

Working Party on Thalidomide in Leprosy Reaction

Chairman: Professor F. Sagher

Clinical reports read at the first part of this session were all in agreement concerning the effectiveness of thalidomide in leprosy reaction. The effect is rapid and seems to represent progress in comparison with cortisone. Double-blind trials conducted by the WHO were mentioned, but their

results have not yet been published. The longest experience was reported by Sheskin and Sagher in the treatment of patients with leprosy reactions in whom sulfones and thalidomide were used simultaneously. Side effects were relatively mild and did not necessitate stopping the treatment during reactions. Two patients with Lyell's epidermal necrolysis were reported by Macaden and Wintsch, but these patients had received other drugs also at the same time.

Held at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, 14 September 1968.

The following research workers were present: Drs. R. D. Azulay, Brazil; J. C. Gatti, Argentina; R. C. Hastings, U.S.A.; K. Hellman, England; J. Languillon, Mali; V.P. Macaden, India; J. M. H. Pearson, Malaysia; F. Sagher, Israel; A. Saul, Mexico; H. W. V. Schrader-Bielstein, Germany; J. Sheskin, Israel; N. C. da Silva, Brazil; J. L. Turk, England; M. F. R. Waters, Malaysia, and K. Wintsch, Switzerland.

The second part of the Working Party session was devoted to the question of the mechanism of thalidomide action and the immunologic aspects of leprosy reaction. On this subject Turk and Hellman reported on their valuable work.—F. SAGHER