The metabolism of the intracellular polysaccharide of *Arthrobacter* was studied in a series of enzymatic investigations. The structural properties were studied in connexion with the enzyme systems involved in synthesis and breakdown of these carbohydrates. Special attention has been paid to the properties of the branching and debranching enzymes of *Arthrobacter*. These enzymes play an important part in the completion of the branching characteristics of the thus formed polysaccharides.

Group B hemolytic streptococci and new-born infants.

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Ten cases of meningitis due to Group B hemolytic streptococci in new-born infants of 2 to 8 weeks of age, are discussed. Out of these, 2 were premature infants, one was delivered by forceps, 2 had a congenital defect (spina bifida, vitium cordis) and one suffered from severe icterus neonatorum. Five infants died, and in 5 cases the course of the illness was complicated by hydrocephalus.

From the literature it is known that 5 to 10% of the women examined during the puerperal period carry Group B hemolytic streptococci in the vagina. In order to investigate the possibility of contamination of the infant during the passage through the genital tract, swabs were taken from the heads of 100 children during the expulsion of the skull. In 7 of these, Group B streptococci were isolated from the head.

252 Infants were investigated on the eighth day after birth: 21 of them carried Group B hemolytic streptococci in the throat, in the nose, or on the umbilicus. Cultures were typed according to the Lancefield precipitation method: 8 strains Type Ia, 3 strains Type Ib, 6 strains Type II, and 4 strains Type III.

From 13 mothers of the 21 positive infants, Group B hemolytic streptococci were isolated out of the throat or from the nipples. In all cases the strain isolated from the mother was the same type as that isolated from her child.

All but one of the discussed 10 new-born infants with meningitis due to Group B hemolytic streptococci, had Type Ia. This observations seems to be of some interest, because Type Ia does not exceed 50% in carriers of Group B hemolytic streptococci.

The typing of the streptococci was carried out at the Streptococcus Department, National Institute of Public Health, Utrecht (Dr. C. E. de Moor).

ERRATA

VAN DER WALT, J. P. 1965. *Saccharomyces inusitatus* sp.n. *Antonie van Leeuwenhoek* **31**: 277-281.

Page	Line	For	Read
278	16	(CBS-538)	(CBS-1538)
	34	CBS-5148	CBS-5184