

year, next year . . . ?

Congenital abnormalities report

There are still some copies to be obtained on application to the director of the unit, Corran, Peaslake, Surrey.

Extra notification pads

Will anyone who could make use of such a pad and has not yet received one, please mark accordingly the notification form No. 26 at the end of this *Journal*.

Register of unexpected toxicity

The following reports have been received since the last issue of the *Journal*:

Aldomet (3 cases)	(a) well-marked fever
		(b) nausea, diarrhoea, dyspnoea and back-ache
		(c) pyrexia
Aventyl	jaundice
Salazopyrin	aplastic anaemia
Thiacetazone	macular rash, conjunctivitis, and stomatitis

RESEARCH PROJECTS

GEOLOGY AND MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

The observation that cases of multiple sclerosis (disseminated sclerosis) etc. seldom occur singly, and that quite commonly clusters of cases may be found in circumscribed localities, is not new. Localities in which a high prevalence of multiple sclerosis, or other less precisely definable central nervous system disorders occurs, have been found in Norway, Sweden, the Outer Hebrides, Cornwall, and elsewhere.

Clearly the more localized the areas of high prevalence of multiple sclerosis that we find the more effectively can studies of soil chemistry be made, and the more accurately can distribution maps be prepared to demonstrate geological associations. Indications of where "high prevalence areas" are to be found may come from general practice.

The National Morbidity Survey showed that in England and Wales there were 0.6 cases per thousand persons. Members and associates of the College who suspect that the number of patients with multiple sclerosis in their practices is unduly high, or have knowledge of its frequent occurrence, are asked to notify the College Research Department on the *pro forma* at the end of this issue of the *Journal*.

This is not a census, and we do not expect to do more than identify areas of special prevalence. We are equally interested to find areas in which the condition is relatively uncommon. If we can do this with your help then geological and geochemical studies could follow, with both economy and some prospects of success.

This inquiry is not linked to that noticed on the following page.