Abstracts from "Il Giornale Italiano di Oftalmia"

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1. Bottoni A. Considerations on the therapy of diabetic retinopathy. Giorn. ital oftal. 4/332-334. July-August 1953.

The literature on the treatment of diabetic retinopathy, is reviewed, and an outline of the pathology of the condition given. One hundred and fifteen cases were treated with (a) lipotropic factor of the pancreas (19 cases), (b) methionia and cholin (10 cases), (c) substances capable of releasing the methyl radicle, and which protect the liver (4 cases), (d) Vitamin B. (20 cases), (e) Rutin (35 cases), (f) Vitamin P. (7 cases), (g) Vitamin E. (10 cases), (h) testosterone (10 cases).

Of this total, only 9 (7.8%) showed some improvement; the amount of exudate diminished, while it disappeared is only one case. Vascular changes and haemorrhages remained unaltered. 15 cases (13. 1%), became worse during all the period of observation (28 months); of these, 5 had been treated exclusively with rutin. This drug was found to give the least response, while those substances with a lipolitic action gave the most favourable results. The author concludes, that while there is no specific remery for the condition the means at our disposal, including insulin, should nevertheless be used to prevent further damage to the retina. The above named substances, while incapable of influencing in the majority of cases the already established retinopathy, may prevent its onset if given prophilactically.

2. Simonelli M., Faldi S. Better view of retinal tears after intra-venous injection of flourescin and Geigy blue. Giorn. ital. oftal. 4/322-329. July-August 1953.

Using the technique suggested by Offret and Decaudin (intra-venous injection of 2 c.c. sodium fluorescin 10% solution) the authors have used this method on 50 cases of retinal detachment and they have compared the visibility of tears, before and after the injection. More than half of the cases showed better visibility of tears after the injection, while in 20 cases, in which the retina had become replaced after rest in bed, there was no appreciable difference in visibility. In 12 cases treated with with intra-venous injection of a 1/2% solution of Geigy blue, the results were very similar to those obtained after flourescine injection. The better visibility was the result of greater contrast of the margins of the hole (which assumed a pale green colour), and the base of the tear. The possible mechanisms for this increased contrast are discussed, and the view is expressed, that great weight should be attached to the staining of the sub-retinal fluid, by the drugs injected.

3. Ltta. B, Pina G. The appearance of penicillin-resistant strains of staphilococci, after local treatment with penicillin ointment. Giorn. ital. oftal. 4/343-358. July August 1953.

The authors give a most interesting review of the works on drugs resistance of germs, with particular emphasis of the resistance of staphilococci to penicillin, and a long and comprehensive bibliography on the subject.

In a preliminary approach to the problem, they have isolated 85 different

strains of staphs from the conjunctive of trachomatous children, who had been subjected to local penicillin therapy for long periods, but who had treatment suspended for about a week. 45 strains (52.9%) showed resistance to the drug, Germs were grown on either blood agar, or Bacto-Chapman Stone medium, and the pathogenicity of the germs, was based on their capability of coagulating human citrated blood.

In a second experiment, they have examined 180 different strains from both the conjunctival and nasal mucosa. While before treatment with local penicillin, only 2.5% of the said strains were penicillin resistant, two weeks after cessation of treatment, 62.% of the strains from the conjunctival sac were found drug resistant, while there was no increase in the resistance in the case of strains obtained from the nasal mucous membrane.

They dwell on the significance, both clinical and epidemiological of this and allied phenomena.

4. Dorello U. Glutathione in the lens-Effect of formalin stress. Giorn. ital. oftal. 4/330-331. July-August 1953.

Previous work by the author had shown that injection of ACTH and DCA in the rabbit, produced decrease of glutathione in the lens, and he had suggested that might have been due to a phenomenon of stress.

He now reports on experiments conducted on six rabbits subjected to subcutaneous injection of formalin (1 in 100), while six others served as controls. He found no difference in glutathione in the treated animals and the controls and as formalin, is a well known 'stress' producing agent, he tended to conclude, that stress had no effect on glutathone in the lens.

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