

### **The Nail-Patella Syndrome—Information Wanted**

Dr. Sylvia D. Lawler and Dr. J. H. Renwick are anxious to extend a genetical investigation into the nail-patella syndrome, which they have recently shown to be genetically linked to the ABO blood group system (*Ann. Hum. Gen.* 1955, **19**, in press). The syndrome includes dystrophy of the nails, particularly of the thumb and index finger, absent or small patellae (frequently dislocated), dislocated elbows and iliac horns. One recent description is that of Hawkins (*Lancet* 1950, **1**, 803).

Any general practitioner who knows of a case of this syndrome might wish to help by contacting the above-named at the Galton Laboratory, University College, Gower Street, London, W.C.1.

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### **The Gregersen Slide Test**

SIR,—One of the most valuable factors in promoting an appreciation of the work the College is trying to do, is the usefulness of the information given to practitioners by practitioners in the newsletters. It was with considerable surprise therefore, that I read the report of a simple test for occult blood in stools described in *Research Newsletter No. 6* under the reference Needham and Simpson, *Quarterly Journal of Medicine* 1952, **21**, 123. The test described therein is subject in my opinion to two errors. In the first place the benzedine hydrochloride 25 mgms. and barium peroxide 200 mgms. should be dissolved in 5 ml. of 50% (glacial) acetic acid, and not as Needham and Simpson suggest in 5 ml. of (glacial) acetic acid. Secondly, this test was described originally by Gregersen (*Ugeskr. Laeg.* 1916; **78**, 697, 752, 1197, 1260). It is known universally as the Gregersen Slide Test (G.S.T.), was mentioned by A. G. Ogilvie in 1927 (*Brit. med. J.* 1927, **1**, 755), and again in 1952 (*Brit. med. J.* 1952, **2**, 1149) and also by Lipetz in 1948 (*Lancet*, 1948, **2**, 587) and 1950 (*Lancet*, 1950, **1**, 688). Lipetz in 1950 stated that he had used this test in general practice for the past twenty years. Both pay tribute to the value, simplicity, and usefulness of the Gregersen Slide Test.

It is not doubted that Drs. Needham and Simpson have done a most valuable service in describing this test and in drawing attention to its practicability and efficacy once again. It is unfortunately true that not as many practitioners appear to be cognisant of its applicability as one would hope.

Nevertheless, for the sake of maintaining a high standard of academic accuracy in the present official publication of the College, I feel it necessary to draw the attention of your readers to the Gregersen Slide Test.

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