

as aspirin. This is certainly not the experience of physicians in Britain. The difference in action of these two drugs is well illustrated by the fact that the erythema and oedema produced by the application to the skin of a preparation containing an ester of nicotinic acid are largely inhibited by the administration of 600 mg. aspirin one hour before the treatment of the skin, whereas the administration of an equivalent dose of sodium salicylate is without effect. However, in outlining the regime of treatment, the author of this section recommends aspirin as the drug of choice.

The anaemia almost invariably present in cases of active rheumatoid arthritis is stated to be resistant to the administration of iron by mouth and it is recommended that when the anaemia is marked blood transfusion should be used. No mention is made of the use of preparations of iron suitable for administration by the intravenous or intramuscular routes.

In a description of the side-effects of Indomethacin, no mention is made of depression which can be a very troublesome feature in the long-term use of this drug.

The application of splints is recommended in the treatment of painful joints, but it is emphasized that they should be removed once in 24 hours for movement and exercise.

This statement perpetuates the myth that total immobilization for more than 24 hours leads to loss of movement. In the reviewer's experience continuous immobilization of painful joints for as long as 3 weeks or a month is of the utmost benefit in reducing pain and swelling and does not lead to a significant loss of movement. Serial plasters are recommended for the correction of flexion deformities but again it is emphasized that it is necessary to remove them every 24 hours. This would largely defeat the use of this method.

In the two sections devoted to the physical methods of treatment and orthopaedic management, there are quite marked differences in the methods used which is not surprising but may lead to some confusion in the minds of those who use this textbook as a source of authoritative information.

These are relatively minor criticisms of what is undoubtedly the most up-to-date and comprehensive volume on arthritis and allied conditions. It is handsomely produced and, although expensive, should find a place in the library of every hospital in which there is a unit concerned with the treatment of musculo-skeletal disorders.

J. J. R. DUTHIE

## Notes

### VII World Congress on Occupational Safety and Health

*Dublin, May 20-25, 1974*

The seventh congress will include discussions of such diverse topics as safety in machinery construction, planning in building and civil engineering, agriculture and forestry, noise, and mechanical vibration. The agenda will also feature the general problems of safety and health in the industrial society which are relevant to the field of rheumatic diseases.

Further information may be obtained from the World Congress Secretary, Ansley House, Dublin 4, Ireland.

### I European Congress on Thermography

*Amsterdam, June 17-20, 1974*

This congress will cover various aspects of thermography, including its clinical applications in the rheumatic diseases. For further information write to: The Congress Secretariat, 1st European Congress on Thermography, Organisatie Bureau Amsterdam N.V., P.O. Box 7205, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

### VI Pan-American Congress on Rheumatic Diseases

*Toronto, Canada, June 16-21, 1974*

This congress is sponsored by the Canadian Rheumatism Association under the auspices of the Pan-American League against Rheumatism.

For further information write to the Congress Secretariat, 45 Charles St. E, Toronto 285, Ontario, Canada.