

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.

COLLEGE ACCOMMODATION

There are four double and four single rooms on the top floor and two flats and two flatlets on the third floor of 14 Princes Gate, London, S.W.7. One flat is allocated to the president.

The flats and flatlets have their own private bathrooms and toilets and in addition there are three bathrooms on the top floor.

Double rooms (if shared) 30s. 0d. each per night including breakfast

Single rooms 35s. 0d. per night including breakfast

Large flat £25 per week excluding breakfast

Flatlets £25 per week or £4 per night including breakfast

Changing facilities 10s. 0d.

The College has a club licence and members may purchase drinks. Subject to prior notice breakfast can be provided at a charge of 5s. 0d.