

to be custom built in the United Kingdom, has both a medical research and a clinical community service function, providing a regional genetics diagnostic and advisory service for the population within the area health boards of West Central Scotland. Screening programmes will be organised. Dr Duncan Guthrie was the founder of the National Fund for Research into Crippling Diseases and its director until he retired in 1976. Contributions to the cost of the institute have been made by the fund, and by the Fraser Foundation, the University of Glasgow, the Greater Glasgow Health Board, and local industrialists and businessmen.

Asthma essay competition

Fisons invites entries from medical practitioners, nurses, and physiotherapists for an essay competition on "The treatment of asthma—what the patient really needs," and each entrant will receive a copy of *The Mast Cell—Its Role in Health and Disease*, edited by J Pepys and A M Edwards. Awards will be made in four categories—hospital doctors, general practitioners, nurses, and physiotherapists—and the winner in each category will go on a special visit to Dr Svein Oseid's Voksentoppen Clinic, Oslo. The winners in the hospital doctor and general practitioner categories will have a sponsored place on the clinical allergy course at the Cardiothoracic Institute, Brompton Hospital, London, in March 1982, with expenses for a locum paid. Details from Fisons Pharmaceutical Division, MSW Promotions Ltd, 27 Catherine Street, London WC2B 5JG, telephone 01-240 1951. Closing date for entries 1 October.

LEPRA prizes and grants

LEPRA, the British Leprosy Relief Association, offers an annual prize of £100 for an essay on leprosy, which is open to all medical students in the United Kingdom, Zambia, and some medical schools in India. Entries for the 1981 competition must be received by 31 December; inquiries should be addressed to Dr Colin McDougall, Slade Hospital, Oxford OX3 7JH (please enclose stamped addressed envelope). The 1980 prizewinner is Janet Price, who is in her fourth year at Sheffield Medical School and wrote her essay on "BCG vaccination in tuberculosis and leprosy." LEPRA also runs an elective student scheme to provide grants for fares and subsidies for elective periods spent doing work on leprosy. Details from Joy Maitland or Jocelyn Hay, LEPRA, Box 54 Manfield House, 376 Strand, London WC2R 0LR (01-240 3861).

Survey of copper and zinc in food

Copper and zinc in food are the subject of the fifth report of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food Steering Group on Food Surveillance. The report considers possible deficiencies in the intake of these essential metals, as well as excesses that could arise from contaminated food. Appreciable increases in copper intake may arise, says the report, where soft or acidic water is supplied from copper piping or tanks; while vegetarians and certain other sections of the community could have a much lower-than-average intake

of zinc. The report concludes, however, that there is no cause for concern because copper levels in the national diet were found to be low to normal, and zinc levels within the accepted range for adequate intake; and chronic intoxication due to copper and zinc is extremely rare in man. *Survey of Copper and Zinc in Food* is published by HMSO at £4.20 (£4.40 by post).

Cycling and safety

A consultation document on cycling has been produced by the Department of Transport and the Welsh Office, and comments will be welcomed from anyone interested. The paper covers facilities, law, and safety—including education and training and the design of bicycles. Copies may be obtained from the Public Inquiries Unit, Department of Transport (01-212 3434), 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3BE. Comments should be sent to Room P1/095 at this address by 31 July.

COMING EVENTS

Courses for medical teachers and teachers of other health care workers—31 August-28 September, Dundee. Details from the Centre for Medical Education, The University, Dundee DD1 4HN. (Tel 0382 23181 ext 618 and 0382 60111 ext 2286.)

British Association for Immediate Care—Scientific meeting and symposium, 17-20 September, Peebles. Details from the symposium secretary, The Surgery, High Street, Moffat, Dumfriesshire.

Institute of Urology—Course "Urology for the FRCS," 25-26 September. For details see classified advertisements.

Federation of Alcoholic Rehabilitation Establishments—Annual symposium, 28-30 September, York. Details from the administrator of the federation, Chris Chambers, 3 Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1. (Tel 01-235 0609/0600.)

Royal Society of Health—Meeting "Parenteral nutrition, medical, nursing, and pharmaceutical aspects," 28 October, London. Details from the conference department of the society, 13 Grosvenor Place, London SW1X 7EN. (Tel 01-235 9961.)

Royal Society of Health—Meeting "Injuries in sport," 18 November, London. Details from the conference department of the society, 13 Grosvenor Place, London SW1X 7EN.

SOCIETIES AND LECTURES

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

Monday, 20 July

INSTITUTE OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY—12.30 pm, Professor Gordon Stirrat: The immunology of trophoblast revisited.

Tuesday, 21 July

INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGY—At Queen Square House, 5 pm, Dr S G Jacobson (Massachusetts): Effects of visual deprivation in human infants.

Thursday, 23 July

INSTITUTE OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY—12.15 pm, Dr Paul Johnson: The larynx and respiratory failure in postnatal life.

BMA NOTICES

Central Meetings

JULY

22 Wed Council Executive, 10.30 am.
23 Thurs General Medical Services Committee, 10 am.
28 Tues Joint Consultants Committee (Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecologists, 27 Sussex Place, London NW1), 9.30 am.

Regional Meeting

Trent South Hospital Junior Staff Committee—At Derbyshire Royal Infirmary, Wednesday, 22 July, 7 pm.

Associate Specialists Subcommittee (CCHMS)

Nominations are invited from associate specialists holding permanent posts in the National Health Service for representatives to serve on the Associate Specialists Subcommittee for the session 1981-2.

The representatives will be appointed on a regional basis as follows:

Northern	1	Wessex	1
Yorkshire	1	Oxford	1
Trent	1	South-western	1
East Anglia ..	1	West Midlands	1
North-west Thames	1	Mersey	1
North-east Thames	1	North-western	1
South-east Thames	1	Wales	2
South-west Thames	1	Northern Ireland	1

It will also be necessary to appoint a deputy for each representative.

Nomination forms are obtainable from the undersigned and must be returned not later than *Friday, 7 August 1981*. In the event of a contest arising for any seat, voting papers will be issued at a later date.

J D J HAVARD
Secretary

Group committee elections

Nominations are hereby invited for the undermentioned vacancies on group committees. The vacancies are caused by the retirement of one half of the members of the respective group committees, or are casual vacancies, and retiring members are eligible for re-election. Nomination forms are available from the undersigned. Each nominee, and his proposer, must be members of the group concerned.

In the event of a contested election, all members of the group concerned will receive ballot papers. Nominations should reach the Secretary, BMA, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP by *Friday, 7 August 1981*.

Group committee	No of vacancies	Period of office
Mental Health Group Committee	3	1981-7
Consulting Pathologists Group Committee	4	1981-5
Rheumatology and Rehabilitation Group Committee	4	1981-5
Venereologists Group Committee	4	1981-5

J D J HAVARD
Secretary

CONSULTANT APPOINTMENTS

CITY AND EAST LONDON AHA(T)—Mr T Beedham (obstetrics and gynaecology); Dr C Kennard (neurology); Dr T Mutazindwa (radiology).

TO THE QUEEN—Major General Joseph Crowdy, Brigadier Harold Moore, Brigadier Douglas Paton (honorary physicians); Colonel Peter Edmond (aide de camp Territorial Army).

Correction

NORTH-EAST THAMES RHA—We regret that in the notice of new appointments (27 June, p 2142) the name of Dr M D Eves was wrongly spelt.

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