

previously to obtain further information, the referees decided that the prescription of low phenylalanine bread was appropriate for the treatment of a patient with phenylketonuria.

Transol for Contact Lenses

A doctor prescribed 80 ml of Transol, a wetting agent, for a partially-sighted school-boy patient with contact lenses. In an appeal against a local decision that this was not a drug, the doctor told the referees that he had prescribed Transol to make the lenses usable and to prolong the periods of use

without removal. The referees concluded that the provision of a wetting agent, particularly in the case of a young patient was an integral part of the treatment for improving his vision, and that in such circumstances it must be regarded as a drug.

Amplex for Colostomy

A patient with a colostomy was prescribed clinical Amplex tablets. The local medical committee supported the doctor's action, and the Secretary of State appealed.

The referees stated that Amplex (each tablet of which contained 100 mg of

chlorophyll derivatives) was a deodorant and could, in their opinion have no therapeutic effect on the patient's physical condition. However, such a preparation, in their view, might properly be regarded as a drug if it was prescribed and used to prevent or alleviate mental illness or distress. Though there was no direct evidence of mental distress, a colostomy appliance is ordinarily associated with faecal odours, and their emanation causes distress to other persons and embarrassment to the patient. Thus the referees thought that it was likely to cause some measure of mental suffering. They concluded that the tablets were prescribed and used to prevent or alleviate such distress and must be regarded as a drug.

B.M.A. Nuffield Library

The library service is available to all members of the Association resident in Great Britain and Northern Ireland (and by special arrangement to members of the Irish Medical Association). A copy of the Library rules will be forwarded on application to the Librarian at B.M.A. House.

The following books have been added to the Library:

- Adler's Physiology of the Eye, 5th edition by R. A. Moses. 1970.
- Ayd, F. J., and Blackwell, B. (Editors): Discoveries in Biological Psychiatry. 1970.
- Barker, J. A. (Editor): Control and Coordination in Organisms. 1970.
- Barrett, A. J., and Dingle, J. T. (Editors): Tissue Proteinases. 1971.
- Boyle, J. A., and Buchanan, W. W.: Clinical Rheumatology. 1971.
- Carter, C. H.: Handbook of Mental Retardation Syndromes, 2nd edition. 1970.
- Christie, A. B., and Christie, M. C.: Food Hygiene and Food Hazards. 1971.
- Clark, J. S.: Group Practice. 1971.
- Crawford, C. O.: Health and the Family. 1971.
- Dible, J. H.: Napoleon's Surgeon. 1970.
- Douglas, F. N.: Essentials of Pharmacology in Clinical Nursing. 1970.
- Evans, J.: Living with a Man Who is Dying. 1971.
- Fisher, J. C.: Clinical Procedures. 1970.
- Gluckman, H.: Abiding Values: Speeches and addresses. 1970.
- Gordon, A. S. (Editor): Regulation of Hematopoiesis, vols. 1 and 2. 1970.
- Greenwalt, T. J., and Jamieson, G. A. (Editors): Formation and Destruction of Blood Cells. 1970.
- Hayward, J.: Hormones and Human Breast Cancer. 1970.
- Hendee, W. R.: Medical Radiation Physics. 1970.
- Jamieson, G. A., and Greenwalt, T. J. (Editors): Red Cell Membrane. 1969.
- Jones, B. R.: Pharmacology for Students and Pupil Nurses. 1971.
- Julian, O. C., *et al.*: Cardiovascular Surgery, 2nd edition. 1970.
- Kølle-Jørgensen, P.: Child Accidents. 1971.
- Leifer, R.: In the Name of Mental Health. 1969.
- MacBryde, C. M., and Blacklow, R. S. (Editors): Signs and Symptoms, 5th edition. 1970.

McLachlan, G. (Editor): Problems and Progress in Medical Care—5th series. 1971.

Malcolm, L. A.: Growth and Development in New Guinea. 1970.

Mountford, S. W.: Introduction to Occupational Therapy. 1971.

Munro Kerr's Operative Obstetrics, 8th edition by J. Chassar Moir and P. R. Myerscough. 1971.

Noreik, K.: Follow-up and Classification of Functional Psychoses, with special reference to reactive psychoses. 1970.

Pacy, H.: Road Accidents—Medical Aid. 1971.

Paterson's Sick Children, 9th edition by: R. Lightwood, F. Brimblecombe, and D. Bartrop. 1971.

Rebell, G., and Taplin, D.: Dermatophytes, revised edition. 1970.

Rembaum, A., and Shem, M. (Editors): Biomedical Polymers. 1971.

Robb-Smith, A. H. T.: A Short History of the Radcliffe Infirmary. 1970.

Rypins' Medical Licensure Examinations, 11th edition, edited by A. W. Wright. 1970.

Schettler, G. (Editor): Platelets and the Vessel Wall-Fibrin Deposition. 1970.

Schofield, M.: The Strange Case of Pot. 1971.

Shnider, S. M. (Editor): Obstetrical Anesthesia. 1970.

Stewart, W. D., Danto, J. L., and Maddin, S.: Synopsis of Dermatology, 2nd edition. 1970.

Thorne, C.: Better Medical Writing. 1970.

Walsh, F. B., and Hoyt, W. F.: Clinical Neuro-Ophthalmology, 3 vols., 3rd edition. 1969.

Walter, J. B., Hamilton, M. C., and Israel, M. S.: Principles of Pathology for Dental Students, 2nd edition. 1971.

B.M.A. Film Library

The following films have been added to the B.M.A. Film Library:

- Microelectrodes in Muscle, 16 mm. Col. sd. 19 mins. 1970; by Drs. R. Adrian and P. Baker, with W. Smith, Cambridge University.

Glycosuria in Pregnancy, 16 mm. B/W. sd. 3½ mins. 1970; from B.B.C. Television Series, "Medicine Today."

Selective Gastric Vagotomy—A Simple Technique, 16 mm Col. sd. (mag.). 12 mins. 1970; presented by Belfast Hospital Management Committee.

Inflammatory Process, 16 mm. Col. sd. 35 mins. 1969; presented by Merck Sharp and Dohme Ltd.

Thrombolytic Therapy, 16 mm. Col. sd. 24 mins. 1970; presented by Kabi Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

Local Health Services

The Department of Health and Social Security is organizing a series of conferences to discuss with local health authorities executive councils, and local medical committees ways and means of continuing to strengthen the local health services.

The first of these regional conferences covering North-East London took place on 28 June, chaired by the Secretary of State for Social Services. The second conference, for the Oxford Region, will be on 14 July, also chaired by Sir Keith Joseph. Lord Aberdare, Minister of State, or Mr. Michael Alison, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Health), will take part in subsequent conferences. The aim is to complete all conferences by the spring of 1972. The meetings will afford the opportunity for members and senior staffs of authorities responsible for the provision of health services in the community to meet and discuss with ministers the planned development of their sectors and the implications for them of the consultative document on N.H.S. re-organization.

CORRECTION

Annual Conference of Local Medical Committees

In the *Supplement* of 26 June, p. 169, centre column, line 4, the word "identical" should have read "identifiable." We apologise for this error.