METABOLISM AND EXCRETION OF TRICHLOROETHYLENE

REFERENCES

W. D. M. Paton

THE JANUARY (1962) ISSUE

The January (1962) issue contains the following papers:


The Pharmacological Activity of Extracts of Cotton Dust. Anne Davenport and W. D. M. Paton

Some Pharmacological Actions of Cotton Dust and Other Vegetable Dusts. P. J. Nicholls

Contact Eczema Caused by True Teak (Tectona Grandis). H. K. Krogh

A Swiss Manufacturer Sees the Industrial Revolution in England. Heinrich Buss

The Attack Rate of Progressive Massive Fibrosis. A. L. Cochrane

Ventilatory Capacity in Miners. A Five-Year Follow-up Study. I. T. T. Higgins and P. D. Oldham

Miscellanea

Obituary

Book Reviews

A number of copies are still available and may be obtained from the Publishing Manager, British Medical Association, Tavistock Square, W.C.1, price 17s. 6d.
BOOK REVIEWS

which arose and to record the steps taken and lessons learned in the various theatres and climates; a task in which they succeed admirably. Each essay covers the history, clinical description, aetiology, epidemiology, and treatment. Where lessons have been learned they are well brought out and should prove of value in further efforts to prevent these diseases.

The contents will be of special interest to those who were engaged in this field during the war, but there is much for all of us, and the close contact maintained with commanders, with civilian Health Authorities, with hospitals, and with consultants is perhaps an outstanding feature. The size of the problem is brought home when we read that eight million men were under arms; and the fact that venereal disease was the greatest single cause of non-effectiveness in 1941, and continued to be a major problem throughout hostilities, explains the large number of pages (almost 200) devoted to this subject.

No method or effort was spared to find an answer to the problem and controversy continues on the methods which should or should not be adopted. The major factor affecting incidence was, of course, the exposure rate which was undoubtedly influenced by the closure of brothels; but effective control of prostitution was another matter and where no supervision of prostitutes was possible incidence rose. The part played by the sulphonamides and penicillin is uncertain. Indeed, it may well be that the use of these drugs in so far as they may have given rise to resistant strains and lessened the individuals' fear of infection, had an adverse effect on incidence. Unfortunately, no separate figures are quoted for non-specific urethritis, the incidence of which rose sharply, not only in the American Forces, but also in the British Armies, particularly in Italy and Belgium during 1944 and 1945. We are not told what steps were taken to investigate this condition which remains a problem not only of diagnosis but also of treatment.

The story of viral hepatitis is well told in the last chapter, and it is perhaps a little surprising to read that so little was known about this disease at the beginning of the war. The confusion in terminology undoubtedly accounts for this to some extent and presents a problem which must be ironed out before any real advance can be expected in the control of this well-known military disease. So long as one remains ignorant of the cause and means of spread it will remain a threat to armies in the field, and experience goes to show that epidemics are more likely to break out and to be severe where troops are new to an area and are not acclimatized.

It is perhaps fortunate that 1939 saw the end of the period in which spread of the poliomyelitis virus was mainly attributed to droplet infection, and it seems we do not really know if the low incidence was due to good fortune or good management. But in retrospect it certainly appears that the measures taken for the control of intestinal tract infections and the introduction of the aseptic technique in the care and treatment of cases, together with the control of swimming baths rather than cinemas, certainly played an important part.

Infectious mononucleosis appears to have caused some concern at the beginning of the war, and this is not surprising in view of our ignorance of the aetiology and means of effective treatment. In the event no major epidemics occurred, but in view of the prolonged hospitalization period necessary and the fact that the 15 to 25 age group is mainly affected, this disease remains a very real threat to armies in the field as well as to increasing numbers in civilian life.

A vast amount of work was done on fungus infections, and the ineffectiveness of such measures as footbaths and hypochlorites was demonstrated. Individual susceptibility is undoubtedly an important factor and effective screening at intake, as in scabies, appears to be the most promising line of prevention. It is to be hoped that experience with some of the new drugs developed since the war will prove effective and it appears that good results have already been achieved with griseofulvin.

Epidemic keratoconjunctivitis was soon brought under control and bullus fever fortunately never became a problem. Schistosomiasis Japonicum proved troublesome in the Philippines and Q fever gave rise to some alarm when it was recognized in Italy in the winter of 1943-1944.

This volume illustrates the high professional standard and administrative efficiency of the Medical Corps, and the publishers deserve credit for the excellent printing and binding.

A. N. B. OBERT

BOOKS RECEIVED

(Review in a later issue is not precluded by notice here of books recently received.)


Elementary Cardiography. An Introduction to Scientific Approaches in Cardiology. By E. Noble Chamberlain, Norman Coulshed, and E. L. Rubin. (Pp. vii + 141; 139 figures. 27s. 6d.) Bristol: John Wright. 1962.


FROM DISABILITY TO WORK
CAMBRIDGE STUDY COURSE

The British Council for Rehabilitation of the Disabled, under the patronage of H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, announce a European International Seminar to be held at Cambridge University from July 1 to July 7, 1962.

During this Seminar papers will be read by over 30 leading specialists representing 11 different countries.

The British Council for Rehabilitation of the Disabled extend a cordial invitation to members of the medical profession, and other interested professional bodies, to attend the Seminar. The Council will also welcome representatives from the industrial world. A fee of £10 sterling will be charged for attending the course.

Residential accommodation can be arranged in advance through the British Council for Rehabilitation of the Disabled.

All inquiries should be addressed to:—

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
HEALTH

The International Conference on Health and Health Education, to be held in Philadelphia in the first week of July this year, offers a scientific programme, with man in his biological, physical, and social environments as the theme. Health problems, including cancer and cardiovascular diseases, poliomyelitis, tuberculosis, accident prevention, dental health, and food and nutrition will be considered in detail. Internationally known health administrators will introduce the three main aspects of the Conference theme, and each health problem will be discussed by leaders in its own field.

In addition, visits are planned to all types of health and hospital organizations in the United States.

Flights to the United States are being organized at a cost much below the normal air fare.

This is the Fifth Conference called by the International Union for Health Education, but the first in which the World Health Organization is collaborating.

The full programme can be obtained from the British Society for International Health Education, 48 Copthall Avenue, London E.C.2. or from the Conference Secretariat, 800 Second Avenue, New York 17, N.Y., U.S.A.