delivered three lectures to the University of London, later published under the title 'Observations on three slow infections of sheep', he opened up what may well turn out to be a new vista in virology. In drawing attention to a new class of 'slow' virus infections, he laid the foundation for a good deal of the work reviewed in the present volume. The list of mammalian and avian viruses demonstrating slow, latent or temperate behaviour (the latter term has been taken over from phage studies) given on pages 7 and 8 is now a formidable one.

The immediate stimulus for this workshop-symposium arose from Dr. Carleton Gajdusek's continuing interest in kuru, a strange, rapidly fatal, familiar degenerative disease of the central nervous system (characterized by trembling and cerebellar ataxia) and limited to some 12,000 native New Guinea Islanders (since diminishing in number) usually referred to as the Fore people. Papers presented revealed considerable divergences in view about the histopathology of the disease. Thus, whilst Dr. Igor Klato likened the condition to a Creutzfeld-Jakob type of degeneration in its widespread neuronal degeneration (including the vacuolation so characteristic of scrapie) and 'the lack of any well-defined systematic pattern of the disease' and was supported in this view by Dr. Meta Neumann's studies, Beck and Daniel classed both scrapie and kuru as a 'system' degeneration in which cerebellar pathways were affected (though 'non-specific' accompanying changes might obscure the picture).

Excellent accounts of the many remarkable properties of scrapie 'virus' were presented and make an interesting approach to the most recent claim that the 'virus' does not contain nucleic acid!

Much interesting discussion took place and has been faithfully and fully recorded in this handsome presentation. Its freshness and spontaneity has been excellently preserved and gives a most valuable insight into the doubts and difficulties which hide (like the latent viruses themselves) in the minds of the most critical research workers.

Since this discussion, an important development has taken place in that kuru has been transmitted to chimpanzees by the Bethesda workers and its true status as a slow 'virus' infection enhanced.

The topics considered by the workshop fell under seven headings:— (1) Human nervous system diseases of suspected viral aetiology; (2) Slow and latent virus infections of man; (3) Serological, immunological and hypersensitivity reactions in subacute and chronic disorders of the central nervous system of animals and man; (4) The virology, pathology and epizootiology of scrapie; (5) The virology, pathology and epizootiology of Aleutian disease in mink; (6) Virology of visna and other slow and latent virus infections; (7) Genetics in the pathogenesis of subacute and chronic virus infections. In addition, an important bibliography is included as a separate section. Under these rubrics a great deal of experimental work is described with animal 'model' diseases for slow virus infection in man. Full accounts of Aleutian mink disease from Drs. Gorham and Leader and their colleagues and the chronic disease following lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus infection in mice (Hotchin) were given. Amongst so many interesting papers presented it is perhaps invidious to single out contributions but some had wide implication, *e.g.*, the 'Latency of infections with Simian Virus 40 and Adenovirus, Type 12' by Bernice Eddy; and others broke new ground in presenting ideas which might well be seminal in the next decade or two, *e.g.*, Dr. Wallace Rowe's contribution on 'Persistent viral infection without production of infectious virus'; and Dr. Frederik Bang's paper on 'Genetic and cellular factors in resistance to virus diseases', especially in view of the extraordinary findings and theories now current in the field of bacterial genetics.

The book is beautifully produced and illustrated and makes fascinating reading for all who have an interest in what promises to be a most fertile new extension of virology.

E. J. Field


Modern devices make it possible to record pressure changes in the cerebro-spinal fluid with great accuracy and this monograph is a valuable source of information to all who wish to study the possibilities of such procedures.

THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF NEUROSURGERY

The Third International Congress of Neurosurgery will be held in Madrid from 23 to 26 April 1967. On 27 April there will be a meeting of the neurosurgeons of the Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking countries and on 28 and 29 a further meeting has been arranged in Lisbon. On Saturday, 22 April, the Third International Symposium on Stereoecephalotomy will take place.

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