tissues have been involved to a lesser extent and the reactions appear to have been of the hypersensitivity type.

The size of the dose required to set up a reaction appears to vary widely, although no fatal case has been reported on a daily dose of 200mg. or less. The ages of previous fatal cases have ranged from 32 to 78. The present case is remarkable in being only 19 years and probably the youngest recorded. Bruck et al. (1954) showed that phenylbutazone remains in the blood for 10 to 21 days after the cessation of treatment and that the duration of treatment does not influence the persistence of the drug in the body. They also showed that toxicity rose sharply with blood level and that toxic effects were uncommon when the continuous dosage was 200 mg. per day or less.

An interesting feature of this case, which we have not found elsewhere described, was meningoencephalopathy with nuchal rigidity and positive Kernig's sign, with xanthochromia, rise of C.S.F. protein and pressure and red cells together with histological evidence of toxic damage to the brain.

**NEW PRODUCTS**

**Protective Coating for Plaster Casts**

A new waterproof plastic coating for sealing and glazing plaster of Paris casts is now being marketed by Camden Chemical Co. Ltd. The coating is non-toxic, and when applied to the cast not only forms a skin but soaks into the plaster and strengthens the surface sufficiently to prevent it crumbling away. The product, which has been developed by The Plastic Coating Research Company, of Camberley, Surrey, is called 'Plastalac'.

**Anxiety Suppressor**

Benvil is said to stabilize the emotional circuits of the brain at sub-cortical levels, producing a specific anti-anxiety effect that relaxes tension, calms agitation and restores well-being in the moody dejected patient.

**Antidepressant**

May & Baker have issued a usefully-sized and well-produced booklet giving all relevant information about their product 'Surmontil'. It is noted that Surmontil is indicated for empirical use in patients suffering from all forms of depressive illness including endogenous, involutional, organic, neurotic and reactive depression, particularly when these are associated with anxiety or agitation or both.

**SUMMARY**

A fatal case of phenylbutazone toxicity is described in which the main manifestation was toxic hepatitis and believed to be the sixth such case reported. The literature is briefly reviewed.

**Acknowledgements**

We wish to thank Dr. C. A. St. Hill for his post mortem report and Dr. P. H. Buxton for his neuro-histological report and also Miss Irene Ellis for invaluable secretarial work.

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**Psychotropic Agent**

Under the product name 'Serenace', a new psychotropic agent, chemically described as a substituted butyrophenone, is now being marketed by G. D. Searle & Co. Available as drops or tablets for oral use and in ampoules for parenteral administration, Serenace is indicated in the management of schizophrenia, particularly paranoid and catatonic varieties, and those patients with delusions and agitations. It is also useful in the control of similar symptoms in patients with acute mania and other psychotic disorders.

**Short-acting anaesthetic**

Under the name 'Epontol' a new short-acting anaesthetic for minor surgery and similar procedures is now being marketed in this country by F. B. A. Pharmaceuticals Ltd. A film about this product was reviewed in our June issue.