

SYMPOSIUM ON PYROGENS

guarantee for large quantities. As a rule, the manufacturers could take care of their own side of the work. They would probably have methods of eliminating pyrogen.

MR. P. J. FOWLER (Bristol) said that as a hospital pharmacist he was interested in avoiding pyrogens. Had Mr. Smith experience of samples of dextrose-salines which had been pyrogenic on the production line, and what was the source of the pyrogen? If it were the drugs, how were they stored?

MR. SMITH replied that no special treatment was used to render glucose pyrogen-free, but the sodium chloride used was heated almost to redness for a short time. It was more economical to throw away a whole batch of pyrogenic glucose-saline than to try to trace the source of the pyrogen.

MR. FOWLER thought the value of the information lay in avoiding pyrogen in other batches.

MR. SMITH added that if a batch of glucose-saline was pyrogenic a check would be made to determine if the same batch of glucose were involved. If it were, it would be discarded.

EVENING SESSION

Chairman: DR. H. O. J. COLLIER

The following 2 papers were read:

RABBIT RESPONSES TO HUMAN THRESHOLD DOSES OF A BACTERIAL PYROGEN

BY J. G. DARE and G. A. MOGEY

From the Department of Pharmacology, University of Leeds

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THERE are very few quantitative data on the effect of bacterial pyrogens in man. Even less information is available on the relationship between effective doses in man and rabbit. Co Tui and Schrift¹ stated that the rabbit is one-third as sensitive to pyrogen as man; they suggested, in consequence, that to test intravenous solutions for human use 50 to 100 ml./kg. must be given to rabbits. But the number of observations on which their result is based is so small, and the variation of these responses can be so large, that the significance of this result is doubtful. Lees and Levvy², on the other hand, stated that a dose of 20 ml. per rabbit was sufficient to detect whether enough pyrogen was present to cause a response in man.

In view of the scarcity and the contradictory nature of the evidence available, and because of the differences in magnitude of the rabbit response in varying experimental conditions, or from repeated administration of pyrogen, we decided to determine the minimal effective dose