

## MEDICAL NEWS

### Nursing Home Approval under Abortion Act

In a review of the nursing homes applying for renewal of licence for 1975 under the Abortion Act the Secretary of State has distinguished between those institutions where more than 25% of beds are used for termination of pregnancy and the rest. Twenty-eight nursing homes in the former category have been reapproved for a period of three months; the remainder—numbering 33—have been reapproved for one year.

### Malaria and Air Travel

The Airline Users Committee considers that travellers are insufficiently aware of malaria risks and that propaganda regarding efficient prophylaxis, as exemplified by the Department of Health leaflet, not widely enough disseminated. The committee is writing to all air travel organizers drawing their attention to the leaflet and the need for anyone visiting or passing through malarious areas to take antimalarial drugs before, during, and for 28 days after the visit.

Copies of the D.H.S.S. leaflet are available free of charge from International Relations Division, D.H.S.S., Alexander Fleming House, London SE1 6BY.

### Further Petition for Soviet Doctor

Dr. J. Dickson Mabon, M.P., secretary to the United Kingdom Parliamentary Medical Committee, has sent a letter to the Soviet Ambassador in London expressing his shock at the eight-year prison sentence given to Dr. Mikhail Shtern (21 December, p. 726). In his letter, Dr. Mabon calls on "the Soviet authorities either to release Dr. Shtern immediately, or permit the immediate hearing of an Appeal at a Court which will be open to Western journalists and lawyers. If the authorities have nothing to hide, any further legal proceedings should be conducted openly."

### Hospital Doctors' Dispute

The number of hospital doctors who had registered with the six B.M.A. employment agencies by 6 January was 7336 (*B.M.J.*, 4 January, p. 4). Many applications were still being processed by the B.M.A. as we went to press.

In a letter to C.C.H.M.S. "link-men" on 6 January the committee's secretary reports that an overwhelming majority of local meetings had rejected the Government's latest contract proposals by very large majorities. Support for sanctions was also "considerable."

### SI Units

Reprints, with plastic covers, of two articles on SI Units (*B.M.J.*, 30 November, p. 509, and *Journal of Clinical Pathology*, July 1974) are available from the Publishing Manager, British Medical Association, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR. Price £1 for both, post free (invoicing 20p extra).

## COMING EVENTS

**Addenbrooke's Postgraduate Medical Centre.**—(1) Day symposium, "Violence in the Family," 18 January, Fulbourn Hospital; (2) evening symposium, "Asthma—Modern Management," 20 January, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Trumpington Street. Details from the clinical tutor, Postgraduate Medical Centre, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 2QQ. (Tel. Cambridge 45151, extn. 7105.)

**"Septic Shock and its Management."**—Day symposium, 25 January, Edinburgh. Fee £2 (students free). Details and application forms from Miss Una MacFadyen, Royal Medical Society, 3 Hill Square, Edinburgh EH8 9DR. (Tel. 031-667 8159).

**Royal College of Surgeons of England.**—College evening, "Portal Hypertension," 10 February. Fee £2.50 (including buffet supper). Applications, before 5 February, to surgical training office, R.C.S., 35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WCA 3PN. (Tel. 01-405 3474.)

**M.R.C.Psych. (preliminary test) and D.P.M. (parts a and b).**—Revision course, 28 February-2 March, Brookwood Hospital, Surrey. For details see advertisement on page xv.

**Forest Group Hospitals Medical Education and Research Trust.**—Copies and details of the programme, January-April, are obtainable from the secretary, Medical Education Centre, Whipps Cross Hospital, London E11. (Tel. 01-539 5522, extn. 310.)

**South Essex Postgraduate Medical Centre.**—Copies and details of the programme, January-April are obtainable from the secretary of the centre, Basildon Hospital, Nether Mayne, Basildon, Essex SS16 5NL. (Tel. 0268 3911.)

**Dundee University.**—Copies and details of the programme of postgraduate medical education and training, spring term, are obtainable from the postgraduate dean Dr. Hamish Watson, Faculty of Medicine, Dundee University, Dundee DD1 1HN.

**Edgware Postgraduate Medical Society.**—Details of the monthly programmes, including some Sunday morning meetings, are obtainable from the postgraduate administrator, Edgware General Hospital, Edgware, Middx. (Tel. 01-952 2381, extn. 354.)

## 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, 13 January

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—4.30 p.m., Dr. Margaret F. Spittle: Radiotherapy of Benign Skin Diseases.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN.—6 p.m., Dr. R. W. Pengilly: Colloid Chemistry in a Can (pressurized pack aerosols).

### Wednesday, 15 January

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—4.30 p.m., Dr. Y. M. Clayton: Candidiasis.

INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGY.—6 p.m., Dr. C. O. Carter: Clues to Aetiology of Spina Bifida and Anencephaly; 7 p.m., Mr. K. Till: Clinical Aspects of Cranium Bifidum and Spina Bifida.

INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY.—5.30 p.m., Dr. J. G. Edwards: Alcohol Dependence—a Clinical Syndrome and its Implications.

ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL, HAMPSTEAD.—5.15 p.m., Dr. A. Dawson: Formation and Utilization of Ammonia in Man.

WILLESDEN GENERAL HOSPITAL.—8.30 p.m., Mr. J. F. Newcombe: Venous Failure.

### Thursday, 16 January

ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY.—5 p.m., Dr. S. Sevtitt: Medicine in Trauma and the Role of the Physician.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.—5 p.m., Fitzpatrick lecture by Dr. W. C. Gibson: A Canadian Trio of Internationalists—Banting, Bethune, and Chisholm.

ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPICE, LONDON E8.—8 p.m., Miss Patricia Downie: Terminal Care in North America.

### Friday, 17 January

INSTITUTE OF LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOTOLOGY.—5.30 p.m., Mr. R. F. McNab Jones: Dysphagia in ORL Practice.

## UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF PATHOLOGISTS

M.R.C.PATH.—S. M. Ali, C. M. Anand, I. H. Ansari, A. Azzopardi, W. L. Brander, Diana M. Chisholm, Kew C. Chong, Sheung T. Chou, D. J. Cooper, L. S. Culank, Fiona A. Drasar, P. E. Foley, I. Forrest-Hay, T. A. French, A. T. M. Ghoneim, H. M. Hamza, P. S. Hasleton, A. G. Higginson, Faith C. S. Ho, T. A. Husaini, R. M. Ibbotson, R. A. Jones, E. G. Kasili, M. Khurshid, P. A. King Lewis, P. J. Kingston, Pui-Chee S. Lau Wu, Milena Lesna, J. S. Lilleyman, D. B. McGeachie, F. McGinty, W. McMurray, K. Mahmood, Lok Mak, A. J. Marengo-Rowe, R. S. Miles, P. R. Millard, C. J. Mitchell, R. R. O'Moore, N. R. Padley, N. M. Pettigrew, K. B. Robinson, S. H. Sabri, P. C. Shah, G. P. Tamagnini, C. G. Taylor, Kyi-toe Tham, S. Thirunavukkarasu, Diana M. Walford, Dorothea A. Warmington, Evelyn M. Williams, D. F. Woodings.

## APPOINTMENTS

APPOINTMENTS TO THE QUEEN.—Mr. H. E. Lockhart-Mummery (surgeon to the Queen, while retaining the appointment of surgeon to the Queen's Household); Dr. J. C. Batten (a physician to the Queen); Dr. A. M. Dawson (physician to the Queen's Household, in the room of Dr. J. C. Batten).

## Corrections

### More Abortions

In 1973 about 11 per thousand of all women aged 15 to 44 resident in England and Wales underwent abortion and about 19 per thousand of single women in that age group. These figures were inadvertently given as percentages in our report (30 November, p. 541).

### Birmingham Medical Institute Centenary

The day symposium to mark this event (28 December, p. 776) will be held on 4 February 1975 and not on 5 February as was inadvertently printed.

### Physiological Distribution of Digoxin in Human Heart

We regret that three errors occurred in the paper by Dr. D. J. Coltart and others (28 December, p. 733). In the third line of Clinical Details "one women" should have read "one woman;" in the fourth line of the Results section "an" should have read "and;" and in the second line of the acknowledgements "Pol-Hh" should have read "Pol-HI."

### Screening for Sickle-cell Disease

We regret that an error occurred in the letter from Dr. J. F. Searle (4 January, p. 41). In the second sentence of the first paragraph the words "patients with sickle-cell disease" should have read "patients with haemoglobin SC disease".

### Place of Diagnostic Radiology in Medicine

We regret that two printing errors occurred in the letter from Dr. J. G. McNulty (14 December, p. 655). In the first line of the second paragraph the word "radiographers" should read "radio-graphs." The last five lines of the final paragraph should read "... the shortage will continue, and emigration to countries where the radiologist is appreciated and accepted as an equal by his clinical colleagues will undoubtedly increase."

## Notice to Authors

When the original articles and letters for publication are not submitted exclusively to the *British Medical Journal* this must be stated.

Correspondence on editorial business should be addressed to the Editor, *British Medical Journal*, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR. Telephone: 01-387 4499. Telegrams: *Aitiology, London, W.C.1.*

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