Eleven cases of hereditary nephritis were studied for cardiac abnormalities by means of ECG and BCG. With the exception of two cases no significant abnormalities were demonstrable, which indicates that this genetically transmitted process generally leaves the heart unaffected. It is thus to be expected that intermittent haemodialysis, as far as the heart is concerned, will be well tolerated by these patients.

To the best of our knowledge the state of the heart in hereditary nephritis has received little attention thus far. The question whether this genetically determined process affecting the kidney and the auditory organ [1, 2, 3, 4, 5] also involves the heart has still remained unanswered.

**Material and method**

Eleven patients with hereditary nephritis were studied for cardiac abnormalities by means of ECG and BCG. There were 7 males, and 4 females, age ranging between 13 and 46 years. The mode of inheritance could be traced in the case of five families (Figs 1 to 5). It is to be noted that in family No. 5 the parents were healthy and had an only male child. In this case Alport's syndrome was found in association with tapetoretinal degeneration and complete atrioventricular block.

![Fig. 1. Mode of inheritance in Family 1](image)
The 12-lead ECG was recorded with an Elema Mingograph Type 42 and with a Biocomb-5 apparatus. For ballistocardiography a Bodrogi direct acceleration apparatus and a Schwarczer–Klensch ultra-low frequency, critically controlled.