

have no thyroid-depressing effect, although it has some anti-inflammatory action and is said to be a powerful uricosuric agent.

T. D. Kellock.

**Phenylbutazone. Effects of its Administration for Prolonged Periods.** KUZELL, W. C., SCHAFFARZICK, R. W., NAUGLER, W. E., and CHAMPLIN, B. M. (1957). *New Engl. J. Med.*, **256**, 388. 3 refs.

At Stanford University School of Medicine, San Francisco, the effects of prolonged administration of phenylbutazone were studied in one hundred patients—sixty with rheumatoid arthritis, 23 with ankylosing spondylitis, four with arthritis and psoriasis, and thirteen with mixed arthritis. The daily dose of the drug ranged from 100 to 600 mg., but most patients received 300 to 400 mg. daily, and the duration of the treatment varied from 12 months to 4½ years.

Initially there was a Grade-I response (complete remission) or a Grade-II response (major improvement) in 91 patients; the initial response in the remaining nine was Grade III (minor improvement). The original favourable response was maintained throughout the period of treatment in ninety patients. Toxic effects included rash (three cases), stomatitis (five), dyspepsia (fifteen), vertigo (two), transitory visual blurring (two), purpura (two), and agranulocytosis (two). Administration of the drug was successfully resumed later in all these patients. One patient died from haemorrhage from a duodenal ulcer.

Laboratory examination at the end of the period of

study did not reveal any abnormality of the blood cells or any evidence of hepatic damage.

C. E. Quin.

**Use of  $\alpha$ -Chymotrypsin applied locally in Certain Rheumatic Conditions.** (Emploi de l'alpha chymotrypsine en application locale dans quelques processus rhumatismaux.) SOLA, L. S., VALDECASAS, F. G., MUSET, P. P., and BARCELO, P. (1957). *Thérapie*, **12**, 194.

The pancreatic enzyme trypsin is said to have an anti-inflammatory action. From the University of Barcelona the results are reported of the treatment of scapulo-humeral peri-arthritis by periarticular injections of a similar proteolytic ferment,  $\alpha$ -chymotrypsin, which has the advantage that it can be used in aqueous solution and causes far less local pain than an oily suspension of trypsin. In the fourteen patients treated, ten with acute or subacute and four with a chronic condition, the periarticular tissues were infiltrated with 5 mg.  $\alpha$ -chymotrypsin dissolved in 10 ml. sterile normal saline, treatment being given on alternate days for 2 weeks, and then less frequently according to the degree of improvement.

The results are considered to be superior to those of any other treatment in current use. The first injection brought prompt relief of pain in most of the acute cases, and the range of movement at the shoulder quickly increased. Almost complete cure, with only a slight painless limitation of rotation remaining, was achieved with from eleven to nineteen injections. Remedial exercises were also employed.

Kenneth Stone.

### CORRIGENDA

Volume 16, p. 318

#### RELATION OF HIGH MOLECULAR WEIGHT PROTEINS TO THE SEROLOGICAL REACTIONS IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

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It is regretted that the two parts of Fig. 3, page 318, column 2, were accidentally transposed. The Figure should appear as follows:

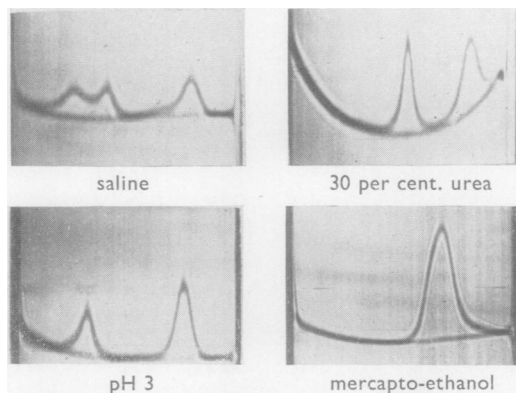


Fig. 3.—Ultracentrifugal patterns of the euglobulin fractions prepared from the serum of a patient with rheumatoid arthritis dissolved in 5 per cent. saline, acid pH 3, urea, and mercapto-ethanol. The dissociation of the 22S peak in acid and urea is accompanied by an increase in the amount of 7S and 19S material. The mercapto-ethanol caused a loss of both 19S and 22S material.