Online Supplementary Material

Movie 1: Anaphylaxie et Allergie

In 1901, the Prince of Monaco organized a scientific expedition on his research vessel in the coastal waters of the Azores and Cape Verde islands. Prof. Charles Richet (1850–1935) and Prof. Paul Portier (1866–1962) were aboard and carried out scientific experiments.

They thought (then realized) that an extract from sea anemones was very toxic, with the injection in small laboratory animals already in low tins. After returning to the Pasteur Institute in Paris they decided to continue the experiments in dogs for better interpretation of the reactions. Portier suggested that Richet try an immunization of the animals against the toxin.

The ‘core attempt’ consisted of a dog called Neptune receiving the second injection (booster) 27 days after the first injection. The reaction to this second injection with a very low dose, which had led to no

reaction in a control dog, was dramatic – Neptune broke down!

Portier and Richet had discovered a completely new and unexpected phenomenon to which they gave the name ‘anaphylaxis’. The experiments leading to the realization of anaphylaxis are described in the historic film ‘Anaphylaxie et Allergie’ [see www.karger.com/chial100_movie1] in which the 93-year-old Paul Portier also explains the coinage of the term ‘anaphylaxie’.

The film is in color and was recorded in 1956, with a length of about 46 min. After the introduction by Portier the anaphylactic shock of a dog is shown. Afterwards, the principles of allergic reactions, diagnosis and therapy, including hyposensitization, are explained.

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