LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Exanthema fixum Due to Ultraviolet Radiation

Sir,
A recent short report in your Journal discussed an interesting presentation of a fixed eruption due to ultra-violet light radiation (1). Investigation by Langeland showed that this eruption could be induced by both UVB radiation and UVA radiation. In his discussion Dr. Langeland was apparently unaware of a study by Emmett (2). Emmett’s case was of a 40-year-old lady who had a fixed eruption on her face which was produced solely by UVA radiation. UVB radiation had no effect. I note that Langeland in his discussion concedes that his UVB radiation testing may have been contaminated by small amounts of UVA radiation.

REFERENCES

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Demodex folliculorum in Human Skin

Sir,
In an interesting short report, Bøge-Rasmussen and co-workers (1) report a high incidence of Demodex folliculorum in the skin of normal persons. However, they state that it is generally believed that Demodex folliculorum is rare in humans. On the contrary, most textbooks (e.g. 2, 3) declare that this mite frequently is found within hair follicles. Furthermore, in contrast to the view of Bøge-Rasmussen and co-workers, Demodex folliculorum is easily recognized in ordinary histologic slides, as is also beautifully illustrated in many textbooks.

Demodex can also be visualized more specifically by staining with alkaline Congo red (4). When viewed in polarized light, the cuticle envelope of the mite exhibits a green birefringence of the same quality as amyloid (Fig. 1). This technique can be used in cases when a differentiation between a mite and other structures is difficult.

Fig. 1. Two Demodex folliculorum mites in a hair follicle, exhibiting a bright green birefringence. Congo red between crossed polars. 300.

Acta Dermatovener (Stockholm) 63
REFERENCES

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   Kristensen, G. & Norn, M. S.: Demodex folliculorum
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   patients under systemic treatment with erythromycin
   or glucocorticoid. Acta Dermatovener (Stockholm) 62:
   454, 1982.
2. Allen, A. C.: The Skin. A Clinicopathologic Treatise,
3. Ackerman, A. B.: Histologic Diagnosis of Inflammato­
   tory Skin Diseases, 863 pp. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia
   1978.
   of Congo red by amyloid. J Histochem Cytochem 10:
   355, 1962.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advances in Skin Pharmacology: Recent Methods.
The 4th CIRD Symposium will be held at Sophis
Antipolis, Nice, on 21st to 23rd October, 1983. The aim of the Symposium will be to examine
methods linking cell and animal experiments with
clinical experience. The presentations will be
divided into 3 sessions: New in vitro approaches.
Recently developed animal models. Clinical as­
pects. The symposium will be organized by M.
Greaves, L. Juhlin, M. Prunieras, H. Schaefer and
B. Shroot. Abstracts of up to 300 words should be
sent as soon as possible and not later than May
15, 1983, to Prof. Hans Schaefer, Centre Interna­
tional de Recherches Dermatologiques, F-06565
Valbonne, France.

Gold Medal 1983 of the Foundation for Allergy
bestows a Gold Medal every 3 years for scientific
work of practical clinical relevance in the field of
allergy research. The next Gold Medal will be
awarded during the XIth Congress of the European
Academy of Allergology and Clinical Immunology
in Rome, September 25-30, 1983. This occasion
will be combined with a guest lecture by the prize­
winner. — The topic chosen by the F.A.R.E. for
the Gold Medal 1983 is “Importance of Immuno­
complexes in Clinical Allergy”. Participation is
open to young scientists working in Europe, inde­
dependent of their nationality or their type of work
(clinic, institute, private practice). Unpublished or
recently published papers about the chosen topic
may be submitted under the condition that they
have not been submitted elsewhere for a prize or
similar award. — Applications together with a curri­
culum vitae and the list of publications, should be
in the hands of the secretary, Prof. B. Wüthrich, Al­
lergiestation, Dermatologische Universitätsklinik,
Gloriastrasse 31, CH-8091 Zürich, Switzerland,
before 1st May, 1983.

The Annual Meeting of the British Society for In­
vestigative Dermatology will take place in the Uni­
versity of Nottingham on September 30-October 1,
1983. (See announcement in no. 1, 1983, of this
journal). Attention! Change of date for submission
of manuscripts. “Abstracts should be submitted on
the new official form and must be received by Dr.
R. A. J. Eady by June 17th, 1983.” For further
information and abstract forms, please write to:
Dr. R. A. J. Eady, Chairman, B.S.I.D., Institute of
Dermatology, Homerton Grove, London E9 6BX,
England.

BOOKS RECEIVED

Andrews' Diseases of the Skin—Clinical Dermato­
logy, 7th edition, by A. N. Domonkos, H. L
Arnold and R. B. Odom. W. B. Saunders. Price
£45.00.

Current Dermatologic Therapy by Stuart Maddin,
ed. W. B. Saunders. Price £43.00.