The Third Annual General Meeting of the British Association of Allergists was held on Saturday, 27th January, 1951, at the Royal Society of Medicine, with Dr. Vera Walker in the Chair.

Forty members were present.

In accordance with the rules of the Association, the following elections were made for members to the Council for the year 1951.

- Dr. D. A. Williams, President
- Dr. Vera Walker, Vice-President (ex-officio)
- Dr. A. W. Frankland, Secretary
- Mr. Clement Francis, Treasurer
- Dr. Bruce Pearson, Council Member
- Dr. C. H. Whittle, Council Member

The morning was then taken by short papers given by members. Discussion followed each paper. In the afternoon, when fifty members and veterinary guests were present, Mr. Worden gave the first paper on «Comparative Allergy in Man and Animals». He was followed by Dr. R. Laborie who spoke on «Intravenous Tuberculin Tests in Man and Animals». Captain J. R. Barker then talked on the possible allergic conditions in cattle. Mr. Brownlee opened the discussion by referring to presumed and probable allergic complaints in animals not already mentioned. After considerable discussion, Dr. Thrower summed up by comparing the various terms used in allergic states in man and animals.

Proceedings of the British Association of Allergists 175

Dr. B. R. Garat, Buenos Aires. In a paper presented in his absence, on «Coramine nebulizations in the treatment of asthmatic attacks» showed that 0.5 to 0.1 ml, of a 10 % nebulized solution of Coramine gave good clinical relief to 27 of 30 patients with acute asthma.

Dr. E. Lipman Cohen, London, described a man aged 32, who had widespread pruritus for 3 years. Scratch tests were positive to apples. After ceasing to eat apples the severe pruritus disappeared and was replaced by a very mild pruritus hiemalis.

Mr. F. B. Korks, London, in a paper «All that wheezes is not asthma», described a case of intrinsic carcinoma of larynx in which a diagnosis of asthma had been made. In another case removal of a thyroid adenoma relieved all the asthmatic attacks.

Dr. K. Lindenbaum, London, in a paper entitled «Naso-Septal Reflex» suggested that benefit obtained from nasal cauterisation in asthmatic patients was obtained reflexly through the sympathetic.

Dr. G. F. Walker, Peterborough, presented a paper in which criticisms were invited on an instructional pamphlet given to parents of asthmatic children.

Miss M. Hay, Edinburgh, described the allergic importance of dry rot in its historical and botanical aspects.
Dr. H. Pollak, London, stressed the allergic importance of various constituents of white bread. Mr. W. Stirk Adams, Birmingham, suggested an examination in proficiency in skin testing. Members did not agree with this idea.

Dr. H. Shire, London, in a paper «Mortality in asthma» said if emphysema and mild bronchitis were accepted as part of uncomplicated asthma, then deaths are more common than usually believed. Pathological study suggests that anoxaemia due to mucus obstruction of bronchioles overloads the heart. There is urgent need for a pharmacologically active mucolytic drug.

Mr. Worden presented a paper on «Comparative Allergy». He pointed out that much of the information of veterinary clinical interest is related to conditions of doubtful aetiology. In dogs, skin disease is associated with a high degree of parasitism and fat deficiency. Only negative skin tests were obtained in those dogs suffering from possible atopic eczema. Dr. Wittich’s film of a ragweed sensitive dog was referred to (unfortunately the film was held up in the Customs and could not be shown at the meeting). Nettlerash in puppies, haemorrhagic gastro-enteritis and drug hyper-sensitivities occurred in dogs.

In cattle, allergic conditions seem to be precipitated by the actual pasture on which the animals are put to graze. «Fog fever» and «bloat» are two such conditions, also allergic indigestion, urticaria and an enterotoxaemia associated with foetid diarrhoea and recumbency. A reaction due to ruptured hypodermal larvae (Hypoderma lineata and H. boves) is the suspected cause of «Rosenferber».

In horses too, disorders of probable allergic basis are associated with change of pasture. «Grass disease» and «blue nose disease» are two such complaints. Acute lymphangitis and laminitis may follow sudden changes in diet.

In sheep and goats photo-sensitisation seems to affect the exposed parts after the animals have fed on the wilted plant «Tribulus terrestris». In New Zealand rye grass and white clover causes a similar condition called facial eczema.

176 Proceedings of the British Association of Allergists


Blain is of sudden onset, occurs in the Spring and is characterized by an effusion into the eyelids, muzzle, skin between the horns and the dewlap, the perineum and the teats. Bloating of the rumen may accompany these swellings. Sensitization is brought about by the wandering of the larvae of the hypoderma bovis and blain is manifest about the time of emergence of these from the warbles. The onset may be precipitated by squeezing the warble. Recovery is often spontaneous.

Fog Fever, also of sudden onset, occurs in the Summer and the effusion is into interlobular spaces of the lung. This oedema or water logging of the lung gives rise to peculiar symptoms and the mortality rate is high. It is associated with the grazing of fog, a north country name for the second crop of grass which follows mowing of meadow land.

F. Ukrainzky Laborie and R. Laborie: «Intravenous Tuberculin Tests in Men and Animals».

Tuberculin tests by the intravenous route were carried out in human subjects and in various animals (dogs, cats, cattle, horses).

In human subjects, 72 cases suffering from various tuberculous skin-diseases and other dermatoses, and 52 «normal» controls were investigated. A positive reaction was obtained in patients suffering from skin tuberculosis (85 %), lupus erythematosus (82 %), seborrhoic eczema (20 %), and psoriasis (23 %). Whether the positive reactions in the two latter groups could be
regarded as a characteristic of special types of eczema and psoriasis, or whether they were due to complicating tuberculous foci could not be decided.

In the human subjects and in animals, the intravenous tuberculin reaction manifested itself as a rise of temperature occurring ½ hour after the injection, increasing up to two hours and falling gradually to normal. The reaction thus lasted from 1 to 4 hours. The optimum dose of tuberculin given intravenously in men, was found after many trials and was the same as used generally in intradermal testing. It was 0.1 cm³ of a solution of tuberculin ⅛o,000. This amount was dissolved in 10 cm³ of normal saline and injected very slowly.

Subdermal, dermal and epidermal tests were carried out in the same subjects which received the intravenous injections. The results of the tests, done by those various routes, corresponded, and it was irrelevant whether the tests were given simultaneously or successively. It must be stated, however, that an interval of not less than 8 days was necessary between 2 intravenous tuberculin injections in order to obtain positive reactions of equal strength. This period seemed to be needed by the organism to reproduce a reserve of antibodies.

The intravenous tests caused no general symptoms, apart from a slight tiredness, though a focal reaction was observed in a few cases. The temperature reaction was considered to be more objective than the various local reactions produced by the other methods. The intravenous test was more sensitive, yet free of danger. It allowed a precise diagnosis in a few hours. It may help to detect hidden foci of infection.

When the antigen of the Koch’s bacillus (B.C.G.) was injected intravenously, in a dose of 0.005 mg in 10 cm³ of normal saline, the rise of temperature was sharper and longer than after tuberculin injection, and the general affects were also more marked. We considered the B.C.G. test more sensitive, on the other hand more dangerous. Using a well controlled dose, it may serve in the study of hyper-sensitivity in tuberculosis, but it should be used only with utmost care in order not to provoke aggravation of symptoms by mobilisation of specific antibodies.

Book Reviews – Livres nouveaux – Buchbesprechungen

In the dog and the cat the intravenous tuberculin test caused a similar rise of temperature as in man. The reaction was stronger as the dose of antigen used was higher. The temperature chart allowed the diagnosis after an hour. This quick diagnosis was considered an advantage considering the grave danger of infection by cats and dogs.

In the dog infected experimentally with tuberculosis the intravenous tuberculin test allowed us to determine the interval between the inoculation and the sensitisation. The reaction manifested itself 18 to 20 days after the inoculation.

The rise of temperature following the tests was obtained in equal strength in the same animal after many repeated injections. Only in the prelethal stage of tuberculosis the dogs showed a drop of temperature instead of a rise, and hypo-thermic charts were recorded.

In the bovine animal the intravenous tuberculin test was considered of practical importance. In France only the subdermal test is legal, but the latter has disadvantages as compared with the intravenous test. It cannot be repeated as often as the intravenous test, as the local reactions fail to occur after several inoculations. In contradistinction, the intravenous injections produced clear cut rises of temperature even after many repeated tests, and any attenuation which was observed, was very feeble indeed. Again, as in man and other animals, the quick reading of the test in cattle was considered as an advantage. The counter measures against bovine tuberculosis, with its great dangers to the health of men, are unsatisfactory in all except the Anglo-Saxon countries. We believe that the intravenous tuberculin test introduced in cattle markets and breeding farms
would permit in a minimum of time to eradicate suspicious cattle and prevent the spreading of tuberculous infections.

In the horse the test may be used in research of the pathology of a disease known since old ages and termed recently «excema végétant sous-ongulé».

Our experiences with this method, gained during 10 years of research, allow us to hope that the test may find a place of some importance in the investigation of tuberculosis in men and animals.

Book Reviews – Livres nouveaux- Buchbesprechungen


The name of the authors, intimately connected with progress in this important field of medical research, made it self-evident, that this monograph is of eminent value and absolutely indispensable not only to all research workers in this field, but also to clinicians, engaged in therapeutic trials with adrenotropic or adrenal hormones. The authors report a series of animal experiments, designed to enlight the factors, which regulate the structure and the secretory activities of the adrenal cortex. Changes in cortex-structure and functions, produced by experimental measures in rats and dogs, are compared with physiological and pathological states in human beings. In the first part of the monograph the authors evaluate the changes in the weight of the adrenals under varying conditions. Lyophilized anterior pituitary tissue (LAP) increases the weight of the adrenals, in direct proportion to the protein content of the diet. The increasing of the adrenal weight, made by LAP cannot be inhibited by methyltestosterone, a potent agent in inhibiting of adrenal enlargement, normally caused by thyroxine or

12 International Archives of Allergy (Vol. II/2)