

## ABSTRACTS

**Idiopathic acquired cold urticaria in North India**, J. S. Pasricha, K. B. Nayyar, (Dept Dermatol—Venereol, AIIMS, New Delhi) *Annals Allergy* 34: 363, 1975.

Forty-three otherwise healthy patients mostly between the ages of 10 and 40 were seen in North India during a two-year period with urticaria which developed on taking a cold water bath, exposure to cold winds, evaporation of rain water or sweat in that order of frequency. There was no familial predisposition to cold urticaria or atopic disorders. The refrigeration test for cryo-proteins was negative. Only one patient developed a wheal on contact with ice but 38 of the 43 patients showed an exaggerated erythema response to a cold-pressure test (cryo-stimulation test).

**Clinical Pattern of Vitiligo amongst Indians**, Sehgal VN, Rege VL, Mascarenhas F and Kharangate VN, (Dept Venereol and Derm, Goa Med Coll, Panaji) *J Dermatol* 3: 49, 1976.

Vitiligo incidence in the series was 14 per thousand. The affliction of the younger subjects was frequent, the mean value of age at onset being 24.25 years. Both sexes were affected and there was no significant difference between the two. The duration of the disease had wide variations, majority reporting in the course of one year. The emotional undertones and the occurrence of the disease amongst family links were observed as provoking factors in some cases. Ivory white macules associated sometimes with erythematous tinge, leucotrichiae and islets of pigmentation were classic. The lower extremities were frequently involved, followed by face and other parts of the body. The disease was largely progressive, though in a few it was stationary. Vitiligo vulgaris was its commonest variant, followed by areata, zosteriformis, mucosae and acrofacialis. The associations namely diabetes mellitus, liver diseases and others were recorded. The occurrence of myasthenia gravis and trigeminal neuralgia in vitiligo was interesting. Its association on the basis of autoimmunity is brought out. The importance of the clinical parameters in anticipating the prognosis after psoralen therapy are discussed.

**The significance of the local sweat response in assessing the progress of leprosy.** V. N. Sehgal (Dept Venereol Dermatol, Goa Med Coll, Panaji) *Brit J Dermatol* 94: 615, 1976.

Serial observations on cutaneous sensation and on sweat response in hypopigmented flat patches of twenty-nine patients with tuberculoid and five with dimorphous leprosy on dapsone therapy were studied over 2 years. Sensation was determined by routine methods, while sweat stimulation was done by intradermal injection of 0.1 ml (0.025 mg) of carbachol (carbaminoylcholine). There was significant improvement in sensation and considerable augmentation of sweat response in the final as compared to the initial tests. The difference in sweat response was statistically significant, suggesting the value of this simple procedure in assessing the progress of leprosy.

## Presidential Address

Dr. T. V. Venkatesan, after qualifying for M.B.B.S. in Madras Medical College, had training in Dermatology under Late Captain A. S. Thambiah. He



was posted as Honorary Assistant Physician in Government Erskine Hospital, Madurai and worked in the Departments of Internal Medicine, Venereology and Dermatology. He qualified for F.D.S. (London) in 1947. He was posted as Clinical Teacher in 1958 and later Lecturer, Department of Dermatology and as Professor and Head of the Department of Dermatology and Leprology in 1973.

He has contributed 147 articles in Dermatology and presented a paper on "Xeroderma Pigmentosum" at the meeting of the Second Annual Conference of the International Society of Tropical Dermatology at Kyoto in 1961.

He was consultant in Skin and Leprosy for E.S.I. from 1960 to 1974. He was elected as Fellow of the Academy International of Medicine — Dermatology Division in 1953 and Fellow of the American College of Allergology in 1954. He was elected as Fellow of the American Academy of Dermatology and Syphilology in 1961.

He had training at Edinburgh in 1960 and attended Skin Clinics at Frankfurt and Vienna in 1960. In 1963 he attended the Departments of Dermatology at New Orleans, New York, Boston, Detroit and Chicago. In 1971 December, he was a delegate at the 30th Annual meeting of the American Academy of Dermatology at Chicago.

In Social Work he is an active member of the Lions Club and became its District Governor for 1963-64. The district comprising of Tamilnadu, Kerala, Andhra, Karnataka and Ceylon.

He has conducted eleven Free Skin Camps in Tamilnadu.

He was elected as President of the Indian Association of Dermatology, Venereology and Leprology for the year 1977.

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Fellow Members of the Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists & Leprologists and Distinguished Guests,

Let me thank you for the honour you have bestowed upon me by electing me as the President for the Year 1977. It was William Shakespeare who said "There is a tide in the affairs of men which taken at flood, leads on to fortune". The tide is the opportunity you have given me to serve you as the Leader for the Year 1977, for this august body.

It is my bounden duty to convey my most sincere thanks to the Chairman of the Reception Committee and to all other members for playing host to the Annual Conference of our combined Speciality, in this beautiful and historic city which has produced the Sabarmathi Ashram of our Father of the Nation