

thought to be. The most important factors which determine longevity after a myocardial infarction are the hereditary constitutional state of the patient and environmental conditions.

-- J. Am. Med. Assn. References and Reviews

- 715 Primary Myocardial Disease. N. O. Fowler, M. Gueron and D. T. Rowlands. *Diseases of Chest* 41, 593-602 (June 1962).

This paper describes 23 patients who had congestive heart failure without clinical or pathologic evidence of the primary cause. Twenty of these patients were necropsied; three had myocardial biopsy. The ages of these patients were from 18 months to 68 years at death. Nineteen were males and 4 were females. Eight had heart failure for 5 years or more; 6 were alcoholic; 3 had nutritional cirrhosis. Transient mitral or tricuspid systolic murmurs, and typical diastolic gallop rhythms were common. Atrial fibrillation was present in 8. Right heart catheterization in 5 patients showed evidence of decreased cardiac output and biventricular failure. All had left ventricular enlargement at necropsy. Mural thrombi were present in 12; 4 had systemic emboli; 5 had pulmonary emboli. There was no evidence of coronary disease, myocarditis, or subendocardial fibroelastosis. Idiopathic myocardial disease is of clinical importance because it may simulate coronary artery disease, hypertensive heart disease, pericardial effusion, or rheumatic heart disease. The cause is unknown. Only one patient in this group had a family history of similar heart disease.

-- Authors' summary

- 716 Emotional Stress and Coronary Heart Disease in American Physicians, Dentists, and Lawyers. H. I. Russek. *Am. J. Med. Sci.* 243, 716 (June 1962).

Further scrutiny is given the hypothesis that stress is an important trigger variable in the etiology of coronary heart disease in populations subsisting on a "high fat" diet. Questionnaires were sent to 10,000 physicians, dentists, and attorneys engaged in general practice or in selected occupational specialties. Comparisons were made between groups showing varying degrees of occupational stress. In each professional area, a striking tendency was observed for prevalence rates of reported coronary heart disease to increase with advance in occupational stress. General practitioners in each field showed coronary heart disease prevalence rates 2 to 3 times those of the specialists selected for survey. No consistent relationship was found for prevalence rates of reported hypertension and occupational stress. The findings of these surveys suggest that emotional stress is an accelerating factor in atherogenesis, when diet is relatively high in animal fat.

-- J. Am. Med. Assn. References and Reviews

- 717 Carcinoma of the Lung: Review of 509 Cases. M. S. Sabour, et al. *Diseases of Chest* 41, 530 (May 1962).

The authors reviewed 509 patients with cancer of the lung from Ain-Shams University Hospital, Cairo, and Springfield Hospital, Grimsby. Cancer of the lung was 9 times more prevalent in men than in women, and cigarette smoking appeared to be related to the occurrence of the squamous-cell carcinoma. Mass radiography detected 8.2%. The condition was most prevalent in the upper lobes and only rarely seen in the anterior segments of the lung. Needle biopsy of the lung was the most successful method of confirming the diagnosis in suspected cases. When first assessed, two-thirds of the patients were inoperable, and resection was successful in only 22% of the patients. The survival rate of the resected group over a 5-year period was 19%. Radical radiation therapy proved helpful in the initial control of undifferentiated-cell tumors. Palliative radiation therapy had no value in prolonging life, but was much more effective in the relief of symptoms than nitrogen mustard or triethylene melamine.

-- J. Am. Med. Assn. References and Reviews

- 718 Alterations in Growth of Strain L Cells Exposed to Smoke Gases. P. Cooper, M. Klein and Irene P. Goldring. *Proc. Soc. Exptl. Biol. Med.* 110, 11-13 (May 1962).

Under the conditions of this study it appears that there is a "toxic" effect of smoke gases on strain L cells in culture. This results both in morphological changes in the cells and in alterations in growth curves as indicated by the reduction of cell populations. The smoke