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The Fellowship of Postgraduate Medicine was founded by a group of London consultants after the First World War to assist postgraduates, particularly those coming to London from the Commonwealth,

to pursue their studies. The Fellowship first published 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 each year, each devoted to a single subject and written by specialists in different disciplines. Most issues include authoritative Current Surveys of clinical problems, and well documented Reports of cases of particular interest, and Book Reviews.

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**'Epidemic neuromyasthenia' 1934–1977: current approaches**

A symposium held by the courtesy of the  
Council of the Royal Society of Medicine at 1 Wimpole Street,  
London, W.1, on 7 April 1978

**Edited by: W. H. LYLE AND R. N. CHAMBERLAIN**

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polymorphisms and problems of multiple loci. The clarity with which mathematical aspects of these topics are presented make these chapters the most successful presentation of this complicated information that is currently available.

The second edition differs from the first in that the section on chromosome aberrations has been expanded and descriptions of the techniques of somatic cell hybridization and nucleic acid hybridization which provide evidence of syntenicity of gene loci are included. The special problem of allelism is discussed in depth, emphasizing the complexity of gene loci.

Recent advances in the field of human genetics have revealed the underlying biological and biochemical defects of many genetically determined diseases, the causes of which have been obscure for many years – thus opening up the possibility of diagnosis and treatment. A fundamental understanding of human genetics is now an essential requirement of modern clinical practice and this text book is an accurate and enjoyable source of information on the subject.

#### **Towards the Prevention of Fetal Malformation**

Edited by J. B. SCRIMGEOUR. Pp. 301, illustrated. Edinburgh University Press, 1978. £12.00.

This book is based on papers presented at a symposium held in Edinburgh in March 1977 and contains twenty-two chapters prepared by distinguished obstetricians, geneticists and physicians on medical, ethical and administrative problems of prenatal diagnosis of congenital disease. Many of the contributors, as advisors to the Department of Health, are influential in the forward planning of genetic services to the community, and concerned with the implementation of antenatal screening on a national basis. This book is an attempt to produce a statement of the possibilities of preventing congenital disease by carefully evaluating methods of diagnosis for their accuracy, safety and cost benefit. It also assesses the potential effect of prenatal screening programmes on the quality of life of the families at risk of genetically determined disease.

The topics for discussion are divided into several sections namely, challenge; aetiology, diagnosis, management, costs,

implications and future. Under the heading of 'challenge' Professor Galjaard outlines the need for national concern and education of the medical profession and public alike. Dr Brock puts the case for population screening for neural tube defects supported by data from the U.K. collaborative study 1977, and Professor Passarge describes the indications for selective screening of high risks groups.

The section on 'aetiology' is more up to date than many paediatric text books. For example, Dr Evans discusses the Seveso affair in a chapter on environmental hazard and Dr Eva Alberman discusses the teratogenicity of fertility drugs. Other valuable contributions in this section describe the effect of chromosome malsegregation (Professor Boue) virus infections (Professor Hurley) and drug therapy (Sir Derrick Dunlop) on embryogenesis.

The chapters devoted to 'diagnosis and management' consider the techniques of ultrasound, amniocentesis, amniotic cell culture for biochemical studies, fetal blood sampling and mid-trimester abortion. Problems are clearly stated and carefully analysed but personal preferences and experience is not excluded.

The final chapters on the medical and legal implications and the future of antenatal screening and diagnosis are exceptional in that the issues have not been presented so clearly before. Dr Clive advises obstetricians to avoid litigation, and problems of financing and managing national screening programmes are discussed by Professors Fairweather and Brotherston. Professor Polani in a look into the future defines areas for new research and foresees a major role for the molecular biologist in diagnosis, treatment and management of genetic disease in the years to come.

There is no doubt that the editor and his publishers have provided a valuable service in transposing what must have been a lively and stimulating meeting into a well balanced book. There is obviously a need among obstetricians for this book which includes many important new concepts relevant to clinical practice. Medical students, social workers and medical administrators will also benefit from this book which will enable them to assess for themselves the scope of preventing congenital disease.

## **Notice**

### **INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON FIBRINOLYSIS WITH UROKINASE**

**A Serono Research Foundation Symposium, Europe, Inc.  
April 5-7, 1979, Hinterzarten/Freiburg, Germany**

The first International Symposium on Fibrinolysis with UROKINASE will be held at Hinterzarten, near Freiburg (Black Forest), from April 5-7, 1979. Prof. V. Tilsner, Hamburg (Chairman), and Prof. G. P. McNicol, Leeds, have assumed the scientific organization.

Address correspondence to:

Prof. Dr. med. V. Tilsner, Abteilung für Blutgerinnungsstörungen Chir. Univ.-Klinik Eppendorf, Martini-straße 52, D-2000 Hamburg 20.

## Postgraduate Medical Journal: Notice to Contributors

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The principal author must ensure that any co-authors listed agree to submission of the typescript. Any written or illustrative material which has been or will be published elsewhere must be duly acknowledged and accompanied by the written consent of the authors and publishers concerned.

**Arrangement.** Papers should be divided into: (a) Summary; (b) Introduction; (c) Materials and methods; (d) Results; (e) Discussion; (f) Acknowledgments; (g) References.

**References in the text.** These should be made by giving the author's surname, with the year of publication in parentheses. When reference is made to a work by three authors all names should be given when cited for the first time, and thereafter only the first name, adding *et al.*, e.g. Smith *et al.* (1958). The '*et al.*' form should always be used for works by four or more authors. If several papers by the same author and from the same year are cited, a, b, c, etc., should be put after the year of publication, e.g. Smith *et al.* (1958a).

All references should be brought together at the end of the paper in alphabetical order giving (a) name(s) of the author(s); (b) year of publication in parentheses; (c) title of paper in its original form; (d) title of journal in full, underlined; (e) volume number, underlined; number of first page of article. References to books and monographs should include (a) name(s) and initials of all author(s) or editor(s); year of publication in parentheses, (b) title, underlined; (c) edition; (d) page referred to; (e) publisher; (f) place. *Authors should ensure that the listed references correspond exactly to those in the text.* Authors are responsible for the accuracy of their references.

**Standard usage.** The *Concise Oxford English Dictionary* is used as a reference for all spelling and hyphenation. Verbs which contain the suffix *ize* (*ise*) and their derivatives should be spelt with the *z*. Statistics and measurements should always be given in figures, i.e. 10 min, 20 hr, 5 ml, except where the number begins the sentence. SI units should be used wherever possible. Papers should be written in the third person.

**Figures.** In the text Arabic numbers, e.g. Fig. 3, should be used. They should be marked on the backs with the name(s) of the author(s) and the title of the paper. The top of each figure should be indicated with an arrow on the reverse side. 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 twice the size of the final reproduction. The originals of line diagrams, prepared as described above, may be submitted in photographs of similar size. The legends of all figures should be typed together on a single sheet of paper headed 'Captions to Figures'.

**Tables.** These should be on separate sheets. The main heading should be in capitals with an arabic number, e.g. TABLE 2. Each table must have a caption.

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