

because of toxicity to the lung or bone marrow are not common, but in this elderly woman severe pleuritis developed with a pulmonary infiltrate and pancytopenia. Sadly the outcome was fatal and the infecting organism proved to be *Nocardia asteroides*. This is a difficult organism to culture from sputum, and lung biopsy may be necessary to recover and identify it.

**Sjögren's syndrome, meningitis, and sulphasalazine** p 645  
Aseptic meningitis occurred twice in this patient with Sjögren's syndrome and polyarthritis. It seemed to be due to a hypersensitivity reaction to the drug, though neurotoxicity is a rarely reported complication of its use. Not surprisingly this reaction to the drug caused some diagnostic confusion, but the outcome was successful and she was none the worse for it.

#### RAPID REPORT

**Eosinophilic fasciitis in childhood** p 647  
An adolescent boy developed a seronegative polyarthritis after an influenza-like illness and then went on to show evidence of eosinophilic fasciitis. He had a selective IgA deficiency and required corticosteroid treatment to bring it under control. In childhood eosinophilic fasciitis is commoner in girls than boys with increased muscle involvement but has a better prognosis than in adults.

#### DISPATCH

**From Yugoslavia** p 649  
This is from that troubled country Yugoslavia this time. Rheumatology has a respectable history there and is clearly alive and well and Yugoslavian rheumatologists take an

active role both nationally and internationally. Their oldest spa in Varaždinske Toplice dates back to Roman times like Bath in the United Kingdom. The education of arthritic patients has an important role: not just doctors are encouraged to learn about the subject.

#### NOW AND THEN

**The fuller life for the arthritic patient** p 651  
Arthritic patients have much to complain about. New city arrangements often do not take their particular problems into sufficient account and developments in public transport for their benefit are often patchy. They deserve the best consideration that we can give them so that they are enabled to lead the fullest lives of which they are capable. A properly recessed pavement edge or the provision of a disabled parking bay may not be so glamorous as the recognition of a new autoantibody but dare I suggest that to the individual patient with arthritis it may be just as important?

#### REVIEW

**Juvenile chronic arthritis, iridocyclitis, and histones** p 653  
We know that autoimmune diseases of rheumatology in children and adults are different and their laboratory features are not the same. Histones are basic DNA binding proteins and antibodies in them may occur in juvenile chronic arthritis. The complication of chronic iridocyclitis is probably genetically linked and is uncommon if juvenile chronic arthritis begins after the age of 5 years. Production of antibodies to histones may be a further characteristic of this.

EDITOR

#### ANNOUNCEMENT

Owing to the large number of good papers received recently and to reduce the time between acceptance and publication the *Annals* will be increasing its size from next month for as long as is necessary.