which appears to be a picornavirus is inhibited by 5-iodo-deoxyuridine.

Thus far, Crohn’s disease has been treated by corticosteroids, azathioprine, metronidazole and surgery, and it seems likely that all of these measures may be of value in individual circumstances, for the virus may be acting in an impoverished soil, which mounts a defective acute inflammatory response (Segal & Loewi, 1976). If there is confirmation that it is basically a picorna enteritis then it is necessary to combine immunosuppression and immunostimulation with antiviral chemotherapy. Combined chemotherapy might not only limit spread of the disease but also save considerable human suffering.

It is gratifying that Burrill Crohn, an alert nonagenarian born in 1884, is still able to enjoy the latest twist in the aetiological saga, which have included tuberculosis of the bowel, bacterial contamination, lymphatic obstruction by dentifrice powder, depression of cell-mediated immunity, toxic lysosomal enzymes from autologous macrophages, neutrophil dysfunction, and now invasion by a picorna virus.

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References


10th International Congress of Chemotherapy
I recently visited Professor Walter Siegenthaler in Zurich for a preview of the 10th International Congress planned to be held from 18 to 23 September 1977. In London in 1975, those involved in planning the Congress felt satisfied they had provided a meeting up to high scientific standards and providing a forum for a wide variety of opinions on chemotherapy from a wide variety of lands. There is no doubt Zurich will also be of high scientific merit with sessions planned to cover many of the current problems in chemotherapy. The facilities and lecture rooms are much more compactly arranged than was possible to provide in London which should make room-hopping an easy task. The deadline for abstracts is 1 May and those who have already completed the first form will receive their abstract forms soon. Those who have not yet asked for the forms can obtain them either directly from the Secretary to the Congress, Dr R. Luthy, Department of Medicine, University of Zurich, CH-8091 Zurich, Switzerland, or by contacting me at the London Hospital Medical College.

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