

Postgraduate Medical Journal

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the *Postgraduate Medical Journal* to give information about lectures, conferences and courses and to provide a monthly review of all branches of medicine.

Postgraduate Medical Journal publishes original papers on subjects of current clinical importance and welcomes review articles with extensive, up-to-date bibliographies as guides to further reading. Several symposia are published every year, each devoted to a single subject and written, by invitation, by specialists in different disciplines. Most issues include authoritative Current Surveys of clinical problems, as well as well-documented Reports of cases of particular interest, Correspondence and Book Reviews.

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Correspondence

SIR—The article on listerial infection in infants (*Postgraduate Medical Journal*, 48, 663) mentions the problem of identification and confusion of listeria.

It should perhaps be emphasized that the symptoms and spinal fluid changes are similar in listeria and tuberculous meningitis and that both organisms may be present in mixed infections. Seeliger (1961), who quoted the above reference, also points out that infection with *Listeria monocytogenes* has been mistaken for tuberculous meningitis and anti-tuberculous therapy undertaken.

Harper & Howells state in your article that, 'in the U.S.A. listeriosis in man is not rare but rarely recognized'. This very probably holds true in this country. Seeliger noted in Germany (1961) that listeriosis is most common in rural areas and particularly amongst those whose occupation brings them into frequent contact with animals.

If the diagnosis of listeriosis is considered, it is likely that more cases will be diagnosed and successfully treated. Barber & Ukubadejo (1968) considered that the organism remained 'a baffling microbe'. Its pathogenicity is unclear but may be related to impaired immunity. In 1968, six cases diagnosed over a 2-year period were reported from a

general hospital. Two of these patients were on steroids, one had a carcinoma, one sarcoidosis, one diabetes and the sixth was hypertensive (Ford, Herzberg & Ford, 1968).

If impaired immunity is indeed important, then the widespread use of steroids, cytotoxic agents and radiotherapy may lead to an increase in the frequency of the disease.

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- BARBER, M. & OKUBADEJO, O.A. (1965) Maternal and neonatal listeriosis: report of case and brief review of literature of listeriosis in man. *British Medical Journal*, 2, 735.
- FORD, P.M., HERZBERG, L. & FORD, S.E. (1968) *Listeria monocytogenes*. *Quarterly Journal of Medicine*, 37, 146, 281.
- SEELIGER, H.P.R., MEYER, V.F. & EYER, H. (1961) *Listeriosis*. Hafner Publishing Co., New York.

(We have shown this letter to Dr Harper and Dr Howells, who have no further comment to make)

Books received

- Occasional Papers, 2, 3 and 4 (Mental Retardation)*. By KENNETH S. HOLT, SHEILA HEWETT, ELSPETH STEPHEN and JEAN ROBERTSON. Pp. 172, illustrated. London: Butterworths, 1973. £2.50.
- Digital Filters (Computers in Medicine Series)*. By MARTIN H. ACKROYD. Pp. 82, illustrated. London: Butterworth, 1973. £1.95.
- The Challenge of Life*. Edited by ROBERT M. KUNZ and HANS FEHR. Proceedings of the Roches Anniversary Symposium held in Basel in September 1971. Pp. 456, illustrated. Basel: F. Hoffmann-La Roche and Co. Ltd (Birkhauser Verlag), 1972. £4.20.
- Nutrition and Diabetes Mellitus. Proceedings of the 6th Capri Conference*. Edited by E. RUDOLPH FROESCH and JOHN YUDKIN. Pp. 687, illustrated. Milan: Casa Editrice 'Il Ponte', 1972. No price stated.
- Clinical Pharmacology*. By PAUL TURNER and ALAN RICHENS. Pp. 246, illustrated. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1973. £1.25.

- Occupational Health Practice*. Edited by R. S. F. SCHILLING. Pp. 466, illustrated. London: Butterworths, 1973. £4.50.
- The Kidney*. By JAN BROD. Pp. 740, illustrated. London: Butterworths, 1973. £28.00

New editions

- Books and Periodicals for Medical Libraries in Hospitals*. Fourth Edition. Compiled by the LIBRARY ASSOCIATION. Pp. 53. London: The Library Association, Medical Section, 1973. £1.00.
- Cancer Chemotherapy*. By EDWARD S. GREENWALD. Second Edition. Pp. 464, illustrated. London: Henry Kimpton Publishers, 1973. £4.50.
- A Short Textbook of Surgery*. By SIR CHARLES ILLINGWORTH. Ninth Edition. Pp. 307, illustrated. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1972. £5.00.

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refer to a unit of measurement, it is spelt out except where the number is greater than one hundred.

Abbreviations. Abbreviations for some of the commoner units are given below. The abbreviation for the plural of a unit is the same as that for the singular unless confusion is likely to arise.

gram(s)	g	second(s)	sec
kilogram(s)	kg	cubic millimetre(s)	mm ³
milligram(s)		millimetre(s)	mm
(10 ⁻³ g)	mg	centimetre(s)	cm
microgram(s)		millicurie(s)	mCi
(10 ⁻⁶ g)	μg	millilitre(s)	ml
nanogram(s)		pound(s)	lb
(10 ⁻⁹ g)	ng	milliequivalent	mEq
picogram(s)			
(10 ⁻¹² g)	pg	R _F values	R _F
hour(s)	hr		
minute(s)	min	gravitational acceleration	g
micron(s)	μ	percent	%

Example: mg/100 ml, for biochemical values; mEq/l

Figures. In the text these should be given Arabic numbers, e.g. Fig. 3. They should be marked on the backs with the name(s) of the author(s) and the title of the paper. Where there is any possible doubt as to the orientation of a figure the top should be marked with an arrow. Each figure must bear a reference corresponding to a similar number in the text. Photographs and photomicrographs should be unmounted glossy prints and should not be retouched. Line diagrams should be on separate sheets; they should be drawn with black Indian ink on white paper and should be about four times the area of the final reproduction. Lines and lettering should be of sufficient thickness and size to stand reduction to one-half or one-third. Letters and numbers must be written lightly in pencil. Whenever possible, the originals of line diagrams, prepared as described above, should be submitted and not photographs. The legends of all the figures should be typed together on a single sheet of paper headed 'Legends to Figures'.

Tables. There should be as few tables as possible and these should include only essential data; the data should not be crowded together. The main heading should be in capitals with an Arabic number, e.g. TABLE 2. Each table must have a caption in small letters. Vertical lines should not be used.

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