

CANZANI, R. La suerologia de la fiebre ganglionar o mononucleosis infecciosa. [The Serology of Glandular Fever or Infectious Mononucleosis.] *Arch. Uruguayos de Med., Cirug. y. Especialidades.* 1942, February, v. 20, No. 2, 104-29. [51 refs.]

In infectious mononucleosis agglutination of sheep's corpuscles is often observable and has been used as a diagnostic aid; also the sera of patients at times give false positives to tests for syphilis and agglutination of certain bacteria, e.g. *Bact. typhosum* and *Bact. paratyphosum* A and B.

The author has investigated these three dicta. The first, by the Paul and Bunnell technique. Normal sera, inactivated by being heated to 56° C., when added in various dilutions to 2 per cent suspensions of sheep's red cells in saline, agglutinated up to 1:8, rarely 1:16; some cases of acute articular rheumatism and of rheumatoid arthritis up to 1:32; but in acute cases of glandular fever even up to 1:1024, and in subacute cases to 1:256.

As regards the second point: In cases of syphilis inadequately treated, typical glandular fever may appear and subside completely in three weeks and during this time a possible syphilitic reaction may be given, and mask the true disease, but if repeated some six weeks later the W.R. will be found negative. The third point may cause confusion and erroneous diagnosis, for sera of patients with infectious mononucleosis may agglutinate the typhoid group of organisms up to 1:640, although no history of enteric infection or of vaccination is obtainable. As a lymphocytosis is also a feature of both diseases the liability to mistake is even greater and reliance must be placed on hæmoculture, rising agglutination titre and the clinical course of the illness.

H. HAROLD SCOTT.

Reprinted from "Bulletin of Hygiene," Vol. 18, No. 5.

---

## Correspondence.

---

### SKI SURGERY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS."

SIR,—Having been for a time an Assistant Instructor at the Middle East Ski School, I was particularly interested in Major J. C. Watts' article in the August, 1944, number of the *Journal*.

I think that most skiers would be inclined to think that the three weeks period of training described by Major Watts is far too short; but experience at the Middle East Establishment supports his view that it is enough for our purpose. In three weeks of the very intensive training organized there by the well-known skier, Major W. J. Riddell, the progress made by men of the right type was astonishing.

I sent six R.A.M.C. orderlies to be trained by him after a preliminary grounding in Mountain Warfare subjects and they soon earned very good reports. They are now in a Mountain Warfare School in the U.K. and the purpose of this letter is to bring their existence to the notice of any who may in the future need R.A.M.C. skiers as they would form an invaluable nucleus for such a unit, being all Nursing Orderlies, II or I, with some six months' experience of skiing.

Field Ambulance,

B.E.A.,

October 29, 1944.

Yours faithfully,

F. M. RICHARDSON,

Lieut.-Colonel, Royal Army Medical Corps.