

## KNOWLEDGE FROM WORLD CONTEMPORARIES

### CHLOROQUINE IN SARCOIDOSIS

By

MORSE, S. I., COHIN, Z. A., HIRCH, J. G. and SCHAEGLER, R. W. (Am. J. Med., 30: 779, 1961) from the Rockefeller Institute, New York, from the analysis of the results of chloroquine in seven cases of sarcoidosis observe:

In each instance there was considerable improvement of the cutaneous lesions. Regression of extracutaneous lesions was more variable, but improvement was often observed; this was particularly true of mucous membrane and thoracic node involvement. Associated with the clinical response, elevated sedimentation rates and high gamma globulin levels returned toward normal. It is suggested that chloroquine may be a useful drug for the treatment of many patients with sarcoidosis, and further studies are in progress to define the situations in which its use is of most benefit.

### NEW THERAPEUTIC AGENT FOR TINEA VERSICOLOR.

By

Zimmerman, E. (J.A.M.A.; 176: 23, 1961 from Huntington, N.Y. writes:

Successful therapy of the commonly seen superficial fungus infection, tinea versicolor, has been a long-standing problem, since available therapeutic measures have been only partially effective and recurrences have been frequent. Treatment required daily baths, followed by application of malodorous preparations for prolonged periods of time. The average patient soon tired of this routine and decided 'to live with his fungus'. Then, during the summer months, when the patient acquired a tan and the 'white spots' (achromia parasitica) became quite prominent, especially with the wearing of a bathing suit, he sought treatment and once against carried out the physician's instruction. However, with the coming of fall, the tan faded, the affected areas were covered with more clothing, the reddish tan patches were less obvious, and the patient's enthusiasm for his therapeutic regime waned until he stopped all treatment. In many cases, this became a perennial cycle. To complicate matters further, many of the preparations used produced irritations, while the sodium thiosulphate solution dried, leaving a residue of sticky crystals on the skin. In spite of its efficacy against a variety of superficial fungi, griseofulvin has proved inactive against *M. furfur*. Although more extensive evaluation must be undertaken, this preliminary study indicates that 9-aminoacridinium 4-hexylresorcinolate should prove to be the most effective therapeutic agent for tinea versicolor in the dermatologic armamentarium.

### THE ESSENTIALS OF THE TREATMENT OF VARICOSE ULCERS.

By

PERCY G. HARRIS M.D., W. SIMPSON M.B.

(1) Bandaging the limb having the ulcer, firmly from the base of the toes to the tibial tubercle by means of Elastoplast, Viscopaste or Ichthopaste bandage of suitable size after dressing the ulcer with sterilized

Paraffin. The bandage has to be on either the whole day or for a continuous period of a fortnight. It is removable only when one is in bed and until one remains in bed. It must be put on before getting out of the bed. Either of the methods can be selected according to prevailing circumstances in the case.

(2) A peripheral vasodilator such as 1 (4-Oxyphenyl)-1-Oxy-2-n-butylamino ethane sulphonate 25 mg. 4 hourly, till the ulcers heal.

(3) Elastoplast stocking upto half thigh to be worn for life time after the elastoplast treatment is over.

Practitioner, March 1960.

### MOLES AND MELANOMAS.

By

GEORGE T. PACK, M.D.

New York State, J. of Medicine.

One of the most baffling problems in neoplastic diseases is that of the ubiquitous mole and the iniquitous melanoma. The mole is one of the commonest tumours; the melanoma, however, ranks among the cancers of relatively infrequent incidence. The mole is constantly available for study, and the melanoma is the most accessible of all malignant tumours. In a study of consecutive 1000 adult patients it was found that the average patient has 15 moles or true nevi as distinguished from pigmented spots. Moles were relatively scarce on feet and genitals where melanomas are frequently found. Blond persons and those having pale skins of fine texture having sandy complexions and especially red hair were very frequently found to have melanomas. The author practices immediate excision of these when found in such individuals. Suspicious moles or those taking on sudden growth or changing their appearance should be removed forthwith whatever the age of the patient; earlier the better, authors advise. Pregnancy is a state which is seen to facilitate transformation of benign moles to malignant melanomas and the author advises removal of such a mole early in pregnancy to avoid all further growth, transformation and metastases. The author has advised in the article also the method of block dissections to be undertaken in growths diagnosed as melanotic and has recorded substantial increase in five year definitive cure rates in surgery in advanced cases.

Am. Prac. II, 1, Jan. 1960.

### VITAMIN B1 — USES OF HIGH DOSAGE

By

J. WASSON

Aneurin (Vit. B1) 200-400 mg. daily orally is very useful in the following conditions:—Fulminating beriberi, herpes zoster, varicose ulcers, vesicular atony, constipation, nocturnal enuresis and for analgesia in first and second stages of labour.

Lancet, 1 : 746 1958.

## SKIN DISEASES AND THE LIVER

By

HERMANN, F. : Berlin (Germany)

Hautkrankheiten und Leberstoffwechsel.

Arzil. Praxis (Germ.) 12, No. 4, 151-52 (1960).

Liver function tests have shown associated hepatopathies in up to 70% of patients with skin complaints. Even in the absence of objective evidence of hepatic dysfunction, there is a strong possibility of liver damage, concealed by the great compensating power of the organ. Reports of successful results in refractory skin diseases from adjuvant liver support therapy in the form of "Litrison" led HERMANN to apply this principle in a group of 6 patients with leg ulcers of long duration with no tendency to heal. "Litrison" was given in a dosage of 2 tablets thrice daily in addition to the previously unsuccessful standard therapy. After about 8 weeks on this regime, the often severe pain was greatly relieved without need for analgesics, the wounds were cleansed and beginning to show fresh granulation. This success encouraged the author to try "Litrison" in further cases, including chronic neurodermitis, dyshidrosis and psoriasis. Here too the distressing sensations of itching, hyperhidrosis and excoriation were markedly reduced and the skin manifestations improved in many instances. HERMANN considers such oral liver support therapy with "Litrison" should find more frequent application by the dermatologist, as it offers a ready solution to many a therapeutic dilemma.

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