

tive latex test, and possession of the tissue antigen HLA-DR4, as in the case reported here, make the progression to RA more likely.<sup>9</sup> In this palindromic form extra-articular features, apart from transient nodules, are rare.<sup>1</sup>

Felty's syndrome consists of the triad of RA, splenomegaly, and neutropenia, but splenomegaly and neutropenia may occur before the arthritis.<sup>10-12</sup> There is a strong association with the tissue type HLA-DR4, which has been reported to occur in 95% of cases.<sup>13</sup>

The association of palindromic rheumatism with features typical of Felty's syndrome has not to the best of our knowledge been previously reported. Pathogenic explanation for the coexistence of these two disorders can only be a matter of speculation. Thompson *et al.*<sup>14</sup> found raised immune complexes predominantly in patients with palindromic rheumatism who had positive rheumatoid factor tests. It is known that immune complexes adhere to and are phagocytosed by neutrophils, and it has been proposed that immune complex laden cells are more likely to become sequestered in the spleen,<sup>15</sup> thereby leading to neutropenia.

RA is known to be a systemic disease with many clinical manifestations which may present in an apparently random order. Accordingly it is to be expected that occasional patients will be seen in whom palindromic rheumatism and Felty's syndrome coexist.

We thank Dr G Storey for permission to report a case under his care and Dr A Newland for reporting the bone marrow.

#### References

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## Notes

### Postgraduate nursing course

A four-week full-time course on nursing care and rehabilitation of patients with rheumatic diseases will be held at the Royal Bath Hospital, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, from 21 October to 15 November 1985. The course fee is £135. Twelve places will be available. Details from Mr A G Brown, Senior Nursing Tutor, Continuing Education, Harrogate School of Nursing, Scotton Banks Hospital, Ripley Road, Knaresborough, North Yorkshire HG5 9HD.

### Metro A Ogryzlo International Fellowship

The sixth Ogryzlo Fellowship, which carries a stipend of US \$22 000 per year, will be awarded for training in rheumatology at a Canadian Rheumatic Disease Unit for the 12 months commencing 1 July 1986. Details from The Arthritis Society, 250 Bloor Street East, Suite 401, Toronto, Ontario M4W 3P2, Canada, to whom applications must be submitted by 15 October 1985.