

tension, menstrual pain, problems of the menopause, and a host of other conditions.

In the United States, physicians are warned of the possibility of many side-effects, especially thromboembolic changes that can lead to serious or fatal blood clots.

In Latin America, for all the products studied here, the risk of thromboembolic changes is ignored. No adverse reactions of any kind are given for the Searle product in Ecuador, Colombia, or Brazil, for the Parke-Davis product in Central America, and for the Wyeth product in Ecuador, Colombia, or Brazil.

Mr. GORDON. I might remind you that the labeling in the United States says that one out of every 2,000 women who take the oral contraceptives is hospitalized because of blood clots. That statement is not used in foreign countries?

Dr. SILVERMAN. To my knowledge, Mr. Gordon, this is not made known to Latin American physicians.

ANTI-ARTHRITICS

For Ciba-Geigy's anti-arthritis drugs Butazolidin and Tandearil, only a few indications for use are approved in the United States but many in Mexico, Central America, Colombia, and Ecuador. In contrast, the warnings are numerous in this country but few in Latin America.

No adverse reactions of any kind are disclosed for McKesson's competitive brands in Central America, Colombia, or Ecuador.

United States physicians are cautioned against the use of such drugs for prolonged periods. The result may be serious or fatal adverse reactions. A somewhat similar warning is given in Mexico, but the matter is not mentioned in the other countries.

In the United States, Merck's Indocin is approved for use in four serious forms of arthritic disease. In Latin America, many other indications are recommended.

In the case of this product, it seems noteworthy that the hazards listed in the Latin American countries are approximately the same as those given in this country.

CORTICOSTEROIDS

Four widely-used corticosteroid hormones were included in our investigation—Schering's Meticorten and Celestone, Lederle's Aristocort or Ledercort, and Upjohn's Medrol. All can be of great value in the control of arthritis, asthma, and a variety of other conditions. But all of them, especially if used for excessive periods, may cause unpleasant or deadly side-effects—a flare-up of latent tuberculosis, bone-softening and fractures of the vertebral bones, peptic ulcer with perforation and hemorrhage, psychic changes, and many others.

Few of these hazards are disclosed for Meticorten in Latin America, and none of Celestone in Central America, Colombia, Ecuador, and Brazil. For both Aristocort and Medrol, the major hazards are glossed over or given in nonspecific terms.

The promotion of another steroid hormone, Winthrop's Winstrol, offers even more striking inconsistencies. It is described to Latin