ABSTRACTS

Present day chemotherapy for leprosy, T. R. Kapur, (Classified Specialist (Derm & Ven), Command Hosp, Chandigarh) Indian Med Gaz, 27 : 91,1977.

Recent advances in therapy of leprosy are encouraging but there are still some pitfalls. Most of the antileprotic drugs are bacteriostatic. The present day chemotherapy for leprosy has been reviewed, quoting observations of leading leprologists. The emergence of drug resistant lepra bacilli is causing a problem. Polytherapy could reduce the chances of emergence of drug resistance organisms.

Dystrophic Epidermolysis Bullosa—Interesting Gastrointestinal Manifestations, Sehgal V. N., Rege, V. L., Ghosh, S. R. and Kamat, S. M. (Dept. Venereol Dermatol and Dept. of Radiology, Goa Med Col, Panaji) Brit J. Dermatol, 96 : 389,1977.

The present report draws attention to the hitherto undescribed involvement of the large intestine in a long standing case of dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa (DEB).

A 20 year old female has been suffering from DEB since infancy. At the age of 16 she had a severe exacerbation with formation of granulomatous, vegetative lesions on the skin. At this time she developed diarrhoea. The diarrhoea appeared in episodes lasting for 15—20 days and coincided with the cutaneous exacerbation, its severity being directly proportional to cutaneous manifestations.

Five years treatment with DC-alpha tocopherol controlled her skin condition considerably, but her episodes of diarrhoea continued resulting in deterioration of her general health.

The barium swallow, barium meal and follow through showed mild changes in the duodenum. The barium enema showed narrow segments one each in the descending and transverse colon with ulcer craters and of haustra.

The intermittent diarrhoea in the later stages could be attributed to the bullae and oedema of the colon during exacerbations. The persistence of diarrhoea after control of the skin conditions could be explained by the irreversible changes in the colon noted on the radiograph. The present investigation suggests that the gastrointestinal track lined by the columnar epithelium can also be affected in DEB.