

food industry to develop alternative products with a lower potential cariogenicity despite the costs of approved raw materials, research, development, and marketing. The promotion and marketing of products should also not mislead people into thinking that the final sugar content is substantially reduced if this is not the case. The government should consider making it compulsory to label products with information on nutritional content, including sugars.

As for research, the task force recommends that further research be done into the relative potential of various foods and drinks to produce caries. The mechanisms leading to weight gain above the ideal weight should also be investigated, and more attempts should be made to evaluate the effectiveness of health prevention programmes.

Sugars and Syrups is available from the British Nutrition Foundation, 15 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PS, price £5.

Dr Thirkettle apologises

Dr James Thirkettle, consultant physician at Crawley Hospital, East Sussex, appeared before the Commons select committee on the Health Service Commissioner (the ombudsman) on 24 March.

The committee had received a report from the ombudsman alleging that a failure by Dr Thirkettle

to respond to a daughter's inquiries about her father's care in hospital before his death was inexcusable and most discourteous (14 March, p 663).

Dr Thirkettle unreservedly apologised for his failure to reply. He said that he believed the matter to have been dealt with by two hospital inquiries before he had received the daughter's letter. He assured the committee that such an occurrence would never happen again.

Sir Anthony Buck, chairman, read a letter from Dr Thirkettle's colleagues and patients, who described him as an extremely conscientious, skilful, and caring physician.

New chief executive for Health Education Authority

Dr Spencer Hagard, district medical officer for Cambridgeshire Health Authority and treasurer of the Faculty of Community Medicine, has been appointed chief executive of the new Health Education Authority. According to *The Times* (31 March, p 11 (col 2)), Dr Hagard, who is 44 and a graduate of St Andrews University, has pushed through radical changes in Cambridgeshire, introducing healthier diets in hospitals and no smoking for patients and staff, and has ensured that his authority is "better placed than most to deal with the expected surge of AIDS cases."

"I wouldn't have applied for this job if I didn't fully accept what Norman Fowler said he wanted, a sturdily independent and campaigning organisation," said Dr Hagard.

People in the news

Dr Morfydd Keen, associate specialist at the Adfer addiction treatment unit, Whitchurch Hospital, Cardiff, and Dr Dermot Kennedy, consultant physician at Ruchill Hospital, Glasgow, have been appointed to the Advisory Council on Misuse of Drugs.

Dr Philip Reilly, senior lecturer in the department of general practice at Queen's University, Belfast, has been appointed to the prescribing fellowship of the Royal College of General Practitioners for three years. The fellowship aims to promote appropriate prescribing in general practice.

Correction

We regret that an error occurred in the news last week (21 March, p 780). The second paragraph should have read, "Professor Barrie Russell Jones (below), emeritus professor of preventive ophthalmology at the Institute of Ophthalmology, University of London . . ."

COMING EVENTS

British Medical Association National Training Unit—Seminars "Introduction to financial management," 13 April, Leeds, and 15 April, Milton Keynes, details from Yorkshire Regional Office, St George House, Great George Street, Leeds LS1 3DL, tel 0532 458745, and Oxford Regional Office, Cranbrook House, 287 Banbury Road, Summertown, Oxford OX2 7JF, tel 0865 59621; "Improving interpersonal skills," 23-24 April, Lyndhurst, details from Wessex Regional Office, 4 St Peter Street, Winchester SO23 8BW, tel 0962 56760; and "Management appreciation for doctors," 28-29 April, Belfast, details from Northern Ireland House, 609 Ormeau Road, Belfast BT7 3JD. (Tel 0232 649065/7.)

British Medical Association Trent Regional Office—"Medical ethics," talk by Dr I McKim Thompson to medical students, 29 April, Nottingham. Details from the regional officer Alison Ward, 301 Gossop Road, Sheffield S10 2HL. (Tel 0742 21705/753264.)

Institute of Health Services Management—Multidisciplinary conference "Partnership in sickness and in health," 6-11 June, Harrogate. Details from Miss Jane Galau of the conference secretariat of the institute, 75 Portland Place, London W1N 4AN. (Tel 01 580 5041.)

Institute of Education—Conference "1981 Act Statements," 12 May and 23 June, London. Details from Mrs Lam-Hing, Department CDEP of the institute, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1H 0AL. (Tel 01 636 1500 ext 370.)

Institute of Physical Sciences in Medicine—Meeting "Imaging in radiotherapy," 15 May, London. Details from the general secretary of the institute, 47 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QX. (Tel 01 235 6111.)

King's Fund College—Quality assurance: management and methodology workshops, "Mental illness and mental handicap," 20-21 May; "Elderly," 22-23 June; "Primary care," 24-25 June; and "Health professionals," 20-21 July, London. Details from the registration secretary of the college, Mrs Bette Holton, 2 Palace Court, London W2 4HS. (Tel 01 229 9361/01 727 0581.)

London Hospital Medical College Postgraduate Teaching Centre—Symposium "Child sexual abuse," 20 May, London. Details from the centre, 47 Turner Street, London E1 2AD. (Tel 01 377 7637.)

"AIDS: the costs to health authorities"—Seminar, 27 May, Cranleigh, Surrey. Details from Asian International Health Planning Consultants Ltd, Paravel House, Loxwood Chase, Guildford Road, Loxwood, West Sussex RH14 0QW. (Tel 0403 753152/752193.)

British Association for Service to the Elderly—Details of summer schools July and August, Harlech and Lancaster, are available from BASE, 119 Hassell Street, Newcastle, Staffs ST5 1AX. (Tel 0782 661033.)

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 6 April

ROYAL SOCIETY—6 pm, public lecture by Professor J H Fremlin: Nuclear radiation: friend and foe.

Tuesday 7 April

ROYAL MASONIC HOSPITAL—7 pm, Dr R A Parkins: The painful oesophagus. (Preceded by refreshments 6.30 pm.)

Wednesday 8 April

ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL—At Stamp Lecture Theatre, 10.15 am, medical staff round.

Thursday 9 April

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND—5 pm, Hunterian lecture by Professor V J R Farrell: Cerebral cysticercosis: a pathological, radiological, and clinical study with comments on treatment.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TROPICAL MEDICINE AND HYGIENE—At Imperial College, 2.30 pm, Modern techniques in parasitology.

BMA NOTICES

Central meetings

APRIL

- 4 Sat Associate members group committee, 11 am.
- 8 Wed General purposes subcommittee (CCHMS), 10 am.
- 9 Thurs Negotiating subcommittee (CCHMS), 10 am.
- 9 Thurs Scottish General Medical Services Committee (7 Drumshugh Gardens, Edinburgh EH3 7QP), 10.30 am.
- 11 Sat and 12 Sun Junior Members Forum, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Oldham.
- 14 Tues Joint Consultants Committee (Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, 27 Sussex Place, London NW1), 9.30 am.
- 16 Thurs General Medical Services Committee, 10 am.

Division meetings

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

Aberystwyth—At Postgraduate Centre, Bronglais Hospital, Thursday 9 April, 8 pm, meeting to consider Annual Report of Council.

Aldershot and Farnham—At Lecture Theatre, Postgraduate Centre, Frimley Park Hospital, Wednesday 8 April, 7.30 pm, agm.* (Preceded by drinks and followed by buffet supper.*)

Buckinghamshire—At Postgraduate Centre, Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Wednesday 8 April, 7.45 pm, agm, followed by talk by Dr Garth Hill: "No fault compensation." (Followed with wine and light refreshments.)

Derby—At Committee Room 1, Postgraduate Centre, Derbyshire Royal Infirmary, Thursday 9 April, 8 pm, general meeting.

East Berkshire—At Postgraduate Medical Centre, King Edward VII Hospital, Thursday 9 April, 7.30 pm, meeting to discuss resolutions for arm.

East Herts—At Postgraduate Centre, Lister Hospital, Stevenage, Wednesday 8 April, 8.15 pm, agm.

East Suffolk—At Board Room, East Suffolk Health Authority, St Clements Hospital, Thursday 9 April, 8 pm, business meeting.

East Yorkshire—At Postgraduate Centre, Hull Royal Infirmary, Wednesday 8 April, 8.30 pm, Dr Richard Butler: "South Atlantic voyage." (Preceded by meal 7 for 15 pm.* Guests invited.)

Edgware and Hendon—At Postgraduate Medical Centre, Edgware General Hospital, Tuesday 7 April, 8 pm, agm.* (Preceded by buffet supper 7 pm.*)

Glasgow—At 9 Lynedoch Crescent, Wednesday 8 April, 8 pm, agm.

Gloucestershire—At Judges Lodgings, Gloucester, Thursday 9 April, 7.15 pm, Dr Peter Trafford: "Medicine behind bars."

Gwynedd—At British Hotel, Bangor, Thursday 9 April, 7.30 pm, business meeting.

Herefordshire—At John Ross Postgraduate Centre, Hereford County Hospital, Tuesday 7 April, 7 for 7.30 pm, meeting to discuss Annual Report of Council and motions for arm.

Holland—At Postgraduate Centre, Pilgrim Hospital, Thursday 9 April, 7.30 pm, agm followed by dinner and talk by Mr Stuart Morgan: "The confessions of an IRO."*

Islington—At 58 Aberdeen Park, London N5, Thursday 9 April, 8 pm, agm.* (Preceded by refreshments 7.30 pm.)

Mid Surrey, Kingston, and Esher—At Postgraduate Medical Centre, Epsom District Hospital, Monday 6 April, 8.30 pm, agm.

Northallerton—At Postgraduate Lecture Room, Friarage Hospital, Tuesday 7 April, 8 pm, agm.

Northampton District—At Cripps Postgraduate Medical Centre, Thursday 9 April, 7.30 for 8 pm, meeting to discuss Annual Report of Council and motions to arm.

North East Ulster Subdivision—At Health Centre, Ballymoney, Tuesday 7 April, 8 pm, Mr A Yeates: "The painful back."

Norwich—At Thurn Room, Teaching Centre, Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Tuesday 7 April, 8 pm, meeting to discuss Annual Report of Council, motions to arm, and Norwich arm 1988.

Nottingham—At Postgraduate Centre, City Hospital, Tuesday 7 April, 7.30 pm, general meeting.

St Marylebone—At Cholmondeley Room, House of Lords, Tuesday 7 April, 7 pm, reception at the invitation of Lord Pitt.* (Guests invited.)

Scarborough—At Postgraduate Medical Centre, Scarborough General Hospital, Thursday 9 April, 7.45 for 8.30 pm, agm. (Light refreshments provided.)

Shropshire—At Medical Institute, Shrewsbury, Wednesday 8 April, 7.30 pm, meeting to discuss motions for arm and Annual Report of Council.

South Bedfordshire—At Barton Hills Surgery, Luton, Thursday 9 April, 12.15 for 12.30 pm, annual business meeting and discussion of Annual Report of Council. (Light refreshments available.)

Southend-on-Sea—At Lansdowne Country Club, Shoeburyness, Wednesday 8 April, 8.30 pm, agm. (Preceded by dinner 7.30 pm.*)

South West Wales—At Small Committee Room, West Wales General Hospital, Wednesday 8 April, 8 pm, meeting to formulate motions for arm. (Coffee available.)

Wakefield and Pontefract—At Postgraduate Centre, Pontefract General Infirmary, Monday 6 April, 7.30 pm, agm.

Western—At Fir Trees Lodge Hotel, Strabane, Tuesday 7 April, 7.30 pm, agm and discussion of Annual Report of Council and motions for arm.

West Hertfordshire—At Decorum Room Civic Centre, Hemel Hempstead, Tuesday 7 April, 8 pm, general meeting to discuss Annual Report of Council and motions for arm.

Regional meeting

Trent Regional Committee for Community Medicine and Community Health—At Seminar Room, Postgraduate Medical Centre, City Hospital, Nottingham, Friday 10 April, 2.15 pm.

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