

Pressures on Geriatric Hospitals

Doctors, nurses, and patients at Ruchill Hospital, Glasgow, were struggling against unsatisfactory physical conditions aggravated by shortage of experienced staff. These conditions were to blame for many of the defects in the service provided by the hospital, says the report of a committee of inquiry set up to examine allegations about the running of the hospital that were made at and after the trial of Sister McTavish on criminal charges arising from the death of patients. (*Ruchill Hospital. A Report to the Greater Glasgow Health Board*; Mr. Simpson Stevenson, chairman).

The report criticizes communications within and between the professions and found evidence of problems of morale and leadership. It recommends that a procedure should be introduced to alert district executive groups whenever nurse staffing in a hospital falls below a fixed danger level and that in future geriatric units should not be set up without proper assessment of the physical conditions and staffing arrangements. "It is hard to believe," says the report, "that the full implications of the proportion of health resources now required to care for the elderly have been fully appreciated by the health care professions."

B.M.A.'s London Regional Office to Transfer to Birmingham

The B.M.A.'s London and Midland regional offices are being combined from 2 April. The London Regional Office—which will be closed on 26 and 27 March—is being transferred to the Midlands as an economy measure and because of staffing difficulties. The address of the new London and Midland Regional Office will be 36 Harborne Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 3AJ (tel. 021-454 4285). Unless a matter of extreme urgency arises Division secretaries are asked not to request information from the London office after 21 March.

Equipment for the Disabled

A series of 10 illustrated booklets on aids and equipment for disabled people has been compiled and edited at the Mary Marlborough Lodge, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Oxford. The third edition is now available from Equipment for the Disabled, 2 Foredown Drive, Portslade, Sussex BN4 2BB (price each booklet £1.50, binder for 10 booklets £15.00, postage extra). The booklets are intended for professional people concerned in advising and selecting equipment for handicapped persons of all ages. Titles available are "Wheelchairs and Outdoor Transport" (special supplement), "Communication," "Clothing and Dressing for Adults," "Home Management," "Disabled Mother," "Personal Care," "Leisure and Gardening," "Housing and Furniture," "Hoists and Walking Aids," and "Disabled Child."

Independent Hospitals

Independent hospital facilities are to be made available throughout Britain in the near future, claimed a new organization, the Independent Hospital Group, in London

last week. The group is headed by the British United Provident Association and includes private hospitals, provident associations, and other private medical interests. The immediate aim of the group is to cope with the shortage of facilities for private medical and surgical treatment; but it might extend its activities later "depending on the political situation," the inaugural meeting was told. Inquiries should be made to the Independent Hospital Group, 24 Essex Street, London WC2R 3AX.

British Supporting Group of W.M.A.

B.M.A. members wishing to apply for associate membership of the World Medical Association should write to the Honorary Secretary of the British Supporting Group, Dr. W. Norman-Taylor, at Sunnybank, Shire Lane, Chorleywood, Rickmansworth, Herts WD3 5NT. The annual subscription is £6.

New Venue for Bridge Club

The London Medical Bridge Club—formerly the B.M.A. Bridge Club—will in future meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month in the Undergraduate Medical Centre, St. Mary's Hospital, Harrow Road, W9. New members who are also members of the B.M.A. will be welcomed.

People in the News

Professor N. Ameli has been appointed dean of the new Dariush Kabir Medical School, attached to Tehran University where he has been professor of neurosurgery since 1957. He graduated M.B., Ch.B. at Birmingham University in 1937, and took the F.R.C.S.Ed. in 1947.

Mrs. Margaret Puxon, M.D., M.R.C.O.G., a practising barrister and Birmingham graduate, is the first woman to be appointed by the Privy Council to the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. Her term of office expires in 1978.

Dr. F. Hampson has been awarded the first Technicon travelling scholarship.

COMING EVENTS

"Departmental Planning."—Symposium 17-18, April, Cardiff, sponsored by Faculty of Radiologists and British Institute of Radiology. Details and registration forms from the secretary, Faculty of Radiologists, 28 Portland Place, London W1N 4DE.

St. John Ambulance Medical Conference.—"Urban Violence," 11-13 April, Nottingham University. Details from H.Q. St. John Ambulance, 1 Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1X 7EF. (Tel. 01-235 5231.)

Royal Society of Health.—Symposium, "Accountability within the Mental Health Professions," 16 April, 2 p.m., Newcastle upon Tyne General Hospital. Admission by ticket only (free), from the conference department, R.S.H., 13 Grosvenor Place, London SW1X 7EN. (Tel. 01-235 9961, extn. 39.)

West Middlesex Hospital Postgraduate Medical Centre.—Course of 10 lectures on "Cardiovascular Disorders," Wednesdays, 5 p.m., 16 April-18 June. Details of the course and of the

remainder of the programme are obtainable from the medical centre secretary, at the hospital, Isleworth, Middx TW7 6AF. (Tel. 01-560 2121, extn. 294.)

Faculty of Radiologists.—Symposium, "Departmental Planning," 17-18 April, Cardiff, jointly with British Institute of Radiology. Details from the secretary, Faculty of Radiologists, 28 Portland Place, London W1N 4DE.

Irish Rugby Football Union Medical Congress.—16-18 April, Dublin. Details from I.R.F.U., 62 Lansdowne Road, Dublin 4. (Tel. Dublin 684601.)

"Psychosexual Disorders."—Conference, 16-19 April, York, in association with York University and Clifton Hospital (Clinic for Psychosexual Disorders). Details and application forms from Dr. M. T. Haslam, PSD Clinic, Clifton Hospital, York YO3 6RD. (Tel. York 24677.)

7th International Course on Transplantation and Clinical Immunology.—12-14 May, Lyon, organized by the Claude Bernard University clinics of nephrology and urology and the Mérieux Foundation. Early application is advised and details are obtainable from Dr. R. Triau, Mérieux Foundation, 17 rue Bourgelat, 69002, Lyon, France.

British Thoracic and Tuberculosis Association.—Joint meeting with Swedish Society for Pulmonary Diseases, 15-17 May, Uppsala University. Details from the secretary, B.T.T.A., 30 Britten Street, London SW3 6NN. (Tel. 01-352 2194.)

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, 26 March

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—5 p.m., Hunterian lecture by Professor N. Thompson: Autogenous Free Transplantation of Skeletal Muscle.

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

FACULTY OF COMMUNITY MEDICINE: ROYAL COLLEGES OF PHYSICIANS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

At the annual general meeting held on 13 March Dr. Wilfrid G. Harding was elected president of the faculty and Professor T. A. Ramsay was elected vice-president.

APPOINTMENTS

NORTH-WESTERN R.H.A.—The following consultants have been appointed: Mr. S. Alexander, Mr. A. Watson (general surgery); Mr. F. O'Connor (c.n.t. surgery).

WESSEX R.H.A. (T).—The following consultants have been appointed: Dr. P. W. Nott (psychiatry); Dr. A. C. Wainwright (anaesthetics).

YORKSHIRE R.H.A.—The following consultants have been appointed: Dr. T. Hanley, Dr. P. Rajayabun (geriatric medicine); Dr. A. S. Early (radiology); Dr. A. J. King (general medicine (chest)); Dr. Dianne M. Burton (child psychiatry).

Notice to Authors

When 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: *Atiology, London, W.C.1.*

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

© British Medical Journal 1975

All Rights Reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the *British Medical Journal*.