

**: : GENERAL ARTICLES : :****ASPIRIN AND CORTISONE**

The second report by the Joint Committee of the Medical Research Council and Nuffield Foundation on clinical trials of cortisone, ACTH and other therapeutic measures in chronic rheumatic diseases appeared in the September 17, 1955 issue of the B.M.J. In their first report, over a year ago, the text concluded, "there appears to have been surprisingly little to choose between cortisone and aspirin in early stages of rheumatoid arthritis". Probably to the disappointment of the presses the second report concludes in an identical manner.

**WHO?**

A writer in a medical journal recalls reading the advertisement of a landlady at the Edinburgh Students' Union—"Room for two gentlemen, NOT medical students, the last two broke all the furniture." There is no mention of students breaking up the neighborhood!

**PHYSICIANS IN CANADA**

The Research Division of the Department of National Health and Welfare has issued the sixth edition of the Survey of Physicians in Canada as at June 1954. It discloses an increase of almost 12 percent in the number of doctors in Canada since June 1951. It also relates that although the total

number of active doctors in Canada has risen from approximately 5,500 in 1901 to 16,031 in 1954, there has been little change in the physician to population ratio. Data has shown a variation in the physician-population ratio between a low of 968 to a high of 1,034 over census years 1901 to 1941 inclusive. The ratio in 1954 stood at 948 persons per physician.

**A NEW DISEASE**

A classmate commented to the editor that he is considering jumping on the "new diseases bandwagon" and advancing a disorder, "not uncommon amongst our student female colleagues, particularly during the stresses of a clinic". He terms the disorder "Wrigley's Syndrome, characterized by hypertrophied masseters, a toothy smile and bilateral, double minturia".

**BRITISH VIEWS ON  
SALK VACCINE**

Because of its reluctance to start a widespread manufacturing and distributing of the Salk polio vaccine, the British Government faced a great amount of criticism initially, and it is said that, in general, widely divergent views were held by American and British doctors at the conjoint annual meeting of the Canadian and British Medical Associations at Toronto this year. Recently it has been published that British medical heads consider the vaccine to be still unsafe.