MEDICAL NEWS

Section 70 inquiry agreed

On 22 November Mr Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, announced that he had agreed to set up a public inquiry under section 70 of the NHS Act 1946 into the suspension of Dr Terence Lawlor's Right of Challenge post at Normansfield Hospital, Teddington. A BMA press statement issued on the same day reads as follows: "The BMA has for two months been pressing the Secretary of State to recognise the importance of the principles involved in this matter by making this a high level inquiry under section 70 of the NHS Act which has power to subpoena witnesses and documents. Since the inquiry was suspended last week the BMA has made further representations, as has the Royal College of Psychiatrists. We are pleased that Mr Ennals has acceded to our request."

The previous day the Royal College of Psychiatrists had said that it was alarmed at the withdrawal of Dr Terence Lawlor and the consultant psychiatrist appointed to the independent panel of inquiry into the Normansfield Hospital set up by the South-West Thames RHA and the apparent intention to proceed with the inquiry with or without medical representation.

The statement continued: "The present inquiry set up by the RHA who initiated the suspension of our member last May is considered to be grossly inadequate because it has no power to subpoena witnesses or the submission of evidence. In view of such a serious question on oath and anyone can refuse to testify. The college was invited to nominate a replacement for the consultant on the panel or submit the names of people who might be approached but regrets that in view of the college's previously stated position, now aggravated by the recent events, feels unable to do so or to change its view. The college strongly and urgently requests that even at this late stage the Secretary of State should set up an inquiry with附件

COMING EVENTS

Royal College of Physicians of London— "The HLA system and its association with disease," 7 December, London. For details see advertisement at p x.

BMA NOTICES

Diary of Central Meetings

DECEMBER

2 Thurs Central Committee for Hospital Medical Services, 10 a.m.

7 Tues Scottish Hospital Junior Staffs Committee (7 Drumhrough Gardens, Edinburgh), 2 p.m.

9 Thurs Journal Committee, 2.30 p.m.

16 Thurs General Medical Services Committee, 6 p.m.

22 Wed Council, 10 am.

Division Meetings to be Held

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

Buckinghamshire—At Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Friday, 3 December, 8 for 8.15 pm, annual BMA lecture (Dr Julian Norr: "Hot air ballooning in five continents.") * (Guests are invited.)

Southampton—Tennyson District—At Stanhope Arms, Tuesday, 30 November, 7 for 7.30 pm, dinner/dance.

Darlington and Northallerton Divisions—At St Georges Hotel, Darlington, Wednesday, 7 December, 6.45 pm, joint meeting with Darlington Women's Institute.

Plymouth—At Plymouth General Hospital, Tuesday, 19 December, 7.45 for 8.30 pm, joint annual dinner dance.*

Sir James Hutton Survey—At Redbrook Hospital, Tuesday, 30 November, 6.30 pm, Mr Michael Aty, "Facial fractures.*

Exeter—At Postgraduate Medical Centre, Friday, 3 December, 8.15 for 8.30 pm, Professor W G Holkins: "Recollections of a local historian," followed by election of representative to ARM.

Leicester—At Bramley Grange Hotel, Wednesday, 1 December, 8 for 8.15 pm, supper/lecture, speaker Dr David Lewis: "The state of play in medical politics.*

Rutland—At Hotel, Rutland, Friday, 3 December, 7.30 for 8 pm, joint dinner dance with the Leicester Medical Society.*

Chichester and Hindhead—At The City Hotel, Chichester, Wednesday, 1 December, 6 pm, joint meeting with Chichester Women's Institute and Chichester Medical-Surgical Society.

Wimbledon—At The General Services Committee, 5 pm.

Plymouth—At Plymouth General Hospital, Tuesday, 19 December, 7.45 for 8.30 pm, joint meeting with Plymouth Medico-Chirurgical Society, speaker Professor Harold Ellis: "Breast cancer—the unsolved problem.*

Waltham Forest—At Whipple Cross Hospital, Wednesday, 1 December, 8.30 pm, joint dinner dance.*

Wandsworth East Merton—At St James' Hospital, Saturday, 29 November, 8.30 pm, joint meeting with "What Europe has to offer.*

Sandwell—At St. Chad's Hospital, Wednesday, 1 December, 8.15 for 8.30 pm, meeting to elect representatives for 1977 ARM, and talk by Dr David Gullick.

Notice to authors

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