

# ABSTRACTS

## PHARMACOLOGY LABORATORY

### ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS PUBLISHED IN OTHER JOURNALS

1. **ANTIDURETIC ACTIVITY OF RAUWOLFIA ALKALOIDS.** M. Sirci and R. Rama Rao, *Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sci.*, 1955, 10, 80-83.

Reserpine and crude total alkaloids of *Rauwolfia serpentina* have been shown to produce anemia and diminished urine secretion in experimental rats. The possible mode of action has been discussed.

2. **STUDIES ON THE AMINO ACID METABOLISM OF *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* H<sub>37</sub>R<sub>1</sub>.** N. A. N. Rao and T. K. Wadhvani, *Ind. Acad. Sci.*, 1955, 11B, 394.

Data are presented on the amino acid composition of (i) the clear culture filtrate, (ii) the culture filtrate hydrolysate, (iii) the clear cell homogenate, (iv) the cell homogenate hydrolysate and (v) the insoluble protein mass of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* H<sub>37</sub>R<sub>1</sub> at different periods of growth. Data also are presented on the amino acid composition of the three *Mycobacterium goodii* isolates from the culture filtrate of a fully grown culture of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* H<sub>37</sub>R<sub>1</sub>.

From among the fractions studied, it is concluded that the cell homogenate and its hydrolysate are more indicative of the amino acid changes taking place within the cell.

3. **B. C. G. VACCINATION AND ITS COMPLICATIONS.** "A plea for a national approach to B.C.G. mass vaccination programme", M. Sirci, *Medical Digest*, March 1956, 215-21.

The occurrence of local and general reactions after B.C.G. vaccination in various parts of the world has been reviewed. Limitations of our knowledge in the immunological reactions in tuberculosis, the variations in the antigenic potency of different strains of B.C.G. used for vaccination and the need for carefully controlled and organized studies have been emphasized.

4. **CRITIQUE ON THE GERM THEORY OF DISEASE.** M. Sirci, *The Asiaticist*, August 1956.

Though the microbial or germ theory of disease played an important role in preventing the metaphysical approach that pervaded the entire medical science and helped to produce order out of chaotic interpretations, it has not been an unmitigated blessing. The need for a fresh approach as to the causative of diseases has been emphasized. Ecological changes, emotional disturbances and altered physiological status of the body are considered primarily responsible for the progress of the disease.

5. STUDIES ON INDIAN MEDICINAL PLANTS. " *Antibiotic response in anaphylactic reactions of guinea pig*", M. Sree and R. Rama Rao, *Ind. Jour. Med. Res.*, 1938, 44, 283-87.

*Antibiotic response* is clinically used to relieve cough, intestinal colic and certain allergic manifestations. The essential oil from the leaves and stem though possessing *in vivo* antihistaminic property has no effect on the anaphylactic reaction of the guinea pig uterus but markedly inhibits the intestinal convulsions. The possibility of this oil being useful to relieve the intestinal manifestations of allergy is mentioned.