

from the Health Education Authority said that the films had been well received by target audiences. The agony aunt for a teen magazine (*Just Seventeen*) believed that the films would be effective. Despite having misgivings she said that the stereotypes portrayed were the ones to which teenaged girls aspired. She also encouraged the authority to devise advertisements that specifically focused on holiday romances.

The campaign already includes a series of testimonial type advertisements, directed at those travelling in the United Kingdom and abroad, which will feature in in-flight magazines. A business man who contracted HIV while abroad has allowed his story to be used. Posters at air and sea ports will show a packet containing a condom with the legend "Life insurance from 15p."

The Health Education Authority will fund the National Aids Helpline, a free and confidential phone service, which has been funded by charities since it was set up in December 1986. Ten lines are staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by trained advisers who take about 3000 calls each week (more during AIDS media campaigns). The helpline number is 0800 567 123.

### Doctors who torture

Evidence produced at a recent conference in Montevideo, Uruguay (14 November 1987, p 1285) suggested that military, police, and civilian doctors are participating in torture and its concealment in many countries. In 1986 a BMA working

party, reporting on the involvement of doctors in torture, said that it had been "shocked by incontrovertible evidence of doctors' involvement in planning and assisting in torture, not only under duress, but also voluntarily as an exercise of the doctors' free will." The association supported the report's view that it was important to maintain a proper distance between the "medical profession and the apparatus of the state."

The evidence presented to the Montevideo conference led to the proposal that medical associations throughout the world should adopt specific ethical and legal provisions to deal with doctors' participation in torture, which would incorporate the World Medical Association's Tokyo Declaration (1975), the United Nations' Principles of Medical Ethics (1982), and the United Nations Convention on Violations of Human Rights (1984). An international committee has been set up to collect information and investigate violations of professional ethics and human rights by doctors. Contact Dr Ole Vedel Rasmussen, International Foundation for the Rehabilitation of Torture Victims, Juliane Maries Vej 34, DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø, Denmark.

### Doctors and place of safety orders

The DHSS has advised that when a child is subject to a place of safety order and needs to be medically examined the normal requirement for consent applies. The place of safety order does not allow the local authority to give consent on the

child's behalf but this does not mean that the child may not be examined. In a letter to directors of social services, and regional and district medical officers (4 February 1988) the chief inspector of the Social Services Inspectorate at the DHSS, Mr W B Utting, has advised doctors to seek consent from the child, the parent(s), or those in whom parental rights have been vested. Where consent is not available but the doctor believes that consent may be necessary he or she may examine the child for assessment purposes and provide "only those elements of treatment immediately essential to secure the child's welfare. . . ."

Mr Utting says that signs consistent with physical or sexual abuse would need to be followed up with a case conference. This should have a multi-disciplinary membership, including any doctors concerned.

The medical defence societies have been consulted in preparing the letter and are willing to offer advice to members based on the particular facts of specific cases.

### Correction

#### Diabetes

Although it is the government's intention to make blood testing strips available to diabetics on prescription (13 February, p 505), the necessary arrangements have not yet been completed. Their introduction is expected later this year.

## COMING EVENTS

**Open section of the Royal Society of Medicine**—"Financing health services: how far should state funding be supplemented?" 7 March, 6 pm. Speakers: Chris West, district general manager, Portsmouth and South East Hampshire Health Authority, and Ray Robinson, analyst, King's Fund Institute. Further details from Mrs Francoise Banrand-Herbert, RSM, 1 Wimpole Street, London W1. (Tel 01 408 2119.)

**Frenchay Health Authority**—Second annual symposium "Senile dementia, a multidisciplinary approach," 7-8 April, Bristol. Details from the administrator, Postgraduate Medical Centre, Frenchay Hospital, Bristol BS16 1LE. (Tel 0272 701212 ext 2626.)

**Bassetlaw District General Hospital Department of Psychiatry**—Conference "Mental health services: planning the future?" 22 April, Retford. Details from Karen Moore of the department, Blyth Road, Worksop S81 0BD.

**British Medical Association Nuffield Library**—Course "A practical introduction to electronic information," 27 April, repeated 15 June, 12 October, and 23 November, London. Details from Mr W H Forrester at the library, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP. (Tel 01 383 6184 or 01 387 4499.)

**Institute of Physical Sciences in Medicine**—Meeting "Technical and clinical aspects of the vestibular and oculomotor systems," 28 April, Cardiff. Details from the institute, 2 Low Ousegate, York YO1 1QU. (Tel 0904 610821.)

**British Society of Audiology**—Details and copies of the programme of meetings to October are available from the society, 80 Brighton Road, Reading RG6 1PS. (Tel 0734 660622.)

**Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology**—Details and copies of the programme of courses and symposia to December 1988 are available from the symposium secretary of the institute, Queen Charlotte's Hospital for Women, Goldhawk Road, London W6 0XG.

**Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases Bath**—Details and copies of the programme of events for the quarter millennium celebrations are available from Fiona Davies, Bath Institute for Rheumatic Diseases, Trim Bridge, Bath BA1 1HD. (Tel Bath 335029.)

## BMA NOTICES

### Division meetings

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

**Aldershot and Farnham**—At Queen's Hotel, Farnborough, Tuesday 1 March, 7.45 for 8.15 pm, annual dinner, guest speaker Lord Shackleton: "The Falklands" and "The South Atlantic."\* (Guests invited.)

**Bury St Edmunds**—At Postgraduate Centre, West Suffolk Hospital, Wednesday 2 March, 7.30 pm, agm followed by discussion on the White Paper *Promoting Better Health*, led by Dr David Pickersgill.\* (Preceded by supper 7 pm.\*)

**Chesterfield**—At Postgraduate Centre, Chesterfield and North Derbyshire Royal Hospital, Thursday 3 March, 7.30 pm, Dr I McKim Thompson: "Are doctors on a hiding to nothing?"\*

(Preceded by buffet 7 pm.\*) Open to all doctors and other interested parties.

**Dewsbury**—At Posthouse Hotel, Ossett, Friday 4 March, 7.30 for 8 pm, annual dinner dance, speaker Dr M J Oldroyd.\* (Guests welcome.)

**Dukeries**—At Postgraduate Centre, Mansfield and District General Hospital, Wednesday 2 March, 8.30 pm, Dr Michael Green: "Priests, plagues, and pestilence."\* (Preceded by meal 7.30 pm.\*)

**Ealing**—At Black Museum New Scotland Yard, Wednesday 2 March, 2 pm, visit to museum.\*

**Isle of Wight**—At Postgraduate Centre, St Mary's Hospital, Newport, Monday 29 February, 7 pm, Dr Simon Fradd: "The future of medical defence subscriptions."\*

**Liverpool**—At Liverpool Medical Institution, Tuesday 1 March, 8 pm, joint meeting with the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain Liverpool Branch, speaker Dr Stephen Saltissi: "Aspects of cardiovascular therapeutics in 1988."\* (Preceded by buffet supper 7 pm.\*)

**North East Ulster Subdivision**—At Health Centre, Ballymoney, Tuesday 1 March, 8 pm, Dr J R Hayes: "Update on practical management of diabetes."\*

**Rotherham**—At Moat House Hotel, Saturday 5 March, 7.15 for 7.45 pm, spring dinner dance.\* (Guests very welcome.)

**St Helens and Knowsley**—At Millbrook Manor, Wednesday 2 March, 7.30 pm, agm.\* (Followed by dinner.)

**St Marylebone with Bloomsbury**—At Medical Society of London, Thursday 3 March, 6.30 pm, buffet supper followed by symposium on "Medical seecing."\* (Guests invited.)

**Southeast on Sea**—At Board Room, Southeast Hospital, Thursday 3 March, wine tasting.\*

**South Glamorgan**—At Whitchurch Postgraduate Centre, Wednesday 2 March, 7.30 pm, joint debate with Law Society of South Glamorgan "This house believes that good medical care is being increasingly prejudiced by the lack of no fault compensation." (Preceded by cold meal.\*)

**Waltham Forest**—At Chasneys of Chingford, Thursday 3 March, 7.30 for 8 pm, annual dinner, speaker Christine Hancock: "The future of the health service in Waltham Forest."\* (Friends invited.)

**Western**—At Postgraduate Centre, Altnagelvin Area Hospital, Monday 29 February, 8 pm, business meeting and discussion on nominations for appointment to the Health and Social Services Board.

## 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 29 February

**ST GEORGE'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL**—At Lecture Theatre A, 12.30 pm, obstetrics and gynaecology departmental postgraduate lecture by Dr Pereira: Immunology in obstetrics.

**WELCOME INSTITUTE FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE**—At Seminar Room, 4.45 pm, Dr Roy Porter: Problems in the interpretation of visual evidence.

### Tuesday 1 March

**ROYAL MASONIC HOSPITAL**—At School of Nursing, 7 pm, Dr R A

Parkins: The painful oesophagus. (Preceded by refreshments, 6.30 pm.)

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON**—At Darwin Theatre, 115 pm, Professor H S Jacobs: Assisted fertility: ethical and political dilemmas. 5.30 pm, Dr Michael J Berridge, FRS: Inositol lipids and intracellular communication.

**UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER**—At Muriel Stott Conference Centre, John Rylands University Library, 5.30 pm, Dr Richard Nicholson: Medical research with children.

**UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD ICRF CANCER EPIDEMIOLOGY AND CLINICAL TRIALS UNIT**—At Ida Green Seminar Room, Observer's House, Green College, 5 pm, Mike Hawkins: Survivors of childhood cancer and their offspring.

### Wednesday 2 March

**INSTITUTE OF ORTHOPAEDICS**—At Courtauld Lecture Theatre, Middlesex Hospital, 6 pm, Mr J Kenwright: External fixation in fracture treatment. 7 pm, Mr E L Trickey: Delayed and non-union of fractures.

**KING'S COLLEGE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY LIVER UNIT**—At Liver Unit seminar room, 5 pm, Dr P Davey: Application of the principles of health economics to clinical trials of antimicrobial therapy.

**LONDON SPORTS MEDICINE INSTITUTE**—At Medical College of St Bartholomew's Hospital, Charterhouse Square, 7.15 pm, Dr Eric Newsholme: Metabolic explanations for fatigue during physical activity.

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND**—5 pm, Hunterian lecture by Professor J Benyon: An evaluation of the role of rectal endoscopy in rectal cancer.

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

### Thursday 3 March

**INSTITUTE OF LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOTOLOGY**—At Royal College of Surgeons of England, 5.30 pm, guest lecture at an advanced level by Mr J Gleeson: Management of intratemporal facial palsy.

### Friday 4 March

**BROMPTON HOSPITAL MEDICAL UNIT STAFF ROUND**—At Lecture Theatre, Cardiothoracic Institute, 8 am, Dr Tony Newman-Taylor: Allergens and irritants: asthma and alveolitis. (Preceded by coffee and rolls, 7.30 am.)

**NUFFIELD DEPARTMENT OF ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY, OXFORD**—6.30 pm, Professor R M Brookes: Vascular aspects of fracture repair.

### Saturday 5 March

**NUFFIELD DEPARTMENT OF ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY, OXFORD**—8.30 am, Professor R M Brookes: The bone circulation and its measurement. 9.30 am, Dr D Bader: The effects of pressure on tissue blood flow.

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