

JOINT MEETING

ENGLISH SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF FERTILITY

SOCIÉTÉ FRANÇAISE POUR L'ÉTUDE DE LA STÉRILITÉ ET DE LA FÉCONDITÉ

TOURS, NOUZILLY, 24-26 MARS 1975

ABSTRACTS

OVAIRE ET ŒUF

MIGRATORY PHASE OF GERM CELLS AND SEXUAL DIFFERENTIATION OF THE GONAD IN SHEEP EMBRYO. — P. MAULÉON. *I. N. R. A., Nouzilly (France)*.

The migratory intragonadal pathway of the germ cells followed by selective phosphatase cytoplasmic affinity clarifies and allows for an earlier identification of the sex gonads.

Three periods are distinguished and the time defined : hind-gut, mesentery and settlement stages at 17-18-19 days, 20-21-22 days, 23 to 29 days of age respectively.

At 32 days, the gonadal locations of the germ cells change with sex :

- the presumed male : a marked decrease of germ cells in the peripheral zone and those centrally disposed increasing in numbers ; interstitial tissue organization around clear cords,
- the presumed female : a marked increase of germ cells in the cortex and medullary compact cords with a high phosphatase activity.

A differential migratory pattern of the germ cells into the gonad resembles primary sex differentiation.

AN ATTEMPT TO DEMONSTRATE HYDROXYSTEROID-DEHYDROGENASE ENZYMES IN THE RAT OVARY AT THE ELECTRON-MICROSCOPICAL LEVEL. — A. SAMUEL. *University of Cambridge (G. B.)*.

Ovaries from rats between 10 and 18 days pregnant were fixed for 1 hr in 1 p. 100 glutaraldehyde : 4 p. 100 formaldehyde in 0.1 M *tris*/HCl buffer (pH 7.4). 150 μ frozen sections were incubated with either DHA, oestrone, testosterone or 20 α -dihydroprogesterone and NAD in