
NEWS AND VIEWS

News Letter—Brazil

The Brazilian Society of Hematology and Hemotherapy (founded 1950, 110 members), held its 3rd national meeting in Recife, on February 16, 1954, with 42 members attending. As an index of the activities of the Society, the titles and some comments on the papers presented are given herewith.

In the sessions pertaining to hematology, papers were presented on the use of P32, TEM and hibernation in the management of leukemias, lymphomas, and polycythemia vera; on serum proteins in blood diseases as studied by means of paper electrophoresis; on bone marrow cytology in Hodgkin's disease; on a direct method for platelet counting using siliconized glassware and "sequestrene" as an anticoagulant; on platelet transfusions in marrow aplasia; on the effect of surface-active agents on platelets and on the use of phenothiazine derivatives in platelet preservation.

Clinical papers on hemorrhagic diatheses included: the report of cases in which deficiency of the Christmas factor and of factor V were ascertained; a discussion of 5 cases of a familial hemorrhagic capillaropathy; on splenectomy in the management of 18 cases of idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura. Miscellaneous papers included the development of megaloblastic anemia following terramycin administration; the failure of folic acid to improve agranulocytosis; submaximal reticulocyte response in pernicious anemia obtained by the administration of B12 in a dosage of 15.0 orally; hematological characteristics of the initial phases of Chagas disease and in visceral leishmaniasis; blood volume changes in schistosomiasis *Mansoni* studied by means of the P32 and the Evans blue methods; the tibial bone marrow cytology during the first 5 days of extra uterine life (50 cases); splenic pancytopenia; the differential diagnosis of hemoglobinurias; smear cytology of mixed tumors of salivary glands; the effect of histamine liberators on mast cells. Work of more methodological nature included preservation of stained smears with polystyrene resins and the use of "sequestrene" as an anti-coagulant for general hematological use.

In the hemotherapy sessions the problem of the transmission of Chagas' disease through transfusions was given special attention. Papers included the study of a technic of complement fixation, results of serological surveys of blood banks, with follow up of infected individuals; effect on *T. cruzi* of different agents, with a view to sterilization of the blood (best results were obtained with compounds of the triphenylmethane group, particularly crystal violet, in 1:4,000 amounts). Other communications involved study of post-transfusion hepatitis; addition of anti-histaminic drugs to the blood as an aid in reducing the incidence of transfusion reactions; preservation of plasma by freezing, and of whole blood after glycerin addition; use of phenothiazine derivatives for blood preservation was also reported.

The immunohematology sessions included 8 papers covering reports on the Rh and Kell factors, on immune antibodies in pregnancy, on red cell infusions in the treatment of erythroblastosis fetalis, on antibodies anti-hr' (anti c), and on the relatively frequent transfusion reactions to "universal donor" blood.

It was decided that the next meeting of the society will be held in Juiz de Fóra, in July 1955. Summaries of the papers presented in this 3rd Congress will appear in a special volume of the collected papers.

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