

## 15452 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

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

U.S. 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 for Celestone in Central America Colombia, Ecuador, and Brazil. For both Aristocort and Medrol, the major hazards are glossed over or given in nonspecific terms.