

In several recent instances a doctor has reported an ill effect of a drug upon a patient which had not been previously emphasized; for example one doctor reported that a patient had suffered quite considerable inflammation of the eyes by accidentally getting "Eurax" (Crotamiton) lotion on the lids. The manufacturers are going to amend their caution notice. It is also gratifying to report that four drug manufacturers have offered, and have begun, to exchange with the College information which they have about drug toxicity.

Doctors are reminded that the information required for registration is about *unexpected* or previously unreported toxicity. Reports about patients who have suffered from well-known side effects, such as urticaria with penicillin or jaundice after chlorpromazine, are not at present required.

Unofficial consultations have begun about ways in which the College might ultimately help to develop a national study of drug toxicity.

A selection of recent reports

A. *Anti-emetic and sedative drugs used in pregnancies which ended in congenital deformities.*

Ancoloxin 25, ancolan 4, vibazine 4, three each about mornidine (1 mongol), avomine, pyridoxine and S/1625, two each about fentazine, stemetil, largactil, cyclizine, phenergan, pethidine and codein (1 mongol), and one each about seven other drugs.

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| B. Eurax on eyelids | severe conjunctival inflammation | |
| Plaquenil and Avoclar | "actinic dermatitis" | |
| Bendrofluazide | "skin became light sensitive" | } same patient |
| Chlorothiazide | | |
| Ledermycin | "photosensitisation of skin" | |

All doctors in the College are invited to use the notification form at the end of this *Journal* to report examples of unexpected toxicity which they may encounter after using new or well-established drugs.

Correspondence

Measles and its treatment by Antibiotics in General Practice

Sir,

In the November issue of the *Journal*, Drs Heyworth and Markus report that in children with measles who were given full-doses (amounts not stated) of antibiotics (names not stated) 13.2 per cent of them (ages not stated) developed complications. They conclude that their results suggest that the use of antibiotics may reduce the incidence of complications in measles.

It would be helpful if Drs Heyworth and Markus gave the evidence for this conclusion. No such evidence appears in their report.

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