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PRELIMINARY NOTE ON THE SENSITIVITY TO ANTIBIOTICS  
OF VIRUS STRAINS ISOLATED FROM TRACHOMA CASES

by

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Three strains of a corpuscular agent pathogenic for embryonated eggs were isolated in June 1959 from three cases of clinical trachoma positive for inclusion bodies (unpublished report to W.H.O., 1 July 1959). As mentioned in that report and as indicated by further characterization studies these strains appear to be identical to those isolated by other workers and now considered to represent the agent of trachoma (Macchiavello 1944, Stewart and Badir 1950, Tang et al. 1957; Collier et al. 1958; Snyder et al. 1958; Bernkopf et al. 1959).

Our three strains are being maintained by serial passages in the yolk sac of embryonated eggs and are now at their twenty-first to twentieth-third passage.

While the study of these strains is being pursued, it is believed that it might be of some interest to give a summary of the preliminary results obtained on the action of antibiotics on these strains.

Ten antibiotics have been tested so far by inoculating into the eggs a mixture of viral suspension and of various concentrations of antibiotics after a period of contact of one, four and twenty-four hours. The attempts on each antibiotic included control series for the virus without antibiotic and for the antibiotic only at the highest concentration used. The antibiotics were considered as having an inhibitory effect on the virus - at the viral and antibiotic concentrations used - when more than half of the inoculated eggs did not become infected.

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The results obtained are given in the following table.

These results should be considered as indicative and no attempt is made to draw any conclusion as to the possible action of any one antibiotic on the disease itself, although some of the results appear to be consistent with the clinical experience.

This work is still under way and details of the techniques and of the results will be reported elsewhere.

SENSITIVITY TO ANTIBIOTICS

Minimal antibiotic concentrations having inhibitory effect on the virus (less than half of the inoculated eggs becoming infected)

Antibiotic	Period of Contact		
	One Hour	Four Hours	Twenty-four Hours
Penicillin -	250 u./cc	250 u./cc	50 u./cc
Streptomycin -	No inhibitory effect up to 100 mg/cc		
Aureomycin -	500 $\gamma$ /cc	250 $\gamma$ /cc	125 $\gamma$ /cc
Terramycin -			
Erythromycin -	50 $\gamma$ /cc	5 $\gamma$ /cc	5 $\gamma$ /cc
Chloramphenicol -	Inconclusive results		
Spiramycine -	1 mg/cc	1 mg/cc	100 $\gamma$ /cc
FrAMYcetine -	500 $\gamma$ /cc	50 $\gamma$ /cc	50 $\gamma$ /cc
Oleandomycin -	5 mg/cc	5 mg/cc	5 mg/cc
Polymyxin B -			