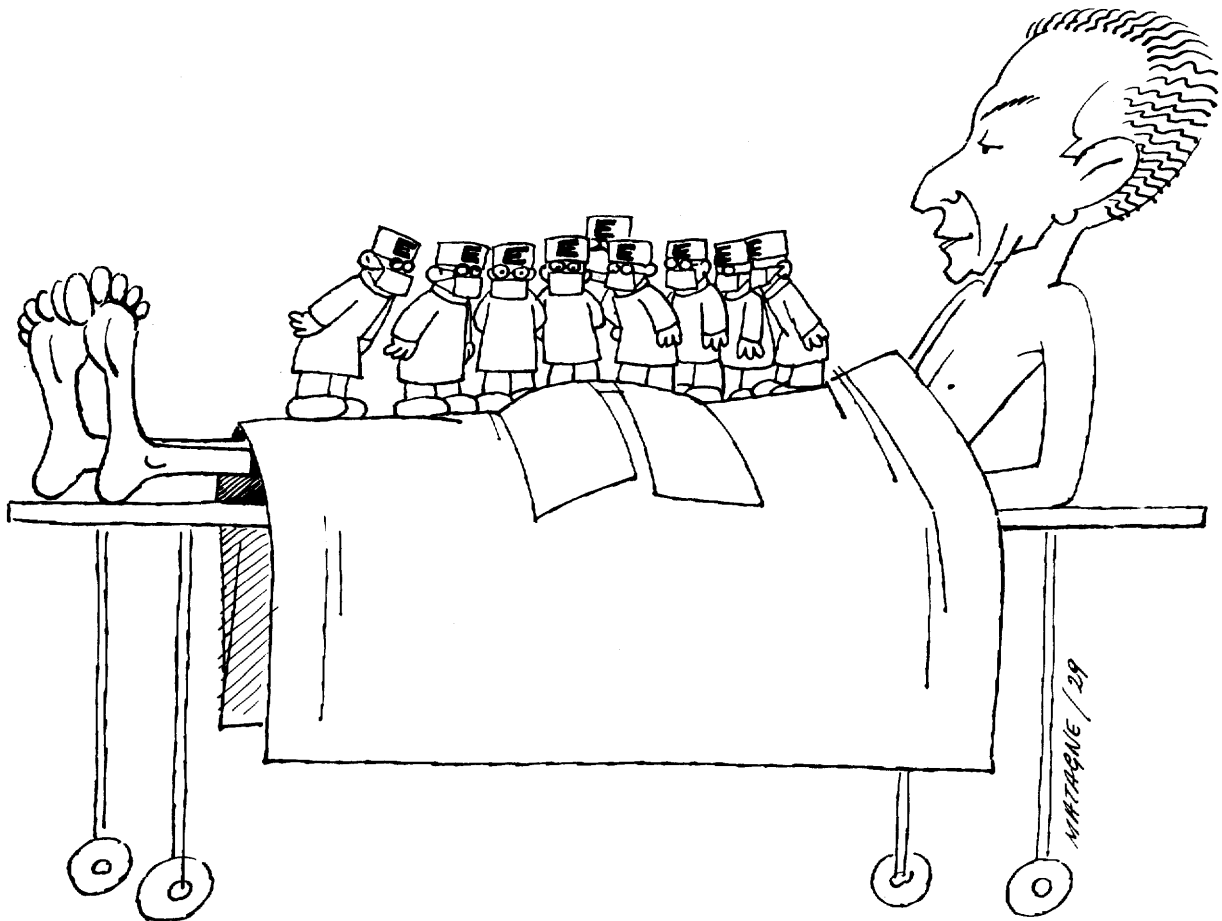


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Nine heads are better than one. The Community's first medical research programme should have a healthy future. (See page 3).

X/514/77 -

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Editor and coordinator : Jean Pirlot

++ COMMUNITY'S ENERGY

Ten million barrels of oil per day is to be the maximum level of Community oil imports in 1985.

In Annex 1, Euroforum explains the importance of this figure in the Community's energy policy.

++ NINE HEADS ARE BETTER THAN ONE

For the first time in the history of Europe, the brains and resources of the Nine's medical researchers are to be brought together in one Community research programme.

The areas of research which doctors have recommended for Community action are outlined in Annex 2.

++ WHO WORKS WHERE?

The table below shows the division of the Community's workforce by sector as it has developed between 1965 and 1975 (in %)

	<u>Agriculture</u>		<u>Industry</u>		<u>Services</u>	
	<u>1965</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1975</u>
D	10.9	7.4	49.3	46.0	39.8	46.6
F	17.7	11.3	39.3	38.6	42.9	50.0
I	26.0	15.8	40.7	44.1	33.3	40.1
NL	8.8	6.6	40.9	34.8	50.2	58.6
B	6.4	3.6	46.9	40.0	46.6	56.5
LUX	12.3	6.2	46.6	47.2	41.0	46.6
UK	3.8	2.7	46.5	40.9	49.6	56.4
IRL	32.0	24.3	27.9	30.3	40.0	45.4
DEN	14.9	9.8	37.4	31.5	47.6	58.7
EEC	13.4	8.7	44.2	41.7	42.5	49.7

++ TEXTILE IMPORTS

An average of four million tonnes of manufactured textiles and clothing are consumed in the Community every year, whilst only 3.4 million tonnes of textiles are produced by industry in the Community. Imports run at 1.5 million tonnes and exports 0.9 million tonnes. The Community's net deficit is on average 600,000 tonnes per year.

A deficit of this magnitude has a serious impact on employment. Each new deficit of 1,000 tonnes of shirts, for example, means the loss of 1,660 jobs in the Community. In response to this the European Commission has proposed that the Council of Ministers take a firm line in the negotiations which are about to begin concerning international trade in textiles.

In the Commission's view, it is necessary to slow down the growth in textile imports from supplying countries whose production costs are too low in relation to those in the Community. Also it is necessary to establish a system of surveillance and control, commencing January 1st 1978, applicable to all textile imports from all sources to prevent abuses and deflections of trade. Any further opening up of markets must be accompanied by adequate reciprocity from the Community's trading partners. States which have concluded preferential agreements with the Community will be asked to play their part in attempts to moderate the growth of textile imports.

It is high time, in the Commission's view, that some order was brought back to this troubled sector, and stability in trade reestablished. The Community, for its part, will be prepared to offer each supplying country an annual growth rate of 6% for its total exports to the Community. Benefits and concessions will thereby be equitably shared between the Community and each of the 30 countries concerned.

++ EXCHANGING YOUNG WORKERS

More than 1,300 young workers have already had the opportunity to undertake extended professional apprenticeships abroad, thanks to the European Community. As set out in article 50 of the Treaty of Rome, exchanges of young workers enable them to experience the professional life of another Community country whilst benefitting from the same wage and social advantages as young people in the host country.

Whereas the first joint exchange programme benefitted mostly young farmers, this was more due to the astuteness of the professional agricultural organisations who were quick to see the benefits for their young workers than any preference for the agricultural sector.

The young workers involved in the exchanges benefit from a wealth of new ideas and experiences and the Commission is encouraged by the spirit in which these exchanges were undertaken.

In 1978 the European Commission will be presenting a second exchange programme using the experience gained from the first. The development of such exchange schemes can only be sustained if the means at the Commission's disposal are greatly strengthened, particularly the distribution of grants, the linguistic training of apprentices, and assistance to the bodies promoting the exchanges.

++ INSTANT COFFEE

Powdered chicory and instant coffee are very practical at breakfast when one is late for the office. A little boiling water and a little powder and the job's done. The problem is, however, that the nine Community countries have different legislative regulations and administrative provisions dealing with the production and labelling of coffee and chicory extracts.

In a few months time all will be well. The Nine have just adopted a Community directive which strictly defines the composition of coffee and chicory extracts and substances which may be added during production, and sets out the precise rules for labelling. Community States now have one year in which to bring their legislation into line, and two years to give approval to the sale of products on their territory which conform to the Community directive.

++ EXCISE HARMONISATION

The European Commission has called for an immediate resumption of work in the field of excise harmonisation. Excise taxes are indirect taxes on consumption, and the rates levied and the regulations governing them vary considerably from one Community country to another. Some countries, for instance, put similar or substitutable products in different categories, thereby qualifying them for different excise rates. Also, the losses that are permitted at the production or warehousing stage differ from country to country. Such nuances do, however, favour protectionism, which the Commission is committed to counter.

The Commission takes the view that an agreement on excises on alcohol and beer can be reached by 1 May 1978, and on mineral oils by the end of 1978.

The wine problem, however is more delicate. Germany, Italy and Luxembourg do not impose excise duties on wine. And the sensitive problem is whether they should be required to implement a new tax, or whether other countries should be called upon to give up a certain amount of fiscal income.

++ HOUSING THE HANDICAPPED

Architects can be the curse of people who are handicapped. Simple activities such as moving around the house, getting to the kitchen, then to the dining room, then to the bathroom, can become major problems for disabled people, unless the place in which they live has been designed with them in mind.

The European Commission is to launch a pilot scheme to investigate the problems experienced by handicapped people and ways of assisting them where possible. In association with British organisations such as 'Crossroads Trust' and various local authorities dealing with housing and social services, assistance will be given to severely handicapped people in a number of localities.

The experience gained from this will help draw up a profile of the type of accommodation handicapped people need to help them live a normal life. It should reveal how existing accommodation can be modified, where special accommodation has to be provided, and to what extent wheel-chairs can be of help. It is hoped that practical solutions to these and other problems will be worked out with the cooperation of specialists in the field.

This pilot scheme will be allocated 240,000 units of account (1 u.a. = 1.12 US dollars approx.).

++ PLASTICS DANGER

Workers in the plastics industry must be given better protection from the effects of cancer-producing vinyl chloride monomer, the European Commission has stated with the full backing of the European Parliament. Even taking into account the preventive measures taken by the industry itself and the progress made in scientific and medical research, the Commission proposes that future industrial plants should be designed so that the maximum concentrations of VCM be reduced to three parts per million. Existing plastics installations will be given one year to bring their level down to the same 3 ppm. in conformity with the Community directive.

++ SOLIDARITY AGAINST DISASTERS

In the face of disasters such as the earthquake at Friuli, the floods in S.W. France, Torrey Canyon-type oil spillages, etc. Europe should be able to move fast and efficiently to deal with them. The European Commission has drawn up some concrete measures for the consideration of the Council of Ministers, which should enable all emergency and humanitarian aid to be better coordinated.

When there's a disaster, action has to be taken quickly. The first step in coordination is to distribute rapidly all information concerning the circumstances and needs. A virtual instantaneous inventory of action to be taken by various bodies has to be drawn up in order to distribute tasks and prevent duplication of effort. The second step is basically to ensure the coherency of the actions being taken.

In the Commission's proposal, a coordinator equipped with telex and direct telephone lines will be in contact with one person in each country who will centralise all national information concerning aids.

++ TURBINES AND COMPETITION

The European Commission has just given its approval to a joint venture set up by two producers of turbines and compressors - De Laval (USA) and Stork (Netherlands).

The two companies formed a joint venture at Hengelo, Netherlands, with the object of combining their production and marketing activities for Europe and the Middle East. Stork provide the manufacturing plant and Laval the technical know-how.

Cooperation between Stork and De Laval does, however, restrict competition in the Community's turbine and compressor industry, since the production and marketing activities of the two competitors have been merged into a single joint undertaking, thus reducing the scope of choice for European customers. The joint venture, however, is not a merger and the parent companies remain economically independent, neither one having withdrawn permanently or irreversibly from the market. The agreements between the companies contain no restrictions which are not indispensable, and do not lead to market dominance. There are, furthermore, a number of important suppliers in the market which are larger than De Laval and Stork and whose own combined market share is between 10% and 15%.

After the cooperation comes to an end, the parent companies will be able to make unrestricted use of the jointly-acquired technical know how.

**++ EUROPEAN DRIVING LICENCE**

When you move from one Community country to another, don't forget to change your driving licence with the prescribed period, or you could find yourself up in court charged with driving without a licence - even if you are a model driver.

This anachronism will, however, be abolished when the Council of Ministers agrees to the European driving licence proposed by the European Commission.

A driving licence valid for all Community countries no matter where the driver's place of residence is, has been proposed. This licence will naturally enough be limited to the prescribed category of vehicles - no opportunity for driving HGV lorries in Denmark on a British passenger vehicle licence.

There will be a period of five years following the adoption of proposals, after which any driving licence holder can obtain a Community driving licence without taking new exams or driving tests.

**++ RADIOPROTECTION PROGRESS**

Seventy researchers from fifteen countries have been meeting in Edinburgh to study the techniques and applications of analytical methods concerning chromosome disorders resulting from radiation or chemical agents.

It emerged from the meeting that important progress has been made in the laboratory. Soon it will be possible to isolate 46 human chromosomes and thereby identify the effects of various agents upon them.

The meeting was organised with support from the European Commission, the World Health Organisation and I.C.I.

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COMMUNITY'S ENERGY

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Ten million barrels per day should be the maximum level of Community oil imports by 1985 according to the European Commission's latest calculations. This figure is, moreover, the crux of the Community's energy strategy. Success in achieving this will require a change in emphasis in a number of energy sectors. Failure, however, could be both economically and politically expensive. Many Europeans remember with a certain amount of amusement the days of petrol shortage and the days when cars were virtually banished from the roads. The oil crisis, however, was real and affected the majority of people directly. The economists have still not finished analysing the impact of the crisis on the economic downturn that followed. Lest anyone need reminding, unemployment and inflation are still here to remind us of the price that is being paid for the change in the world economic order.

Energy policy directly affects economic policy and is the reason why the Community wishes to be independent also in the energy sector.

Following an examination of the latest forecasts drawn up by the nine Member States, the European Commission has just recommended that the Community's energy dependence be reduced even further by 1985. The Commission also insists that the share of oil in energy consumption also be further reduced. The 1985 target is to limit oil imports to a ceiling of 500 million toe, equivalent to 10 million barrels of oil per day at the most. A 'ton oil equivalent' (toe) is the unit of measure generally used in energy parlance.

The oil producing countries themselves consider the industrialised countries' consumption of oil wildly excessive, and many are now sufficiently rich to be able to keep their wealth, in the form of oil, under ground, thereby preventing it running out too quickly. In this they have one point in common with the industrialised consuming countries : they wish to rationalise consumption to avoid having to ration it at a future date.

Governments are in part responsible for the rational use of energy, but so are individuals. Rational use of energy should become a habit, like respect for the highway code (see Euroforum N° 10/77).

The energy situation in 1976 is presented below (in million toe) together with national forecasts for 1985.

1976 (estim.)	Production	Imports	Consumption	%
Solid fuels	184	23	207	22
Oil	22	520	542	58
Natural gas	144	12	156	16
Hydro & geothermal	25	1	26	2
Nuclear	21	-	21	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>100</b>
%	42	58	100	

1985 (Forecasts of national programmes, mid-1977)	Production	Imports	Consumption	%
Solid fuels	184	36	220	17
Oil	110-160	555-490	665-650	52-51
Natural gas	143-158	79	221-237	17-18
Hydro & Geothermal	31	4	35	3
Nuclear	140	-	140	11
<b>Total (rounded)</b>	<b>609-674</b>	<b>673-608</b>	<b>1282</b>	<b>100</b>
%	47.5-52.6	52.5-47.4	100	

For 1985, the European Commission has proposed several new objectives. Coal production, for example, should be fixed at 175 million toe (or 250 tonne coal equivalents). Electricity power stations should be encouraged to use coal rather than oil, which is equivalent to 20 million toe extra, but only as long as electricity production does not suffer any setbacks in the Member States' nuclear programmes.

The Commission wishes the Community's own production of hydrocarbons to be increased to at least 140 million toe for oil and 160 million toe for natural gas.

To save oil, the Commission has recommended that where possible natural gas should be used in its place. Gas consumption should be increased by 10-25 million toe.

#### And nuclear?

Faced with the Community's substantial dependence on external sources of energy, the Commission has come to the conclusion that nuclear energy is indispensable as a means of diversifying its sources of supply.

Accepting the usefulness of nuclear energy does not, however, mean accepting it blindly. The Commission has drawn up an

overall nuclear strategy in which safety and security problems take priority.

In addition, the Commission will be organising in the coming months a large public debate on the problems raised by the foreseeable development of nuclear energy in the Community (see Euroforum N° 28/77).

The Commission is trying to encourage a much livelier public debate on the energy supply and demand outlook. Commission proposals need to be evaluated in the light of the European situation as well as the world picture. Though the economic crisis is currently one of the hottest talking points, tomorrow's energy problems merit at least the same attention.

To make this debate more clear-cut and more valid, the statistical instruments and the experimental methods have to be improved, since they are the basis for evaluating energy needs. We need to analyse where savings can be made and what price we should be prepared to pay for such savings. The two-fold problem is to reduce wastage and yet guarantee economic growth.

The energy debate, which is dominated by the nuclear question, should not be limited to the problems of safety but should consider as well the full social and economic implications.

#### Reprocessing nuclear fuel

The uranium reserves available to the European Commission are not sufficient to cover future needs. The Community cannot afford the luxury of not using the irradiated fuel from its reactors. This used fuel can be reprocessed and recycled for use in some of the advanced reactor designs such as the fast breeder reactors.

The Commission has come to the conclusion that with the existing controls and those being developed, reprocessing can be compatible with public safety, the protection of the environment and the exclusively peaceful use of nuclear materials.

Reprocessing of irradiated fuel is itself an extremely complex chemical operation. The fuel is a mixture of reusable substances (unburnt uranium, and plutonium created by atom bombardment in the reactor) and radioactive wastes. Reprocessing enables the uranium and plutonium to be reused. Plutonium can be burnt with uranium in light water reactors but is also the basic fuel for fast breeder reactors.

Though not highly radioactive, extreme care has to be taken in handling plutonium since it is such an extremely toxic substance. It can also be used in the production of nuclear

explosives and consequently requires the strictest security measures.

By the year 2 000, the European Community will be one of the largest consumers of nuclear fuel, accounting for about one third of world demand. Currently, 80% of the uranium we use is imported. A reprocessing policy would therefore offer the Community benefits in both the medium and long term. The European Commission has therefore submitted proposals to the Council of Ministers containing the basic elements for a coherent reprocessing strategy which would involve bringing together the operators of reprocessing plants and power stations within joint undertakings.

The type of joint undertaking already catered for in the Euratom Treaty could be a useful instrument for implementing this strategy. It would enable industrial initiative to be developed but would still make them subject to strict Community control. They would also be limited in number and kept within a limited geographical area. Concentrating the reprocessing plants in regional centres would also simplify the problems of theft and sabotage.

Urgent decisions, however, have to be taken now. There are as yet no fully operative reprocessing plants and the stocks of used fuel are building up. In the Community, reprocessing capacity will stay below requirements until 1986-89 at least. Waste fuel that has been accumulated since 1975 will not be completely reprocessed until 1988 at the earliest.

#### Fast breeder reactors

Over the last twenty years more than 2 billion dollars have been invested by Community countries in fast breeder reactors, and 30% of current research and development expenditure in the energy sector is also allocated to their development.

The particular interest in fast breeder reactors arises from the basic shortage of uranium resources. World reserves are estimated at 3.5 million tons and the Community itself only has 3.5 % of world reserves. A fast breeder reactor, however, is able to extract 60 times more energy from uranium as classical thermal reactors. With the use of fast breeders, 5 000 tonnes of uranium could produce as much energy as the total oil in the North Seas (whose exploitable reserves amount to about 3 billion tonnes). It would take twenty years at least, however, to install sufficient fast breeders to be able to improve sufficiently total output from uranium.

At present several experimental reactors and prototypes have been built and put into service : Dounray Fast Reactor (UK 1963), Rapsodie (France 1967), PFR (UK 1974), Phoenix (France 1974), KNK 11 (Germany, Belgium, Netherlands 1977). A

powerful 1,200 MW power station is being built in France (Super Phoenix) and the planning of two others is already well advanced (CFR, UK and SNR2, Germany).

The Commission proposes that Member States keep open the possibility of introducing fast breeder reactors on a commercial basis by the beginning of the 1990s. It also recommends that the industrial development of the fast breeder proceed with the same vigour, and that greater effort is put into the parallel work on safety, protection against radiation, protection of the environment, not to mention security.

The Commission also proposes that the Community assists financially in achieving these aims, particularly in the field of industrial safety, codes and standards.

#### What about waste?

The strictest controls and standards need to be applied to these three areas : fuel reprocessing, fast breeder reactors and waste disposal, to ensure full protection is given to Europe's population and environment.

The disposal of nuclear waste, however, raises certain problems with regard to their radioactivity and toxicity. Long life highly radioactive waste has to be stored in safety for thousands of years. At present, nuclear wastes are produced in relatively small quantities and, up until now, storage has not presented any serious difficulties. The forecast development of the nuclear programme offers a new dimension to the problem. Nuclear waste will have to be processed and sealed in such a way that it can stand up to the most rigorous conditions in permanent storage.

Various processes for reprocessing highly active waste already exist. Sealing in glass is one of the processes with the most promising industrial application. As regards permanent storage, a number of solutions are being studied (disposal of waste in suitable geological formations) and some pilot projects have already been undertaken (experimental storage in salt formations for example).

Up until now, Community action has been essentially concentrated on research and studies to complement the work being undertaken in Member States. Waste disposal does not only give rise to technical and scientific problems; other legal, administrative and financial questions are involved, and a variety of measures are called for to ensure adequate protection of the Community's population. These considerations extend beyond national interests and call for Community action.

The action plan which the Commission has just submitted to the

Council of Ministers, covers the period 1978-1990. It proposes to fully analyse the situation facing the Community, to facilitate setting up a network of Community storage sites, to harmonise and standardise practices and policies concerning waste management, and also to periodically inform the general public on the Community's position. At the same time, the Community's research and development effort should be vigorously pursued.

The Commission takes the view that the commercial aspects are of secondary importance. The management of radioactive waste constitutes a public service.

Throughout this energy debate, the European Commission's constant aim is to bring the European Community closer to its people not only by measures which improve the day to day life, but also by opening up a democratic debate which could influence the future of the Community and move it in a direction decided by its people.

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NINE HEADS ARE BETTER THAN ONE

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Medical research is to come of age. The European Commission has proposed that, for the first time, the brains and resources of the Nine's medical researchers be brought together in one Community research programme.

Though medical research is still dominated by the personalities of pioneering individuals such as Louis Pasteur, James Alexander Fleming, Marie Curie and others, it is a sector where a great deal can be gained by cooperation at the Community level.

The 'Committee on Medical and Public Health Research' (CRM) has already undertaken a number of studies to identify which problems would most benefit from research coordinated at the Community level. Their investigations took into account factors such as the present state of knowledge, the problems in developing prevention, early diagnosis and rehabilitation techniques, and an evaluation of research requirements.

As a basis for a Community research programme, three areas have been proposed by the European Commission : the registration of congenital abnormalities (only a Community effort can ensure statistically valid results); cellular ageing and decreased functional capacity of organs (the physiological ageing process has never been given much attention); extracorporeal oxygenation (all the problems of artificial hearts and lungs).

These three projects have several factors in common : they are of interest to the Community as a whole, they are of special social and economic significance, they promise solid results within a reasonably short period and they can be carried out more effectively at Community level than national level.

Rather than become involved in major research that is already well advanced (like cancer), doctors consulted preferred to give priority to traditionally neglected sectors, as well as prevention and early diagnosis of illnesses, and rehabilitation.

Congenital abnormalities

Congenital abnormalities (inherited biochemical and chromosome abnormalities) are today recognised as one of the principal causes of still-birth, infant death and childhood disablement. However, the number of cases of congenital abnormalities occurring in any one area, or even in a single country, is not sufficient to provide useable data when studied at the national level. Only a Community effort can ensure statistically valid results.

Such a programme would commence by establishing an appropriate

network of national registers of congenital abnormalities, with the initial participation of 14 regional services from all the Member States. At a later date certain non-member countries (who already cooperate in the field of scientific\* and technical research) could be invited to participate in the research.

Monitoring the incidence and prevalence of congenital malformations and inherited biochemical and chromosome abnormalities as well as of twin and multiple pregnancies, should eventually enable sufficient research to be undertaken, so that remedial measures can be developed.

Though better knowledge of the factors responsible for the congenital abnormalities should help eliminate certain of them and reduce the frequency of others, it should be stressed, however, that not all congenital abnormalities are due solely to genetic factors. There are occasionally other contributing factors such as pharmaceutical products or toxic substances absorbed by the mother, or certain infections contracted during pregnancy.

There is also a growing need for an early warning system to recognise changing patterns of congenital abnormalities due to factors not yet identified.

#### Cellular ageing

More than 11% of the Community's population is more than 65 years old and 80% to 90% of them suffer from at least one or two chronic illnesses. The ill health of these senior Community citizens amounts to a major socio-medical problem.

Research into the biological, psychological and social problems of ageing has never received the attention it merited. Work at the Community level, however, could bring solid results in a reasonable space of time, and the doctors consulted by the European Commission have recommended a four year programme to study cellular ageing and the decreased functional capacity of organs.

Three related aspects of physiological ageing will be studied : the mechanisms underlying the age-related functional decline of, in particular, the liver; declining immunity during ageing; the ageing of the lens of the eye.

The complex functioning of the liver makes it very difficult to distinguish between cellular and extra-cellular factors in its declining effectiveness. Moreover, it is impossible to interpret liver-ageing in detail without quantitative information on the properties of the different types of cells which the liver is composed of. Research coordinated at the Community level should enable improvement in methods of analysing the various types of liver cells.

In the field of 'immunogerontology', it is proposed there should be an exchange of techniques and materials between the different European laboratories. The ageing of the lens of the



eye and its consequences has been known about for centuries. Work should now be undertaken however, to look more closely at the causes. The joint research effort proposed should provide fuller information on the various ageing mechanisms which lead to the different types of senile cataracts.

#### Extracorporeal oxygenation

Over the past two decades treatment with oxygenators - iron lungs, etc. - has been mainly focused on their short term use to provide cardiopulmonary support during surgical corrections and replacements. It is now apparent that many other cardio-pulmonary disorders could potentially be treated better if long term extracorporeal oxygenation were possible. For example, cardiac failure due to acute myocardial infarction is today the most frequent cause of physical disability in the working age group. This problem can be eased by cardiopulmonary support, and with the help of the latest techniques in coronary surgery, the full functioning of the myocardial tissue can be recovered.

Adapting the performance of oxygenation machines to the needs of the patient is today vital for successful treatment. This also involves maintaining a sufficient blood flow through the vital organs to sustain the nutrition of the organs.

In the opinion of the doctors consulted, a joint multi-disciplinary research effort will be more likely to succeed and overcome the difficulties involved, in view of the multitude of problems to be solved at different levels.

Research into extracorporeal oxygenation will be carried out in three directions : improving existing equipment, developing new oxygenation principles and developing methods for continuous control and dynamic compensation of the patient's respiratory circulatory and metabolic deficiencies.

Once the Commission's proposal has been adopted, doctors, researchers and above all patients will be able to benefit directly from the fruits of cooperation at the European level. Nine Louis Pasteurs are better than one.

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