

It would seem that it was not the pineal gland, suggested by Dr. Griffiths Evans, but the adrenal which was at fault. Personally I think that a great deal of research on the endocrine side has failed because it is not realized that it is the reaction of the endocrines on the psychological orientation which is important and it is not appreciated that there are two causal elements in the psychosis. Not until this is understood and the psychiatrist works with the endocrinologist will the problem be solved.—I am, etc.,

London W.1.

CLIFFORD ALLEN.

REFERENCES

- ¹ Allen, C., *Brit. med. J.*, 1939, 1, 1220.
- ² — and Broster, L. R., *ibid.*, 1945, 1, 696.
- ³ Greene, R., Paterson, A. S., and Pile, G. C. L., *ibid.*, 1945, 1, 698.

Eli Lilly Medical Research Fellowship (South Africa)

SIR,—May I, through the courtesy of your columns, draw the attention of medical practitioners registered in South Africa, and who may at present be in the United Kingdom, to the fact that applications may now be submitted for the 1963 award of this Fellowship. The Fellowship (which is tenable for 12 months) is for medical research and is not intended for postgraduate clinical study.

The net value of the Fellowship is \$300 per month for unmarried Fellows and \$375 per month for married Fellows, whether accompanied by their wives or not, plus return travelling expenses to the point of study in the United States of America. Further details can be obtained from the undersigned. The closing date for applications is February 28, 1963.—I am, etc.,

H. A. SHAPIRO,

Honorary Chairman: Selection Committee,
Eli Lilly Medical Research Fellowship
(South Africa).P.O. Box 1010,
Johannesburg, South Africa.**Thalidomide and Cancer**

SIR,—Dr. H. B. Hewitt (November 10, p. 1257) is mistaken in thinking that my letter of October 20 was in any way intended to be a criticism of the research workers, and I am indebted to him for pointing out the inaccuracy of the word "selective."

My interest in thalidomide was stimulated by Dr. D. H. M. Woollam's report (October 6, p. 920) on the experiments on mice, which showed the destructive action of thalidomide on the developing foetus with apparent harmlessness to the mother. I thought that further experiments by this drug on mice with proved cancer would be worth pursuing, in order to find out if cancer cells could be destroyed in the same way. As I had been unable to find any experiments on these lines I asked that this suggestion should be given an airing.

I would also suggest that the effect of thalidomide might be investigated in a series of inoperable cancer cases where all else has failed.—I am, etc.,

Newport, Mon.

J. T. RICE EDWARDS.

Phenmetrazine and Foetal Abnormalities

SIR,—I should be grateful if you will allow me to comment on the letter by Drs. P. D. Powell and J. M. Johnstone (November 17, p. 1327).

Phenmetrazine belongs to the group of sympathomimetic compounds about which there have been no previous reports of possible teratogenic effects.

Phenmetrazine has been on the market for nine years in Germany, seven years in England, and for six years in the U.S.A. and many other countries. Despite extensive use during the last nine years, Drs. Powell and Johnstone's letter is the first report to suggest that phenmetrazine may have an effect on the foetus.

This report and its implications are being investigated. Until more information is available it would obviously be advisable not to prescribe phenmetrazine for pregnant and possibly pregnant women.—I am, etc.,

J. P. BIRKETT,

Isleworth, Middlesex.

Medical Director,
Boehringer Ingelheim Ltd.**The Casualty Officer**

SIR,—I think that Mr. A. W. Fowler (October 27, p. 1127) has mistaken the object of my letter (September 15, p. 735), which was not to draw attention to anyone's mistake but to suggest that, having regard to the large number of serious accident cases which were taken to casualty, it would be better if casualty officers were not so often the most recently qualified of the members of the hospital staff.—I am, etc.,

Topsham,
Near Exeter.

F. E. GRAHAM-BONNALIE.

Vomiting of Pregnancy and Drugs

SIR,—The publication of more drugs suspect of endangering the embryo brings a new train of thinking. Is there a full explanation of vomiting of pregnancy? This apparently unphysiological reaction of a perfectly healthy young woman is at its worst at the very same time of greatest drug-danger to the embryo. It is conceivable that the vomiting removes some poison produced by mother or embryo, and that by preventing it we endanger the embryo.—I am, etc.,

London N.W.2.

O. S. KOHNSTAMM.

Postgraduate Medical Education

SIR,—May I be allowed to comment on your report (November 24, p. 1390) of the A.S.M.E. Conference on Postgraduate Medical Education held on November 5 and 6? This report carries the suggestion, attributed to myself, that postgraduate medical education might preferably be called "continuing education." In fact my suggestion was that these are two quite different entities, the first referring to the final phase of training for a particular branch of medicine, and the second referring to the means whereby an established man in any branch keeps abreast of change and advance in his subject. Accepting this terminology, the Conference showed general agreement with the view that the preparation of the doctor should consist of three phases—undergraduate, concerned with education and basic technique; graduate (or pre-registration), concerned with general vocational experience; and postgraduate, concerned with special vocational training.

There was general concern at the present absence of any required and organized postgraduate training for general practice, an absence which is all the more serious because by necessitating a comprehensive and superficial coverage of the whole of medicine before graduation it undermines the efforts to educate the undergraduate which are now being made by the university medical schools.

This widely representative meeting was clearly of the opinion that the enormous task presented by both post-graduate training and continuing education could not be tackled by the universities alone, and requires a major contribution in teaching time, space, and facilities from the National Health Service.

May I also state that it was Dr. J. G. McCrie, of Sheffield (vice-chairman of the Association), and not Professor I. G. W. Hill who took the chair on November 6.—I am, etc.,

Royal College of Physicians,
Pall Mall East,
London S.W.1.

J. R. ELLIS,
Secretary,
Association for the
Study of Medical Education.

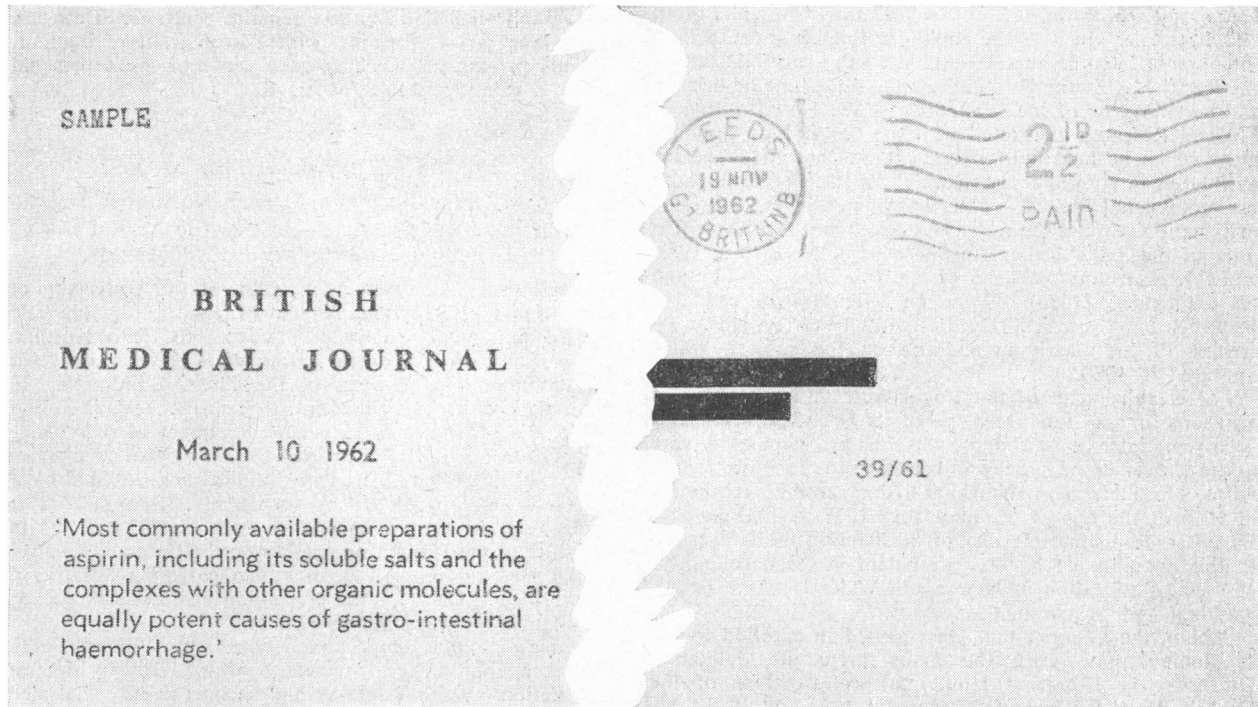
Christmas Gifts Fund Appeal

SIR,—I should like to remind your readers who have not yet responded to the President's Appeal that it is our custom to distribute the gifts some days before Christmas.

I hope all who can will send their contributions, marked "Christmas Gifts," to the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund, 37 St. George's Road, Wimbledon, London S.W.19, as soon as possible.—I am, etc.,

G. H. BATEMAN,
Honorary Treasurer,
Royal Medical Benevolent Fund.

Below is a reproduction of an envelope containing a sample which was circularized to doctors. As the following correspondence shows, the firm in question immediately stopped further distribution on receiving a protest.



Letter from Editor, B.M.J., November 22

Dear Sir,

Our attention has been drawn to your circular letter posted at Leeds on November 19, distributing samples of Antidol and bearing on the envelope in large type of distinctive colour British Medical Journal, March 10, 1962, which we cannot fail to note copies the layout of this journal's cover. There follows a quotation from an original article by Philip H. N. Wood, E. A. Harvey-Smith, and A. St. J. Dixon of that date.

The impression is created—as a number of our readers have pointed out to us—and we think designedly created, that the sample is uniquely distinguished by being distributed and recommended by British Medical Journal.

We take the strongest possible exception to this misuse of our name, which is wholly unjustified, and is already the cause of criticism and resentment in the profession. We must insist that this direct-mail campaign is discontinued immediately. Before we consider the action which is most appropriate to take

against you we invite you to send an apology for publication in our next issue: we go to press on Tuesday, November 27.

Yours faithfully,
H. A. CLEGG.

Reply from Lewis Laboratories Ltd., November 24

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of 22nd November, we should like to make clear that our drug is not recommended by the British Medical Journal, that the British Medical Journal has had nothing to do with the distribution of our samples, and that we failed to inform you of what we intended to do.

We tender our sincere apologies for adopting a method of advertising which has these implications.

We undertake to discontinue the use of the envelopes forthwith.

Yours sincerely,
pp LEWIS LABORATORIES LTD.,
D. LEWIS,
Director.