

to the pharmacopoea and a preparation worthy of further study.

### Summary

A new compound tablet containing 50 mg. phenylbutazone and 500 mg. paracetamol was evaluated in 125 patients with musculoskeletal pain. Satisfactory analgesia at an unusually low dose-level was attained in 75 per cent. Side-effects, mainly of a minor degree insufficient to interrupt treatment were encountered in 15 per cent. The new preparation is held to be rational, a useful therapeutic tool and worthy of further more formal study.

### Acknowledgements

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## **HOSPITAL PRACTICE**

### **THE GENERAL PRACTITIONER BED UNIT, EAST BIRMINGHAM HOSPITAL**

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THIS UNIT WAS OPENED IN September 1964 and is unique in that it is the first ward opened within the bounds of a general hospital, in an urban area, for the sole use of general practitioners. The ward (Beauchamp Ward) is in two halves, consisting of six male and female beds.

During the first year 36 doctors admitted patients. The number varied per doctor from one to 30. Two hundred and eight patients were admitted during this time.

Special investigations and treatment included x-ray, pathology, ECG, J. COLL. GEN. PRACTIT., 1966, **11**, 348

dietician and almoner. Contrast media x-ray and physiotherapy are not yet available. Opinions of consultants were sought on 38 occasions. These consultations were particularly valuable, compared with domiciliary practice, owing to the availability of special investigations at the time of consultation.

Types of cases varied considerably and included the following:

<i>C.V.S.</i>	Congestive cardiac failure, hypertension, coronary thrombosis, pernicious and aplastic anaemia, pulmonary embolism.
<i>Respiratory</i>	Pneumonia, bronchitis, asthma, pneumothorax.
<i>Dermatology</i>	Eczema, psoriasis, dermatitis, varicose ulceration.
<i>Alimentary</i>	Peptic ulceration, haemorrhoids, haematemesis and melaena.
<i>Metabolic</i>	Diabetes, obesity, Addison's disease.
<i>Skeletal</i>	Prolapsed disc, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, paraplegia.
<i>C.N.S.</i>	Hemiplegia, cerebrovascular accidents.
<i>Malignant</i>	Carcinoma of stomach and bronchus, reticulosis, carcinomatosis.

There are two main advantages from the use of this unit. Firstly the adequate nursing care, and secondly the access to special investigations. Many patients are referred to hospital purely for these purposes. The general practitioner is able to provide continuous care without having to hand over clinical responsibility, a factor greatly appreciated by both patient and doctor. There is little doubt that this factor will improve the clinical ability of the general practitioner using the unit.

Several doctors who have not yet used the unit have had difficulty in selecting a suitable case. This difficulty, no doubt, relates to the inability to select a suitable 'cold' case for admission several weeks ahead. The unit appears to be ideal for the acute medical case. In order to admit a patient the ward sister is contacted directly. If a bed is not immediately available a short waiting list is kept and admission usually takes place within a few days.

A product of the unit has been the purchase of an ECG machine from money available from bed occupancy fees. The doctors using the unit feel that it is a great success and will go a long way towards upgrading the status of general practice.

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