

study worked in various South London hospitals and in many different branches of nursing; none was aware of having had any contact with the others in the group.

Although nurses are more likely to have routine chest radiographs than the general population, none of those in this study presented in this way. Easier access to medical care or increased awareness of symptoms, it could be argued, might lead nurses to seek help more readily than others. Review of the cases, however, shows that all had substantial symptoms that would not have been tolerated by individuals in the general population.

This report and the observations in the Isle of Man study suggest that hospital workers and particularly nurses are

more susceptible to sarcoidosis than other occupational groups. Further investigation of this phenomenon may help to elucidate the aetiology of the condition.

References

- 1 Parkes SA, Baker SB de C, Bourdillon RE, Murray CRH, Rakshit M. Epidemiology of sarcoidosis in the Isle of Man—1: A case controlled study. *Thorax* 1987;**42**:420–6.
- 2 Hills SE, Parkes SA, Baker SB de C. Epidemiology of sarcoidosis in the Isle of Man—2: Evidence for space-time clustering. *Thorax* 1987;**42**:427–30.
- 3 Edmondstone WM, Wilson AG. Sarcoidosis in caucasians, blacks and Asians in London. *Br J Dis Chest* 1985;**79**:27–36.

Notices

Lung pathology course

A course on lung pathology will be held at the Brompton Hospital, London, on 18–20 July 1988. It is designed primarily for pathologists but should also prove suitable for others interested in pulmonary disease. There will be a common core of lectures, but the practical sessions will differ for pathologists and others. For the latter a television linked microscope will be used to demonstrate unequivocal examples of common and unusual lesions, whereas practical sessions for pathologists will consist of examining sections from a large collection of rare or problem cases, the salient histological features of which are documented. Further details may be obtained from the Postgraduate Secretary, Cardiothoracic Institute, London SW3 6HP (01-351 8003).

Symposium on occupational lung disease

Chicago Lung Association's third annual national research symposium, to be held on 27 and 28 October 1988 in Chicago, will provide a forum for exchanging ideas and sharing information on occupational lung disease, with sessions on mechanisms of cellular response to inhaled substances, acute and chronic pulmonary reactions, epidemiology, workplace-environment interactions, and clinical and radiological studies. Abstracts should address issues related to this theme and be submitted by 1 June to Dr David Cugell, Chicago Lung Association, 1440 W Washington Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60607, USA (original abstract, in American Thoracic Society format, with two copies).

Symposium on magnetic resonance imaging

The second annual symposium on magnetic resonance imaging will be held at the Ritz-Carleton Resort Hotel in Laguna Niguel, California, on 28–31 July 1988. The course director is Dr Michael Brant-Zawadyki. The course is designed to update the clinician and radiologist on the current use of magnetic resonance imaging and introduce newer applications. The registration fee for the course is \$395 for physicians and \$250 for residents. Further information from Dawne Ryals, Ryals and Associates, PO Box 920113, Norcross, GA 30092-0113, USA ((404)-641-9773).

Symposium in the practical management of patients with cystic fibrosis

A symposium entitled "Growing Points in the Practical Management of Cystic Fibrosis Patients" will be held on Friday 22 April 1988 at East Birmingham Hospital Postgraduate Medical Centre. Full details from Miss M C Wood, postgraduate secretary, East Birmingham Hospital, Birmingham B9 5ST (021 772 4311).