

MEDICAL NEWS

Nuffield chair of psychiatry, University of Leeds

Dr R H S Mindham has been appointed to the Nuffield chair of psychiatry of the University of Leeds from 1 October this year. Dr



Mindham graduated from London in 1959, and after experience in medicine, neurology, and paediatrics, undertook postgraduate training at the Bethlem Royal and Maudsley hospitals, becoming a research worker at the Institute of Psychiatry in 1968

and lecturer in 1970; in 1972 he moved to Nottingham as senior lecturer in psychiatry, becoming reader in 1976. Dr Mindham's main research interests are in the relationship between the physical activity of chronic rheumatoid arthritis and the psychiatric symptoms sometimes associated with the disease.

Leukaemia treatment: cutback fears allayed

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Wales, Mr Barry Jones, MP, has written to Mr Ioan Evans, MP for Aberdare, explaining that there is no cause for the alarm which is being expressed about the future of the specialised leukaemia units at the University Hospital of Wales and Llandough. In his letter Mr Jones says: "There is no suggestion whatever that the department of haematology at the University Hospital or the special leukaemia units there or at Llandough should be closed, dispersed, or run down. Nothing has been done, nor is contemplated, which would reduce the capacity of either unit or put at risk the excellent work which each does or in any way prevent patients from any part of Wales from being referred by the GPs for treatment at the units, exactly as in the past. . . . The quite unfounded rumours have arisen out of misunderstandings about the significance of a decision that leukaemia should not be called a 'regional service' in the limited, technical (and rather involved) context of the various funding mechanisms within the Health Service. . . . I may add that whether or not leukaemia is designated as a 'regional speciality' has no effect at all on our ability or readiness to consider special funding for any new advance in treatment which might in the future be pioneered at the Heath or at Llandough: we have arrangements to enable us to support promising advances—what we call 'special medical developments'—in any speciality."

More funds for Wales

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Mr Barry Jones, MP, announced on 25 July that an extra £200 000 has been allocated by the Secretary of State for Wales, Mr

John Morris, MP, to the Health Service this year. The Secretary of State has decided that the money would be best spent on highly specialised equipment for the treatment of cancer and renal dialysis, including a gamma camera, radiotherapy machines, and automatic washing devices for home dialysis machines.

UK private medical care

A report commissioned by the DHSS on private medical care in the UK in 1976 was published last week by the consultant economists, Lee Donaldson Associates. The number of people insured for private treatment by provident schemes fell from a peak of 2.33 million in 1974 to 2.25 million in 1976. Three-quarters of the subscribers are members of group schemes arranged by their employers. Subscriptions totalled £70.6m and benefits paid for private treatment reached £57.7m. The report noted that though subscribers may opt for either private or NHS treatment when illness occurs they now opt more for private treatment than in the past. In 1976 almost 60% of private patient expenditure went on bed charges—£37.7m.

Association of Clinical Pathologists

Friends and wellwishers are invited to join members at their Golden Jubilee Ball, to be held on Wednesday, 14 September, at the Guildhall, City of London. Tickets (£15 each; £30 double) may be obtained from Miss S Crossland, Conference Services Ltd, 43 Charles Street, London W1X 7PB.

COMING EVENTS

British Association for the Advancement of Science—Annual meeting, 31 August-7 September, Birmingham. Details from the Association, Fortress House, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 1AB. (Tel 01-734 6010.)

1st International Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology—18-22 September, Izmir, Turkey. Details from 1st International Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, PK 48 Bornova, Izmir, Turkey.

Second World Congress on Intensive Care—19-23 September, Paris. Information from Dr Raymond Nedey, Secretary, Organising Committee, Second World Congress on Intensive Care, C M C Foch, F 92151, Suresnes, France.

Bateman Centre for Postgraduate Medical Studies—Details and copies of the programme 1977-8 are now available from Dr J L Taylor, Birch Hill Hospital, Rochdale, OL12 9QB. (Tel 0706 77777 ext 253.)

Nutrition Society—Details of two meetings in September now available from Dr M R Turner, hon programmes secretary, Department of Physiology and Biochemistry, the University, Southampton SO9 3TU.

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.*

Monday, 8 August

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON—At King's College Hospital Medical School, 12 noon, Dr Charles Hammond (USA): Pituitary microadenoma—a new gynaecological disease.

BMA NOTICES

Trainees Subcommittee (GMS)

Nominations are invited for election to fill the following vacancies on the Trainees Subcommittee of the General Medical Services Committee:

Region 1 (Northern) to serve until 1978.
Region 6 (North-east Thames) to serve until 1980.

Region 13 (Mersey) to serve until 1978.
Region 16 (Wales) to serve until 1978.

Nominees, and their proposer and seconder, must be in training, either on a vocational training course, irrespective of whether they are in the hospital or general practice component, or as a trainee under the trainee practitioner scheme. The electorate will consist of those doctors in the region who are in training, as defined above.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the Secretary, British Medical Association, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP, and should be returned *not later than Friday 26 August 1977*.

Nominations are also sought from local medical committees in regions 1, 6, 13, and 16.

E GREY-TURNER
Secretary

APPOINTMENTS

MANCHESTER AREA HEALTH AUTHORITY (TEACHING)—The following consultants have been appointed: Mr F A Strang (neurosurgeon); Mr R T Ramsden (ENT surgeon).

NEWCASTLE AREA HEALTH AUTHORITY (TEACHING)—The following consultants have been appointed: Dr Milena Lesna (histopathologist); Dr P Harrigan (geriatrician); Dr D S Reid (cardiologist); Dr I D Griffiths (rheumatologist); Dr S A Hargrave (anaesthetist); Dr G J Gibson (physician with responsibility for clinical pulmonary physiology).

Corrections

Stress incontinence

We regret that a printing error occurred in the letter from Mr E Schleyer-Saunders (30 July, p 317). In the eighth line from the bottom the word "postoperatively" should read "preoperatively."

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 1 January 1977.

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Authors wanting reprints of their articles should notify the Publishing Manager, BMA House, Tavistock Square, WC1H 9JR, on receipt of proofs.

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