Variability is observable in the morphology of certain chromosomes. This is especially well established for the Y chromosomes in which great differences in size occur and which are heritable from father to son. Heritable polymorphism has also been observed in satellited chromosomes and probably in No. 16.

*Specific Comments*

It is emphasized that assignment of numbers to chromosome pairs on the basis of the morphological criteria here discussed includes an element of arbitrariness; it does not ensure homology.

*Group 1–3 (A).* No. 1. In many cells a secondary constriction is observed in the proximal region of the long arm.

*Group 4–5 (B).* No additional information is available which can be used to distinguish these two chromosome pairs.

*Group 6–12 and the X chromosome (C).* Of the autosomes in this group, four are comparatively metacentric. It is proposed that they should be numbered 6, 7, 8 and 11. The X chromosome belongs to this sub-group.

Three chromosomes are sub-metacentric. They should be numbered 9, 10 and 12.

A secondary constriction is found in the proximal part of the long arm of at least one of the pairs in the whole group.

In normal female cells, one chromosome characteristically incorporates isotopically labelled thymidine over most of its length later than the others in the group. This chromosome is believed to be an X.

*Group 13–15 (D).* Satellites have now been detected in all three chromosome pairs.

*Group 16–18 (E).* A secondary constriction has been frequently seen in the proximal part of the long arm of No. 16.

*Group 19–20 (F).* No additional information is available which can be used to distinguish these two chromosome pairs.

*Group 21–22 and the Y chromosome (G).* Satellites have now been detected on both Nos. 21 and 22.

The most common Y is larger than either 21 or 22, its centric constriction is often indistinct and a secondary constriction is frequently seen in the long arm; the terminal region of the long arm may be poorly defined. Typically, the two long arm chromatids of the Y appear to diverge less than those of other chromosomes.

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## Congresses – Kongresse – Congrès

14./15. Dez. 1963: Accademia Medica Lombarda, Hörsaal der chirurgischen Klinik der Universität Mailand, Via Francesco Sforza 35

*Symposium* über «Diurese und Diuretika in Klinik und Therapie». Sekretär der Akademie: Prof. Walter Montorsi, Via Festa del Perdono 3, Mailand.