551 Aerosolized Steroids and Induced Cushing's Syndrome. H.S. Novey and G. Beall. Arch. Internal Med. 115, 602-605 (May, 1965).

This study was designed to determine whether patients with asthma who met relatively strict criteria of need for continuous steroid therapy, could indeed be maintained free both of asthma and Cushing's syndrome on aerosolized dexamethasone. A group of 20 patients who required oral steroid therapy for relief of their severe asthma were studied to determine whether a steroid applied in an aerosol form (dexamethasone phosphate) could continue to control symptoms while lessening the effects of Cushing's syndrome. It was found that symptoms of asthma could indeed be suppressed by this modality. Signs of Cushing's syndrome, however, persisted. These results, together with others discussed, mediate against the theory of an exclusively local action by this aerosol compound upon the bronchial mucosa.

552 Epidemiology of Coronary Disease in Industrial Workers. 1. Relationships Between Parental Histories of Coronary Disease, Longevity of Parents, and Serum Triglycerides of Sons. J.W. Meigs, T.B. Caldwell, and Margaret J. Albrink. Arch. Environmental Health 10, 467-474 (March, 1965).

A clinical epidemiological study was made of 258 normal male employees of a wire mill. Subjects were defined as normal if they were able to perform their regular work and had no clinically manifest atherosclerotic diseases (including coronary) or diabetes, and if their resting diastolic blood pressures were less than 90 mm. Hg. From this investigation it was found that the data were consistent with the possibility that subjects with parental histories of heart disease believed to be coronary had specific genetic characteristics with respect to triglyceride metabolism. It is suggested that some of the coronary disease in middle aged men in affluent societies may be an unwanted by-product of ancient genetic adaptations for physical vigor and health.

553 Christmas Disease and Myocardial Infarction. J.I. Brody and L.H. Beizer. Arch. Internal Med. 115, 552-554 (May, 1965).

The purpose of this report is to describe the unusual circumstance of a patient (a 67-year-old white man) with congenital factor IX or plasma thromboplastin component (PTC) deficiency (Christmas disease) who had clinical evidence of continued hypocoagulability throughout his lifetime but, nevertheless, spontaneously developed a myocardial infarction when he reached the sixth decade. In addition, a second and fatal coronary occlusion occurred 11 years later while being treated in the hospital for uncontrolled bleeding and at the point where plasma replacement had completely ameliorated the hemorrhage. These observations are of interest because they have bearing on the general concept of blood coagulability as it affects the genesis of occlusive coronary artery disease.

554 Leukemia in Husbands and Wives. S. Milham. Science 148, 98-100 (April 2, 1965).

Study of the death certificates of [illegible] husbands and widowers who died of leukemia revealed that seven of the spouses also died of leukemia. However, five cases of leukemia were identified among matched controls of the spouses. The incidence of leukemia in husbands and wives of individuals who died of leukemia was not significantly greater than that of a control group. This is consistent with the hypothesis that adult leukemia is not contagious in the usual sense. -- Author's abst

555 Asymptomatic Mild Intermittent Proteinuria. A Percutaneous Renal Biopsy Study. R.G. Muth. Arch. Internal Med. 115, 569-574 (May, 1965)

Since the time of Richard Bright, the appearance of protein in the urine has been associated with the presence of renal disease. Even now, this dictum remains almost universally accepted when protein is consistently present in the urine. The presence of intermittent proteinuria, however, is met with considerable disagreement regarding its clinical significance

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