

## MEDICAL NEWS

### Medical students

A total of 12 046 men and women applied for places at British medical schools in 1974-5 through the Universities Central Council on Admissions. Of these 8387 were men (69%) and 3659 were women (31%). The previous year the total had been 13 003.

The number of students accepted was 3208, of whom 2126 were men (65%) and 1082 women (35%).

### Advisory Committee on Alcoholism

The Advisory Committee on Alcoholism was set up in March 1975 to advise Health Ministers and has now reported. The committee thinks that the Erroll Committee's proposals to liberalise licensing hours will lead to an increase in alcoholism and its related problems—an extension of hours would mean a rise in consumption. Alcoholism has increased steadily recently. Between 1968 and 1973 the number of driving accidents involving drink rose by 27% per year. Since 1969 wine consumption has almost doubled and spirit consumption has risen by 80%. If the rise in admissions to mental hospitals for alcoholic psychosis continues at the present rate alcoholism will account for nearly 25% of all mental hospital patients by 1985. The committee urges caution in any proposal to reduce the age limit for purchasing liquor and is opposed to allowing 16-year-olds to work in licensed premises.

### Smoking

Cigarette manufacturers have agreed to place tar groups on packets, drawing smokers' attention to the amount of tar they are consuming in their usual brand. The latest tar and nicotine tables were published on 3 February and give detailed information on the tar yields of 110 brands of cigarette on sale, enabling smokers to choose alternative brands of lower tar yield. These will appear in poster and leaflet form, and be distributed to doctors, dentists, health centres, clinics, and local DHSS offices.

According to the DHSS there is evidence that progress is being made in reducing tar yields of cigarettes smoked. The average tar yield per cigarette of all cigarettes smoked in July 1972 was estimated at 21.0 mg; the corresponding estimate for June 1975 is 19.0 mg.

### COMING EVENTS

**Cardiff Medical and Dental Old Students' Association**—Conversazione, 6 March, Cardiff. Details from the Registrar, Medical School, Welsh National School of Medicine, Heath Park, Cardiff CF4 4XN. (Tel 0222-755944.)

**"Heat Transfer and the Human Body"**—Day symposium, 11 March, organised by Medical Engineering Working Party and Thermodynamics and Fluid Mechanics Group of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. Details from Mr J H Cole, Institution of Mechanical Engineers, 1 Birdcage Walk, Westminster, London SW1H 9JJ. (Tel 01-839 1211.)

**Royal Society of Health**—Conferences "The sexual problems of the disabled" and "Child

mind and day care," 11 and 25 March, London. Details from the Royal Society of Health, 13 Grosvenor Place, London SW1X 7EN. (Tel 01-235 9961, ext 37.)

**Bone and Tooth Society**—Winter meeting, 12 March, Oxford. Details from Dr Maureen Owen, Bone Research Laboratory, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Headington, Oxford

**Royal Society of Health**—Symposium, "The contribution of social research to health education," 17 March, Exeter. Details from the Royal Society of Health, 13 Grosvenor Place, London SW1X 7EN. (Tel 01-235 9961.)

**Royal Society of Health**—Conference on "Lead in the environment," 18 March, Birmingham. Details from the Royal Society of Health, 13 Grosvenor Place, London SW1X 7EN. (Tel 01-235 9961, ext 37.)

**Institute of Urology**—Symposium "Urology for the FRCS," 27-28 March, London. For details see advertisement at p ix.

**British Society of Audiology**—Details of meetings to be held this year are now available from the Secretary, British Society of Audiology, 1 Birdcage Walk, London SW1H 9JJ. (Tel 01-839 1211.)

### 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, 1 March

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND—4.30 pm, Erasmus Wilson Demonstration by Dr G L Asherson: Suppressor T-cells.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON—At St Thomas's Hospital Medical School, 5 pm, Professor C A Wagenvoort (Amsterdam): Pathology of pulmonary hypertension.

#### Tuesday, 2 March

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON—1.20 pm, Dr C J Lucas: Changing concepts in student mental health.

#### Wednesday, 3 March

INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY—5.30 pm, Dr M M Feldman: On the nature of reassurance.

INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGY—Sandoz Foundation lectures, 6 pm, Dr J S Porterfield: Virology and multiple sclerosis. 7 pm, Dr L A Liversedge: The status of "treatment" in multiple sclerosis.

ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL—5 pm, Professor G M Besser: Hypothalamic regulatory hormones.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD—At Radcliffe Infirmary, 5 pm, growing points in gastroenterology.

#### Thursday, 4 March

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON—5 pm, Milroy lecture by Professor J Pemberton: Some failures of modern medicine.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND—5.30 pm, Joseph Toynbee memorial lecture by Dr V Goodhill: Tympanoplastic surgery: heterodox techniques.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TROPICAL MEDICINE AND HYGIENE—6 pm, Professor Scott Halstead: Dengue haemorrhagic fever. A case of immunologic double jeopardy?

THE ROYAL SOCIETY—4.30 pm, Mr P A Lawrence: Compartments in insect development.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON—At the School of Pharmacy, 5.15 pm, Professor P Speiser (Switzerland): Exogenous and endogenous factors which influence the bio-availability of drugs.

#### Friday, 5 March

ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL—3 pm, Mr J R Silver: Surgical problems in paraplegia.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON—At the School of Pharmacy, 5.15 pm, Professor P Speiser (Switzerland): Exogenous and endogenous factors which influence the bio-availability of drugs.

### BMA NOTICES

#### Diary of Central Meetings

MARCH	
3 Wed	Scottish General Medical Services Committee (7 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh), 10.30 am.
4 Thurs	General Purposes Subcommittee (GMSC), 10.30 am.
11 Thurs	Organisation Committee, 10.45 am.
16 Tues	Negotiating Subcommittee (CCCM), 10.15 am.
18 Thurs	Executive Subcommittee (CCHMS), 10 am.
18 Thurs	General Medical Services Committee, 10 am.

### Branch and Division Meetings to be Held

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

**Bath District Division**—At Royal United Hospital, Monday, 1 March, 7.30 for 8 pm, divisional meeting.

**Blackburn Division**—At De Tabley Arms, Ribchester, Friday, 5 March, 7.30 for 8 pm, combined annual dinner and dance with Blackburn Medical Society.\*

**Ipswich Division**—At Limes Hotel, Needham Market, Wednesday, 3 March, 7.30 for 8 pm, annual dinner.\*

**Manchester Division**—At Boyd House, Tuesday, 2 March, 8 for 8.30 pm, Mr G A Morewood: "The menopause as a chronic deficiency disease."

**Peterborough Division**—At Bull Hotel, Friday, 5 March, 8 for 8.30 pm, BMA dinner dance.\*

**Somerset Division**—At Marston Inn, Marston Magna, Wednesday, 3 March, 8 pm, skittles evening and steak supper.\* (Guests are invited.)

**Wakefield Division**—At South Milford County Club, Friday, 5 March, 7.30 for 8 pm, lecture/dinner, speaker Dr Derek Stevenson.\*

### UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

#### LONDON

The title of reader in physiology has been conferred on Dr M K S Hathorn in respect of his post at the London Hospital Medical College.

Dr J M Grange has been appointed reader in microbiology at the Cardiothoracic Institute.

MD—G D Bell, E D Bird, J J H Gilkes, N W Glendinning, S K Goolamali.

#### LIVERPOOL

Appointment—Dr D M D Lambert (senior lecturer (clinical) in general practice).

### APPOINTMENTS

CITY AND EAST LONDON AREA HEALTH AUTHORITY (TEACHING)—Dr A P McGregor (consultant anaesthetist).

SOUTH GLAMORGAN HEALTH AUTHORITY—The following consultants have been appointed: Dr A G Knight (dermatologist); Dr M R Stephens (cardiologist); Dr A P Smith (thoracic medicine).

WESSEX RHA—Dr G H Mackay (consultant in adult psychiatry).

### Corrections

#### Massive intoxication with metoprolol

We regret that a printing error occurred in the letter from Dr B Hj Möller (24 January, p 222). The second sentence of the last paragraph should read "One patient survived 9000 mg of prazosin and another 2000 mg of propranolol."

#### Chromosome damage produced by psoralen and ultraviolet light

In the third sentence of the second paragraph of the letter from Professor M J Ashwood-Smith and Miss Elizabeth Grant (7 February, p 342) the dosages of long-wave ultraviolet light given should read  $1.34 \times 10^2$  and  $3.62 \times 10^2$  J/m<sup>2</sup> respectively.

### Notice for 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 3 January 1976.

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