

MEDICAL NEWS

Sterilisation of children

The Department of Health has issued a discussion paper (HSI/MED D1) on the sterilisation of children under 16 years of age. Comment on the paper is being sought from area health authorities, community health councils, women's and children's organisations, and professional bodies.

Suggestions made in the paper include the introduction of a statutory requirement that sterilisation should be approved by an independent local ethical committee; giving the Secretary of State power to appoint a committee for the same purpose; and proposals for a notification procedure, which might be simply administrative or a means of ensuring that any permissions thought necessary had in fact been obtained.

Childhood tuberculosis

The Medical Research Council's National Tuberculin Survey has shown that the numbers of schoolchildren infected with tuberculosis at the age of 13 are steadily declining—the proportion is halved about every five years. The Department of Health has accepted two recommendations from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation: firstly, that BCG vaccination of schoolchildren should continue, and, secondly, that children born into Asian and African immigrant communities should be offered BCG vaccination at birth.

Tropical child health

Work has now begun on building Europe's first department of tropical paediatrics at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. It is to be called the Maegraith wing after Professor B G Maegraith, who retired at the end of September after 30 years as dean of the school. The cost is estimated at £630 000.

Training course in cancer research

The International Union Against Cancer is holding its third training course in cancer research at the Chester Beatty Institute in London from 5 to 18 September 1976. This course is intended for postgraduate students in biology or medicine, under the age of 30, who wish to specialise in cancer research. Students will be expected to meet their own expenses; there will be no entrance fee. Further details are available from Dr D M Taylor, Institute of Cancer Research, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5PX.

COMING EVENTS

Wessex Oncology Service—Day conference, 28 November, Southampton. Details and application forms from the Oncology Service Administrator, Wessex Oncology Service, Royal South Hants Hospital, Fanshawe Street, Southampton SO9 4PE. (Tel 0703 34288 ext 447/8.)

Women and Smoking—Conference, 2 December, London. Details from ASH, 79 York Road, London SE1 7NX. (Tel 01-928 5728.)

Institute of Urology—Two-day course, 12-13 December, London. For details see advertisement at p xii.

Manchester Medical Society—Details and copies of the programme for November are now available from the Secretary, Manchester Medical Society, the University, Manchester M13 9PL.

Royal College of Radiologists—Details of the 1975-6 programme are now available from the Meetings Secretary, Royal College of Radiologists, 28 Portland Place, London W1N 4DE. (Tel 01-636 4432/3.)

SOCIETIES AND LECTURES

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

Wednesday, 12 November

CARDIOTHORACIC INSTITUTE—5 pm, Dr R V Gibson: Physical signs in heart disease.
INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGY—6 pm, Sandoz Foundation lectures, Professor E Marley: Drugs and neurotransmitters. Dr T J Crow: Schizophrenia—a disease of neurohumoral transmission?
INSTITUTE OF ORTHOPAEDICS—11 am, Dr J M Faccini: Osteoporosis; 6 pm, Dr T C B Stamp: Thin bones; 7 pm, Dr T C B Stamp: Calcitonin in Paget's disease.
INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY—5.30 pm, Professor J P Watson: Pull yourself together: An approach to psychological understanding.
ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON—5 pm, Institute of Urology lecture by Dr R W E Watts: Uric acid biosynthesis and its disorders.
ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL—5 pm, Dr M Barry: Iron metabolism.
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD—5 pm, Growing points in medicine: Haematology.

Thursday, 13 November

BRITISH CARDIAC SOCIETY—At Royal College of Physicians of London, 5.30 pm, Thomas Lewis lecture by Dr Derek Gibson: The contribution of echocardiography to the study of left ventricular function.
BRITISH SOCIETY OF AUDIOLOGY—At Institution of Mechanical Engineers, 5 for 5.30 pm, joint meeting with Society for Underwater Technology on: Communication problems and hearing damage in divers.
EDINBURGH POSTGRADUATE COURSES—At Royal Infirmary, 5 pm, Honyman Gillespie lecture by Professor A K M Macrae: Mad, bad, and dangerous to know?
MEDICOLEGAL SOCIETY—At Royal Society of Medicine, 8.15 pm, Professor Donald Tear: Poisoning by paraquat (with reference to *R v Roberts and Kenyon*).
POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL CENTRE—At Charing Cross Hospital (Fulham), 4 pm, rheumatology symposium.
ST MARY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL—5.15 pm, Aleck Bourne lecture by Dr C Mendez-Bauer (Spain): The effect of posture on labour.

Friday, 14 November

NATIONAL HEART HOSPITAL—At Royal College of Physicians, 5.30 pm, St Cyres lecture by Professor Jeremy Morris: Ischaemic heart disease: the search for causes—a personal record.

Saturday, 15 November

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND—5 pm, Hunterian lecture by Professor H J Richards: Tendon healing and return of function.

BMA NOTICES

Diary of Central Meetings

| | NOVEMBER |
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| 9 Sun | Welsh Committee for Hospital Medical Services (Hotel Metropole, Llandrindod Wells), 2 pm. |
| 13 Thurs | Working Party on Services for the Elderly (Board of Science and Education), 10.30 am. |
| 16 Sun | Welsh Council (195 Newport Road, Cardiff CF2 1UE), 10.30 am. |
| 20 Thurs | Executive Subcommittee (CCHMS), 10 am. |
| 20 Thurs | General Medical Services Committee, 10 am. |
| 20 Thurs | Dermatologists Subcommittee (CCHMS), 11 am. |

Branch and Division Meetings to be Held

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

Birmingham Division—Joint meeting with Birmingham Medical Institute at the Institute, Tuesday, 11 November, 8.15 pm, Professor H Morgan: "Up the Amazon." (Preceded by supper, 7.15 pm.*)

Blackpool and Fylde Division—At Savoy Hotel, Wednesday, 12 November, 7.30 pm, dinner, 8.45 pm, lecture by Mr K A Hicks: "Oral and dental conditions of interest to the medical practitioner."* (Guests are invited.)

Bury Division—At Bolholt Club, Saturday, 15 November, 7.45 for 8.30 pm, annual dinner.* (Guests are invited.)

Chesterfield Division—At Chesterfield Royal Hospital, Thursday, 13 November, 7.45 pm, symposium on "Whither the NHS?" (Guests are invited.)

Dudley Division—At Corbett Hospital, Tuesday, 11 November, 8.30 pm, agm.

East Dorset Division—At Postgraduate Centre, Boscombe, Friday, 14 November, 7.30 for 8 pm, joint meeting with the Bournemouth and District Law Society, guest speaker Sir John Eden, Bart.*

Edgware and Hendon Division—At Hendon Hall Hotel, Tuesday, 11 November, 8.30 pm, Dr Cicely Saunders: "Terminal care."

Gloucestershire Branch—At Bowden Hall Hotel, Thursday, 13 November, 7.15 pm, Dr R D Catterall: "Affluence, permissiveness and behaviour."* (Followed by dinner.)

Greenwich Division—At Trafalgar Tavern, Saturday, November 15, 7.30 for 8 pm, annual whitebait supper.* (Guests are welcome.)

Holland/Lincs Division—At Boston General Hospital, Saturday, 15 November, 7.30 pm, Dr K Lloyd Jones: "Some practical advances in rheumatology."*

Harrogate Division—At Harrogate General Hospital, Monday, 10 November, 8 pm, agm and Mr D J Shields: "Purchase of added years and additional retirement allowance."

Hastings Division—At Postgraduate Centre, Tuesday, 11 November, 7.30 pm, Mr Donald Kimber: "English heraldry."

Kesteven Division—At Grantham and Kesteven General Hospital, Wednesday, 12 November, 12.30 pm, Mr D J Shields: "Purchase of added years for retirement pension."*

North Warwickshire Division—At Chase Hotel, Nuneaton, Tuesday, 11 November, 9 pm, Mr M L Cox: "Witch doctoring." (Preceded by dinner, 7.30 for 8 pm.*)

Sandwell Division—At Berrow Court Hotel, Thursday, 13 November, 7.30 for 8 pm, annual dinner dance.* (Guests are invited.)

South Bedfordshire Division—At Strathmore Hotel, Luton, Wednesday, November 12, 8 for 8.30 pm, annual dinner.* Guest speaker the Marquis of Tavistock. (Guests are invited.)

West Berkshire Division—At Royal Berkshire Hospital, Wednesday, 12 November, 8.30 pm, Dr E N O'Brien: "Medicine and athletes."*

West Derbyshire Division—At Whitworth Hospital, Wednesday, 12 November, 8.30 pm, Dr J Fleming: "Clinical diagnosis in heart disease."

Corrections

Relief of terminal pain

In this article (25 October, p 213) under subtitle *Choice of analgesic* in the fourth paragraph the words "aspirin and powdered opium (Nepenthe)" should read: "aspirin and nepenthe."

Royal Commission on the NHS: Meeting with the Prime Minister

In the list of those representing the profession at the meeting with the Prime Minister (1 November, p 305) we apologise that Dr J F Rickard's initials and title were incorrect. Dr Rickard represented the Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association.

Notice to authors

When original articles and letters for publication are not submitted exclusively to the *British Medical Journal* this must be stated. For detailed instructions to authors see page 6 of the issue dated 4 October 1975.

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