

3354 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

reported for the sheep cell agglutination test following administration of chloroquine⁷ and of gold.⁸ There was no obvious relationship between the latex test results and the clinicians' overall assessments.

Changes in serum albumin—Electrophoretic analyses showed a rise in patients who were reported to be clinically better or unchanged, and a fall in those reported as worse. The difference could not be accounted for adequately by individual variation. The changes did not differ markedly between the two treatment groups.

Changes in serum gamma globulin—There was a return toward normal in the drug-treated, but not in the placebo patients.

PARTICIPATING CENTERS

Lack of space prevents listing the 55 persons (clinic chiefs, observers and nurse-secretaries) who contributed to this trial. The 11 participating centers were: Rackham Arthritis Research Unit, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases and Georgetown University Medical Center, Bethesda and Washington, D.C.; Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston; University of Illinois, Chicago; Southwestern Medical School, Dallas; University of California and Veterans Administration Hospital, Los Angeles; University of Tennessee, Memphis; Jackson Memorial Hospital, Miami; Presbyterian Hospital, New York; University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia; and University of California, San Francisco.

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The co-authors wish to express their indebtedness to their former colleague, Miss Lee Herrera for her invaluable contributions to this work. She participated in all the activities of the project until October 1961 when she moved to California.

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ASPIRIN IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS, A SEVEN-DAY, DOUBLE-BLIND TRIAL— PRELIMINARY REPORT

The time honored place of salicylates in the therapy of the rheumatic diseases as well as their postulated mode of action is being reappraised by many investigators today. This preliminary report of a therapeutic trial of aspirin points up effectively the pitfalls, the tremendous problems and great effort involved in carrying out such clinical studies in order to obtain data which can be meaningfully interpreted. Certainly salicylates are most useful compounds but contrary to the claims of some advertisers their true effectiveness and action has yet to be determined. Attention is called to Dr. Mainland's invitation for readers to submit questions and suggestions regarding this trial to him.

—THE EDITOR.

This trial was conducted by the Cooperating Clinics Committee of the American Rheumatism Association, under the chairmanship of Dr. Charles Ragan. After conducting double-blind trials on an antimalarial compound^{1,2} and a seven-day variability study³ on 499 patients without change in their assigned therapies,

⁶ Freedman, A., and Steinberg, V. L., *Ann Rheumat. Dis.*, 19:243, 1960.

⁷ Popert, A. J., Meijers, K. A. E., Sharp, J., and Bier, F., *Ann. Rheumat. Dis.*, 20:18, 1961.

⁸ Research Subcommittee, Empire Rheumatism Council, *Ann. Rheumat. Dis.*, 19:95, 1960.

¹ Mainland, D., *J. New Drugs*, 1:197, 1961.

² Mainland, D., and Sutcliffe, M. I., *Bull. Rheumat. Dis.*, 13:287, 1962.

³ Cooperating Clinics Committee of the American Rheumatism Association, *Arth. and Rheumat.*, 8:302, 1965.