

MEDICAL NEWS

Nation's health

A falling birthrate, smaller families, and fewer abortions are the main trends seen in the vital statistics analysed by Sir Henry Yellowlees in his CMO's report for 1974, *On the State of the Public Health* (HMSO price £1.70). The birth rate for the year of 13/1000 was an unprecedented low level, says the report, adding that "among recently married couples there is evidence of a conscious desire to postpone starting a family and space their children." However, the perinatal and infant mortality rates in Britain were still behind many of our European neighbours: lower perinatal mortality was recorded by Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, East Germany, Iceland, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Rumania, Sweden, and Switzerland.

Resignation honour



[Universal Pictorial Press]

Sir Joseph E Stone has been made a life peer in a Sir Harold Wilson's resignation honours list. He was created a knight bachelor in the dissolution honours list in 1970. Sir Joseph, who graduated from London University in 1927, is a general practitioner in North London.

Mental hospital statistics

Admissions to mental hospitals have risen progressively in the last decade, according to the DHSS publication *Psychiatric Hospitals and Units in England—Inpatient statistics from the Mental Health Enquiry for the year 1973* (HMSO price £2.95). The 1973 figure of 175 000 was 20 000 up on that in 1964. First admissions have shown a recent slight fall, while readmissions have continued to rise. The proportion of patients admitted to psychiatric units in general hospitals has risen, and now accounts for 23% of admissions.

Alcoholism shows the most marked upward trend among the diagnostic categories—the increase has averaged 12.5% a year—compensated by a decline in admissions for psychoneurosis.

Inquiry into Prescription Pricing Authority seeks evidence

An independent inquiry is being arranged into the functions, constitution, and organisation of the Prescription Pricing Authority. This inquiry was prompted, says the DHSS, by recent delays in payments to chemists and dispensing doctors.

Mr R I Tricker, director of the Oxford Centre for Management Studies, will conduct the inquiry assisted by Mr J Charlton, nominated by the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee, and Dr W G A Riddle, nominated by the British Medical Association. The

inquiry would welcome the views of individuals who wish to submit evidence, which should be sent by 16 July to the secretary, Inquiry into the Prescription Pricing Authority, Room 523, Hannibal House, Elephant and Castle, London SE1.

COMING EVENTS

International Hospital Equipment and Health Services Exhibition—Conference and exhibition, 14-17 June, Birmingham. Details from Contemporary Exhibitions Ltd, 21 Park Square East, Regent's Park, London NW1 4LH. (Tel 01-935 8235/8271/8200.)

Xth Symposium of the International Union of School and University Health and Medicine—28 June-1 July, Manchester. Details from the Conference Secretary, University of Manchester, University Student Health Service, Manchester M13 9QS. (Tel 061-273 6371-3.)

Schizophrenia Association of Great Britain—Conference on "Some biological aspects of schizophrenia," 29 June, London. Details from the honorary secretary, Mrs Gwynneth Hemmings, Schizophrenia Association of Great Britain, Llanfair Hall, Caernarvon LL55 1TT. (Tel Port Dinorwic 379.)

Xth International Congress of Psychotherapy—4-10 July, Paris. Details from Dr A-G Mathé, Secretary General, 42 Avenue Mozart, 75016 Paris, France.

Nutrition Society—Symposium on "Nutrition and growth," 8-9 July, Cambridge. Details from Dr J D Sutton, Honorary Programmes Secretary, National Institute for Research in Dairying, Shinfield, Reading RG2 9AT.

SOCIETIES AND LECTURES

For attending lectures marked * a fee is charged or a ticket is required. Applications should be made first to the institution concerned.

Monday, 7 June

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY—4.30 pm, Mr R C G Russell: Some surgical aspects of skin disease—2 Surgical management of melanomas, squamous epithelioma, basal cell carcinoma, etc.

Tuesday, 8 June

INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGY—5.30 pm, Dr W N Kelley (USA): The Lesch-Nyman syndrome—recent developments.

Wednesday, 9 June

INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY—5.30 pm, Dr A D Isaacs: Psychiatry in an ageing society.
ROYAL COLLEGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS—At Royal Society of Medicine, 8.15 pm, Dr P L G Gallwey: Transference utilisation in aim-restricted psychotherapy—some technical considerations.

Thursday, 10 June

MEDICO-LEGAL SOCIETY—At Royal Society of Medicine, 8 pm agm, 8.15 pm, Mr Patrick Collier: The policeman—selection and training.
ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND—At the Institute of Ophthalmology, Cayton Street Building, 3 pm, Edridge-Green Lecture by Professor R A Weale: The biological significance of optical illusions. At the College, 4.30 for 5 pm, Gordon Taylor Lecture by Professor E W Walls: Sir Gordon Gordon-Taylor: surgeon, anatomist, and humanist.

BMA NOTICES

Diary of Central Meetings

JUNE

11 Fri ARM Agenda Committee, 10 am.
15 Tues Scottish Joint Consultants Committee (7 Drumshuegh Gardens, Edinburgh), 10.15 am.
17 Thurs General Medical Services Committee, 10 am.
22 Tues Scottish Committee for Hospital Medical Services (7 Drumshuegh Gardens, Edinburgh), 10.45 am.
23 Wed BMA Council Executive, 2 pm.
23 Wed Maternity Services Subcommittee (GMSC), 2 pm.
24 Thurs Executive Subcommittee (CCHMS), 10 am.
25 Fri Scottish General Medical Services Committee (7 Drumshuegh Gardens, Edinburgh), 10.30 am.

Division Meetings to be Held

Members proposing to attend meetings marked* are asked to notify in advance the honorary secretary concerned.

Coventry—At St Mary's Hall, Saturday, 12 June* 6.30 pm, annual cocktail party.*

Derby—At Kingsway Hospital, Thursday, 10 June, 8 pm, meeting to discuss Annual Report of Council and discuss resolutions for ARM.

Durham—At Dryburn Hospital, Monday, 7 June, 8.30 pm, joint meeting with Pybus Club, talk by Diana Manucl: "Marshall Hall—nineteenth century neuro-physiologist." (Preceded by buffet supper.)*

Greenwich—At Greenwich Pier, Friday, 11 June, 7.45 pm, boat trip.*

Manchester—At Mottram Hall Hotel, Prestbury, Wednesday, 9 June, 7.45 for 8.15 pm, dinner in honour of Dr Derek Stevenson.*

North-west Essex—At Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow, Tuesday, 8 June, 8 for 8.30 pm, agm.*

South-east Essex—At Southend General Hospital, Wednesday, 9 June, 8 pm, agm.

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH

At a meeting of the Council of the College held on 21 May, the following were admitted to the Fellowship: R Z Abdelmishih, A M Abdullah, M M S Abu-Khalaf, P N Akumabor, M A Al-Kadhi, S A W Alkadi, M Amin, N I S Azzem, G A Baloch, D S Basra, Jinan S Bekir, I Bellenis, D V Bendre, Shipra Bhattacharya, H Bishop, R S M Blylock, J H Brash, C L G Bromley, Y-N Y Chow, J B Craig, S D De, Tanima N Dave, P-M De Bisscop, J R Deves, A L Dissanayaka, J Doran, R S Drahaman, M H A El-Meshad, S M E-S Deeb, M H Erian, N R M Fahmy, A F J Fernandes, S A Filobos, J G Forbes, T F Ford, E K H Fung, G R Giles, F A B Gottschalk, J Gower, P J A Griffin, W H J Hall, G C Howe, M L Hsu, M P G Jamieson, S S Jayaratne, J G Jones, H R Kazazz, F Konetschnik, L D Kumar, K F Leahey, D Lee, R J Leicester, R J McGuinness, D H Ma, S Magsi, N T Master, S J C F Maurice, M J Macted, A A Mikhail, A Mitra, J S Modha, M B H Mohd, H H M El-Molahez, S W Moore, R M H Muayed, D H Mukasa, S Muthu, K Parasuraman, C G P Pellenc, H O Penzhorn, G O Read, B V Reddy, M N Reddy, J R Rees, A G Rehan, M Rowntree, R K Sabharwal, N K Saha, C J Sanderson, G R Sant, P E Savage, T R Scotland, B W H Scott, M K Shah, S D Sharma, H S Shukla, A C Silverstone, H Tariq, V Venugopal, M A Wahab, R E Watts, M A White, D B Wijetunge, K C Wong, H A Yeates.

APPOINTMENTS

HAMPSHIRE AREA HEALTH AUTHORITY (TEACHING)—The following consultants have been appointed: Dr T P Nash (anaesthetics); Mr D H Jackson (genito-urinary medicine); Dr B C Ogilvie (radiology).

Corrections

Constraints of pay policies

In the leading article "Constraints of pay policies" (22 May, p 1239) the fourth and fifth references should read: *British Medical Journal*, 1976, 1, 1234; and *British Medical Journal*, 1975, 1, 4. We apologise for these errors.

Notice to authors

When original articles and letters for publication are not submitted exclusively to the *British Medical Journal* this must be stated. For detailed instructions to authors see page 6 of the issue dated 3 January 1976.

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