

introduce the necessary legislation without further delay." The committee received advice from the BMA's solicitor on possible ways of safeguarding the position of GPs in relation to private practice from health centres in the light of the Health Services Bill published last week (see p 1024). A report of the committee's proceedings will be published in a future issue.

### NHS statistics

The total hospital medical staff in Great Britain in 1974 was 31 473. This represents an increase of 38% over the figure for 1966. The total of general practitioners was 25 849, an increase over the 1966 figure of 8%. The hospital specialties with the largest numbers of consultant staff were anaesthetics (1358), general medicine (980), mental illness (930), and general surgery (885). Between 1968-9 and 1973-4 the total cost of national health and welfare services doubled, from £1793m to £3603m.

In England in 1974 local authorities provided residential accommodation for 118 289 persons. Of these, 91% were aged 65 and over. Over 91 000 children were in the care of local authorities, an increase of 9% since 1971. About 20% of these were over compulsory school age. Local authorities provided help in the supply and installation of 2500 television sets and in the payment of an additional 6500 television licences in 1974. They also helped in the installation of 900 radio sets.—*Health and Personal Social Services Statistics for England, 1975* (Department of Health and Social Security, HMSO, £3.80 net).

### Forensic psychiatric hospital

A regional forensic psychiatric hospital is planned by the South-west Thames Regional Health Authority for mentally ill and mentally handicapped patients in that region who need a limited period of treatment under secure conditions. The aim is to provide comprehensive care and treatment for men and women for whom there are at present no suitable facilities. There will be provision for out-patients, and assessments will also be undertaken to help the courts.

The Butler Committee on Mentally Abnormal Offenders recommended that there should be secure units in NHS hospitals and, as a result, the Secretary of State has urged all regional health authorities to take action on this recommendation. The DHSS will make a special allocation for the cost of the new hospital.

### Personal chair in surgery, King's College Hospital Medical School

Mr V V Kakkar has been appointed to a personal chair in the department of surgery at King's College Hospital Medical School. Mr Kakkar, who is 39, graduated from Vikram University in 1960. After house appointments in Kent and Oxford, he joined the department of surgery at King's College Hospital in 1965. In 1968 he was appointed lecturer and in 1973 senior lecturer and honorary consultant surgeon. Mr Kakkar is also director of the thrombosis research unit at King's College Hospital and his main research interests are in thromboembolic disease.

### International Society of Hypertension

At the meeting held in Sydney, Australia, in February, Dr J I S Robertson was elected president, Professor A Zanchetti vice president, and Dr W H Birkenhäger secretary of the Society. The Volhard Award and lectureship was awarded to Dr F B Byrom and the Merck Sharp and Dohme International Award to the Howard Florey Institute of Experimental Physiology and Medicine, Melbourne. The retiring president, Professor F Gross, has taken up chairmanship of the Scientific Board of the International Society of Cardiology.

### People in the news

Dr D A Bedford has been appointed consultant emeritus to the Army in "appreciation of his long and unsparing service in an honorary capacity."

Dr H F Brewer has accepted the invitation to become president of the Greater London Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service in succession to the late Lt Col A W Pilgrim.

### COMING EVENTS

**Royal College of Physicians of London**—Teach-in, 4 May, London. For details see advertisement at p ix.

**Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents**—International conference in association with the British Safety Council, 17-21 May, Birmingham. Details from Mr R Hearn, Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, Cannon House, The Priory, Queensway, Birmingham B4 6BS. (Tel 021 233 2461.)

**Northwick Park Hospital**—Day course "Communications in medicine," 22 May, Harrow. For details see advertisement at p viii.

### 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.*

#### Tuesday, 27 April

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND**—4.30 pm, Arnott Demonstration by Mr G S Barrett: Anatomical basis of gastroduodenal motility.

#### Wednesday, 28 April

**INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY**—5.30 pm, Professor Sir Denis Hill: The legacy from Plato and Hippocrates: a dilemma for psychiatry.

**PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN**—7 pm, Professor A H Beckett: Bioavailability—implications for hospital and general practice pharmacists.

#### Thursday, 29 April

**CHRISTIAN MEDICAL FELLOWSHIP**—At Royal Commonwealth Society Hall, 8.15 pm, Professor J R Brobeck (Pennsylvania): Medicine, science, and Christian faith. **ST MARY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL**—5.15 pm, Aleck Bourne Lecture by Dr D R London: Ovulatory failure.

### BMA NOTICES

#### Diary of Central Meetings

APRIL	
27 Tues	Scottish Committee for Hospital Medical Services (7 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh), 10.45 am.
28 Wed	Finance and General Purposes Committee, 10 am.
28 Wed	Consulting Pathologists Group Committee, 10 am.
28 Wed	Accident and Emergency Subcommittee (CCHMS), 2 pm.
28 Wed	BMA Council Executive, 2 pm.
28 Wed	Consulting Pathologists Group, 2 pm.
29 Thurs	Compensation and Superannuation Committee, 10.30 am.

MAY	
6 Thurs	Central Committee for Hospital Medical Services, 10 am.
6 Thurs	General Purposes Subcommittee (GMS), 10.30 am.
7 Fri	Central Committee for Community Medicine, 10 am.

### Division Meetings to be Held

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

**Barking and Havering**—At Heybridge Moat House, Friday, 30 April, 7.30 for 8 pm, annual dinner dance.\*

**Brighton and Cuckfield**—At Brighton General Hospital, Wednesday, 28 April, 8.30 pm, combined meeting with East Sussex social workers, film by Michael Slater: "Making love."

**Burton upon Trent and District**—At Stanhope Arms Hotel, Bretby, Tuesday, 27 April, 8.45 pm, agm.\* (Preceded by dinner 7 for 7.30 pm.\*)

**Eastbourne**—At Hydro Hotel, Tuesday, 27 April, 8.30 pm, joint meeting with Eastbourne Medical Society, Professor D F N Harrison: "The philosophy of management of head and neck cancer."

**Greenwich**—At Greenwich District Hospital, Wednesday, 28 April, 8.30 pm, agm.\*

**Huddersfield**—At Royal Infirmary, Thursday, 29 April, 8.30 pm, Annual lecture by Dr John Lorber: "Meningitis in children."

**Lancaster**—At Glaxo Antibiotic Factory, Ulverston, Wednesday, 28 April, 2 pm, annual lecture.\* (Guests are invited.)

**Lewisham**—At Lewisham Hospital, Thursday, 29 April, 8.45 pm, Mr O G Jones: "Vet at the Zoo." (Wives, husbands and friends invited.)

**Manchester**—At Boyd House, Tuesday, 27 April, 8 for 8.30 pm, scientific meeting.\*

**North and Mid Staffordshire**—At Medical Institute, Tuesday, 27 April, 8 pm, special meeting to consider new rules.

**Northallerton**—At Friarage Hospital, Northallerton, Saturday, 1 May, 10 am, symposium on "Sleep."

**Salop**—At Medical Institute, Shrewsbury, Thursday, 29 April, 8 pm, joint meeting with the Shropshire Law Society on "The coroner, medicine and the law."

**South Warwickshire**—At Warneford Hospital, Wednesday, 28 April, 7.30 pm, business meeting.

**South-west Essex**—At Basildon Postgraduate Centre, Wednesday, 28 April, 8 pm, meeting to elect chairman and honorary secretary.

**Swansea and West Glamorgan**—At Dragon Hotel, Swansea, Friday, 30 April, 8 pm, dinner lecture.\* (Guests are invited.)

**Tower Hamlets**—At London Hospital, Tuesday, 27 April, 8 pm, agm.

**Wakefield**—At Pontefract General Infirmary, Tuesday, 27 April, 7.30 pm, agm.

**Worcester and Bromsgrove**—At Burford House Gardens, Thursday, 29 April, 6.30 pm, tour of gardens, followed by social evening at the Fountain Inn.\* (Wives are invited.)

### UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

#### LONDON

Professor T C N Gibbins, professor of forensic psychiatry at the Institute of Psychiatry, has been appointed to the chair of forensic psychiatry at that Institute.

#### BIRMINGHAM

Appointments: Dr S H Green (senior lecturer in paediatrics and child health); Mr M R B Keighley (senior lecturer in surgery); Dr A C P Sims (senior lecturer in psychiatry).

### 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 3 January 1976.

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