

EDITORIAL

During the past decade, a remarkable degree of order has emerged from the chaos that once surrounded the subject of Hodgkin's disease. Concepts have been clarified and differences concerning the histopathological classification, diagnostic evaluation, clinical staging and treatment of this condition have been resolved.

Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, however, remains a complex and confusing subject. Clinicians involved in the management of patients with this group of lymphomas find the reports of their pathologist confusing and difficult to interpret. The difficulty and the confusion are usually compounded if they seek the opinion of a second pathologist. This is partly because the diagnosis of lymphoma is one of the more difficult problems in histopathology. However, the main reason is that the subject is plagued by differences in terminology and by a plethora of classifications. Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma was, therefore, selected as the topic of a symposium which marked the beginning of the 4th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Malaysian Society of Pathologists in September 1979. The scope of the symposium was deliberately planned to range from fundamental to practical aspects of the subject. The principal speakers included an immunologist, histopathologist, haematologist, physician and radiotherapist. Papers based on three of these contributions are featured in the symposium in this issue of the journal. They include an analysis of current classifications of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and accounts of their immunological and haematological aspects. Also in this issue are a review article on immunopathology of parasitic infections, and papers on an outbreak of Japanese B encephalitis in Pulau Langkawi, *Haemophilus influenzae* infection, skin lesions in leprosy, the role of the laboratory in the control of diarrhoeal disease and on a variety of practical aspects of laboratory work.

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