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removed, starting at the proximal cut margin of the trachea, and extending continuously to the periphery of the lower lobe of each lung. The strips were then coiled in a "Swiss role". Three to 5 sections were cut from each "Swiss role" and stained with hematoxylin and eosin. The changes noted were correlated with the history of smoking, age of the patient, occupation, and site of residence. Normal mucous membrane was observed in 50% of the specimens obtained from nonsmokers, as compared to that in 20% of the specimens obtained from heavy smokers. The carina was the most frequent site of metaplasia. Age, occupation, and site of residence had no appreciable relation to the changes in the bronchial mucosa. The author visualizes the sequence of changes in the mucosa of the respiratory tract as follows: basal cell hyperplasia with reduction in mucous secretion, followed by metaplasia of the basal elements to squamous epithelial cells, and maturation of these cells to form keratinized epithelium. The function of the cilia is thus lost, and normal secretions are further suppressed. Focal areas of epithelium are occasionally subjected to irritation and superimposed infections that result in atypical proliferative change. There is the impression that basal cell hyperplasia, squamous metaplasia, and atypical proliferative change represent changes significantly increasing in that order, and are in all probability consecutive states in mucosal transformation to cancer of the lung. -- J. Am. Med. Assn. Abstr.

959 Human Inhalation Anthrax: A Report of 3 Fatal Cases. W. S. Albrink, et al. Am. J. Pathol. 36, 457-468 (Apr. 1960).

During a 10-week period in 1957, autopsies performed on 3 textile workers from Manchester, N.H., revealed disseminated infection with Bacillis anthracis as the cause of death. During this time, 4 nonfatal cases of cutaneous anthrax and 2 other suspected but unproved cases of inhalation anthrax were observed. The present report is concerned with pathologic findings in the 3 fatal cases. Two of the 3 patients showed massive hemorrhagic mediastinitis; one of these and the 3rd patient were found to have hemorrhagic meningitis. Other secondary manifestations were hemorrhagic thyroiditis in one patient and ulcerations of the ileal mucosa in another. In each instance the onset was insidious, the clinical manifestations were obscure, and the course of the disease was fulminating. Recognition of anthrax is extremely difficult and the diagnosis is rarely made prior to death. The observed pathologic alterations support the following conclusions regarding pathogenesis, based in turn on previously reported experimental work: (1) anthrax spores contained in small particles (5 microns or less) are deposited in alveoli where phagocytosis by large mononuclear cells is followed by transport across alveolar walls to regional lymph nodes via lymphatic channels; (2) although germination of some spores may occur en route, maturation usually eventuates after deposition in lymph nodes; multiplication of vegetative forms results in necrosis and hemorrhage in the nodes, and organisms may spread directly to contiguous structures (mediastinum and the walls of the trachea and bronchi); (3) septicemia and dissemination of either spore-containing macrophages or vegetative forms result in such secondary manifestations as edema, hemorrhage, meningitis, or ulceration in the alimentary tract. -- J. Am. Med. Assn. Abstr.

SKIN DISEASES AND BURNS

960 Bechet's Disease as a Multiple Symptom Complex. C. Berlin. Arch. Dermatol. 82, 73 (July 1960).

According to the literature and the 10 cases of the author, Bechet's disease appears as multiple manifestations, exhibiting vascular changes of allergic, inflammatory, or ulcerative character. It may involve the skin, predominantly of the genital region, the mouth, the eyes, the joints, the brain, and the viscera. The peculiar reactivity of the skin to intradermal saline injection, and even to a needle puncture, is of diagnostic value. The course is latent or active. The active course is characterized by acute episodes of various symptoms recurring

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