

at the ends. A number of such sequences are possible according to the factors chosen as being most important. A more usual method of handling the data is by 'classification' when like samples are grouped together. In both cases a personal decision as to the relative importance of the different factors involved determines the results; it should be remembered that what seems unimportant at the time of sampling in ecological work may be of great interest in later years. Although both principal component analysis and canonical correlation analysis are being tried, some other analysis, more easily interpreted, is required. Dale is hopeful that, by introducing some form of 'weighting', he will be able to produce a satisfactory classification method.

In the final general discussion, Jeffers said that suitable statistical techniques were becoming so advanced that the service of one professional statistician would be required to about six research workers, if full value was to be obtained from an experiment. With the present shortage of statisticians that ideal seems remote, but members of the symposium welcomed Prof. Bunting's announcement that, beginning in October 1966, there would probably be a one-year M.Sc. course in biometry

at the University of Reading. Nevertheless, research workers will still have to formulate a hypothesis, be able to discuss the layout of the experiment with a statistician, supervise the day-to-day management and obtain appropriate data. Finally, even if the analysis is obtained for him by the statistician, with the use of an electronic computer, he must be able to discuss the interpretation of the results and translate them into biological terms. A working knowledge of the 'language' of statistics and of the underlying principles would seem to be increasingly necessary for all those responsible for field and glasshouse experiments and for those interested in the application of their results. It is hoped that another symposium will be arranged to continue the education of the non-statistician who uses statistical tools.

Members of the three organizations responsible for the symposium are greatly indebted to Mr. J. H. Walker, of East Malling Research Station, for arranging this symposium and to the various speakers for presenting their specialized subjects to an audience of horticulturists and biologists, many of whom had had no formal training in statistical methods.

M. E. MARSTON

EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF CANCER

THERE is, and has been since 1936 when the International Union Against Cancer was founded, extensive international collaboration and exchange in the field of cancer research. This co-operation has been stimulated in recent years by the idea of an international institution of cancer research located in Europe and also by the efforts of the World Health Organization. At the European regional level such groups as the European Committee for Cancer Chemotherapy and the European Committee for Human Tumour Investigation are also playing their part in encouraging inter-European collaboration between clinicians and scientists engaged in the study of cancerous diseases. It is logical that these European groups and their associated workers should now have a journal which will provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and information. This journal is the *European Journal of Cancer* which made its first appearance in June of last year*.

The editorial advisory board of the new journal consists of workers of repute in the cancer field drawn from nine European countries, and the policy of the board will be to publish original work in the field of experimental and clinical cancer research, papers giving the results of planned clinical studies and also general reviews on subjects of particular relevance to these researches and studies.

The first issue contains eight papers from laboratories and centres in Belgium, France, Holland and Italy, so justifying the adjective European in the journal's title. There are two papers from the Radiological Institute of the Netherlands. One by L. M. van Putten presents the results of studies on the effects of different storage techniques on mouse and monkey cell suspensions, and the other is by H. S. Reinhold, in which he describes a combined mechanical and enzymatic method for obtaining a single cell suspension from solid tumour tissue. The method allows a concentrated suspension of a large number of cells to be prepared in a short time. The paper from Milan by G. G. Guidotti and others is on the inhibiting effects of aliphatic aldehydes on protein synthesis in Yoshida ascites hepatoma cells. The paper from France consists of a review by G. Mathé on immunological

reactions in their relationship to the development of cancer and the possibility of immunotherapy in its treatment. The four remaining papers come from Belgium. R. van Nie and P. J. Thung contribute a paper on the hormonal influence of pregnancy on mouse mammary tumours and its implication for tumour behaviour and progression. J. Hildebrand and C. Coërs report six cases of polyneuritis with severe damage to peripheral nerves in patients receiving intravenous injections of 3-5 mg vincristine per week for varying periods. Vincristine is an alkaloid extracted from the periwinkle flower which, although very toxic, has shown promise as an effective agent in Hodgkin's disease and certain leukaemias, and to a much lesser extent in other tumours. This study confirms previous reports of polyneuropathy caused by vincristine treatment. Another paper dealing with a chemotherapeutic agent is that by Y. Kenis and others, again from Brussels, which reports the results of treating patients suffering from Hodgkin's disease, various lymphomata and leukaemias, with a methylhydrazine derivative. The fourth paper, from a centre in Belgium, consists of a general review of the literature reporting cases of metastatic liver cancer associated with renal dysplasia. This paper is contributed by G. Buyse and others from the hospital at St. Gilles and Brussels University.

The November issue contains the papers given at the International Symposium on the biological characterization of human tumours which was held in May of last year. That these papers should have appeared in print so soon after their formal presentation shows a promptness in symposium publication which is as rare as it is commendable.

The standard of typography and lay-out, the quality of the paper, and the illustrations are of the high standard which we have come to expect from the Pergamon Press. A particularly pleasing aspect is the way in which the bibliographical references are given in full with the titles of the papers quoted. This greatly increases the value of the list of references and is a house rule which could well be copied by other journal publishers. The annual subscription price to individuals is a very reasonable £5 5s. The annual subscription price to libraries is £14, which follows this publisher's usual practice of being at a higher differential rate: a practice which I deplore.

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