenotherapy. Excellent results have been obtained by the intensive five-day method mentioned, but the high mortality (1 in 450) is reduced considerably (1 in 3,000) by lengthening this period to 20-25 weeks. This compromise between the five-day course and the author's orthodox schedule of 59 weeks has produced very satisfactory results. Further progress with arsenotherapy in the reduction of reactions and the time required for a cure may well be along these lines, but preliminary investigations suggest that the arsenicals may be discarded for the nontoxic and therapeutically more active penicillin. Its potent effect on syphilis is being observed with great interest.

Five chapters are devoted to late generalised syphilis, lesions of bones, joints, muscles, viscera, and to cardiovascular and neuro-syphilis. Inevitably, however, these later sequelae are more fully described than their treatment, for this intricate aspect of syphilitic therapy demands the resources of the consultant for each individual patient, and no handbook can deal adequately with these complex cases.

The sulphonamides are recommended for chancroid, and as they have no effect on *Sp. pallida*, their value in controlling chancroidal ulceration in cases of mixed infections to facilitate discovery of the spirochaete is advisedly noted, for this advantage is often forgotten.

Chemotherapy as applied to gonorrhoea is described, together with the possible toxic reactions and the requisite precautions. But, before a cure with sulphonamides can be determined, as these drugs tend to mask gonococcal infections, meticulous and prolonged pathological tests are essential. They are tabulated in the criteria of cure; more might have been written on this crucial and difficult subject.

This useful volume is an excellent compendium of the principles and practice of venereology: the modern methods of diagnosis are concise, and the schemes of treatment are founded on sound, orthodox and well-tried experience. The author is to be congratulated on having provided a much-needed text-book; it can be thoroughly recommended to all who are interested in this topical subject.