ABSTRACTS

Phenylbutazone in the Treatment of Some Reactive and Painful Complications of Leprosy. R. H. THANGARAJ and S. THANGARAJ. J. of the Indian Med. Assoc., **35**, 9; Nov. 1, 1960, pp. 395–397.

The authors, working at Purulia, tried in 52 patients of whom 46 were lepromatous, the drug Butazolidin (phenylbutazone GEIGY) for the following occurring in leprosy patients: acute and chronic arthritis, erythema nodosum leprosum, neuritis, thrombophlebitis, and burning sensation. The dosage was 800 mgm. by mouth daily for 3 days in 4 divided doses, then 400 mgm. per day for a further 1 or 2 days, with as alternative method 600 mgm. per day by injection for 3 days and then 300 mgm. per day for another 1 or 2 days. In chronic cases a maintenance dose of 200 mgm. per day by mouth can be given. Only 7 cases failed to show improvement, and 31 cases had "excellent" improvement, 9 "good". and 5 "fair". In erythema nodosum 1 case had a "fair" result and 3 "poor". Mild side reactions were seen in 4 cases, which disappeared when the drug was stopped. The side reactions were salt retention oedema (2 cases), mild jaundice (1 case), and giddiness (1 case).

Action of Two Ethyl Thiol Esters Against Experimental Tuberculosis in the Guinea Pig. G. E. DAVIES and G. W. DRIVER. Brit. J. of Pharmacology and Chemotherapy, Mar. 1960, **15**, 1: p. 122.

The compounds tested were ethyl dithiolterephthalate and ethyl dithiolisophthalate (Etisul, or ditophal). Both showed a therapeutic effect against a subcutaneous infection even when that was well established as an infection, but both were less effective than streptomycin. The two thiol esters and streptomycin had no effect on the development of the tuberculin reaction, or on the time of appearance and subsequent course of inoculation abscesses, or on enlargement of axillary lymph glands. The results from INH contrast with this, as with INH a small abscess appeared in only 1 guinea pig and axillary lymph nodes did not enlarge. Ditophal had a definite effect against an intracerebral infection of *M. tuberculosis* in guinea pigs, when given twice daily orally at 100 mg/kg. and 200 mg/kg., the effect being comparable with that of streptomycin subcutaneously at 40 mg/kg. In contrast, ethyl dithiolterephalate had no effect against the intracerebral infection. The positive Ditophal effect was, however, inferior to that from INH given twice daily at 5 mg/kg., and Ditophal was without therapeutic effect with intracerebral twice weekly doses at 100 mg/kg., or when given once daily subcutaneously at 100 and 200 mg/kg. The striking anti-tuberculosis effect obtained

with ditophal in mice was not achieved in guinea pigs, probably because the maximum dose tolerated in the latter was limited by the ulceration which occurred at the site of injection with doses greater than 50 mg/kg. The results however do indicate that the two thiol esters possess definite activity against tuberculosis in the guinea pig.