None of the infants raised difficult diagnostic problems.

Among 82,407 infants tested for raised methionine levels:

1. 1 had homocystinuria.
2. 31 had raised values when first tested but these were normal at the second test.
3. 6 had more persistent methioninaemia and in 1 this was still present after 14 weeks and associated with rising levels of alkaline phosphatase and transaminase.

The designated screening laboratory forms part of the Department of Chemical Pathology, so that biochemical investigation of positive results presents no administrative problems, and there is complete paediatric cooperation for the further diagnosis and clinical care of infants in whom this is indicated. This is the pattern advised in a Government paper HM (69) 72.

J. MELLON introduced by DR. V. J. MARRIAN (Dundee). 'Plasma Amino Acid Screening in the Newborn.'

A new microscreening method has been developed to detect phenylketonuria and the plasma aminoacidopathies using one-dimensional thin layer chromatography on cellulose layers. Amino acids are accurately and rapidly determined in a 2 μ l sample of plasma without prior deproteinization or desalting of the plasma.

To obtain a true picture of the incidence of the plasma aminoacid disorders, it was necessary to broaden the screening programme by testing for a large number of abnormalities. It has now been shown that previous estimations of the incidence of the plasma aminoacid disorders were probably inaccurate. 2.5%

of the total number of infants in the screening programme had plasma aminoacid abnormalities. Disorders of tyrosine metabolism, followed by disorders of phenylalanine metabolism represent the greatest incidence of individual abnormalities and together these represented 93% of the 2.5% incidence of all the aminoacid disorders detected.

A Seminar on The Management of Myelomeningocele was held on Saturday morning, 24 April, in the Royal Hotel, Scarborough, with Professor S. D. M. Court as Chairman. The following speakers took part: Mr. R. B. Zachary (Sheffield)—'The Ethics of Treatment'. Mr. B. McKibbin (Sheffield), by invitation—'Orthopaedic Aspects'. Mrs. B. M. Freeston (Sheffield), by invitation—'Stress in Family Life'. Dr. J. Lorber (Sheffield)—'Long-Term Results: The Indications for and the Case for Selection in Treatment'.

GEORGE FREDERIC STILL MEMORIAL LECTURE. The Lecture was delivered on 22 April by Professor Harry Harris (Galton Professor of Human Genetics)—'Genetic Heterogeneity and the "Inborn Errors of Metabolism".'

Members and guests of the Association attended a Civic Reception at the Town Hall on the evening of 22 April, by invitation of the Mayor and Corporation of Scarborough.

The Ulster Cup competition was held at the Ganton Golf Club on 23 April, and was won by Dr. R. J. Young. The U.C.H. Squash Cup competition was held at the Scarborough Lawn Tennis and Squash Club and won by Dr. K. Vernon Jones.

The Annual Dinner was held on the evening of 23 April, with His Grace the Archbishop of York as guest of honour.