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SOCIETAS PAEDIATRICA JAPONICA

founded in 1896

Acta Paediatrica Japonica 1990.

Acta Paediatrica Japonica

The Japan Pediatric Society was founded in 1896 and the society's journal *Acta Paediatrica Japonica* is now in its 32nd volume. Each issue has a size and layout very similar to the 'old style' *Archives of Disease in Childhood*. Six issues

are produced each year, and comprise between 110 and 120 pages. The October 1989 issue contained 11 original articles, six case reports, and announcements of forthcoming paediatric meetings. This issue is fairly typical of style for the journal. The standard of the original articles is extremely good, and make the readers aware of the wide range of Asian medical problems and their prevalence.

There are guest lectures published from a range of international experts and, for example, in the April 1990 issue Philip Graham, Professor of Psychiatry at the Institute of Child Health in London has produced an excellent lecture entitled 'Child Psychiatry: the Paediatrician's Contribution'.

In that same issue is a report of the 6th Asian Congress of Pediatrics Satellite Symposium on bronchial asthma. Views on asthma from Sri Lanka, Thailand, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Singapore as well as six articles from a variety of Japanese units give a range of views of the topic from the role of filariasis in bronchial asthma to the minutiae of chemical mediators in hypersensitivity reactions. A topic of major importance in Asia is hepatitis B virus infections and is described as the 'common enemy of Asia' in another satellite symposium published in the December 1989 issue of the journal. In the December 1989 issue there are short communications on mass screening for neuroblastoma, cerebrospinal fluid neurotransmitters of the newborn with neonatal asphyxia, and the effect of recombinant hepatitis B vaccine in low response children. Kawasaki disease is only one of the eponymous Japanese syndromes reported in the *Acta Paediatrica Japonica* and it is increasingly important to be aware of the disease states of Asia and to be able to recognise the same disorder or similar disorders in our own communities. As well as recognising the similarities there are interesting differences highlighted in the Japanese journal with regard to the incidence of inherited metabolic disorders.

Every university with a paediatric unit should have this leading paediatric journal available and heads of paediatric departments should be prepared to beg, borrow, or 'acquire' the 6000 yen (£22.00) for each year's subscription.

FORRESTER COCKBURN