

and acceptable factors of error. The first world-wide general safety standard for the manufacture, installation, and application of medical electrical and electronic equipment was issued by the commission in January as IEC Publication 601, Part One. This includes information on the compatibility and interchangeability of medical electrical devices.

Radiological protection

The National Radiological Protection Board has advised the Government that the recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection provide a satisfactory basis for controlling the exposure of people to ionising radiation in work places and in the general environment. The central theme of the new recommendations is the system of dose limitation. The main features of this are: no practice involving radiation exposure shall be adopted unless its introduction produces a positive benefit; all exposures should be kept as low as can reasonably be achieved, economic and social factors being taken into account; and the "dose equivalent" to individuals shall not exceed the limits recommended for the particular circumstances by the commission. The NRPB considers that many specific points in the recommendations need to be interpreted. It has therefore established a new report series, *Advice on Standards for Protection* (to be sold through HMSO), for publishing its comments.

Help for the mentally ill and handicapped

Mr Alf Morris, Minister for the Disabled, has urged local authorities to make more use of the provisions of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act to improve the quality of life of the mentally ill and handicapped as well as of people who are physically disabled. Speaking in London to representatives of some 40 national voluntary organisations, Mr Morris said that families who care for a mentally ill or handicapped relative at home not only give a better kind of care than an institution could but also save the community a lot of money. Under the Act local authorities can relieve these families of some of the strain by providing help in the home—for example, an adaptation or aid, or a home help or meal in the home. "Such help can make all the difference," he said, "to a family struggling to keep a relative out of an institution."

People in the news

The honorary gold medal of the Royal College of Surgeons has been awarded to Professor T Cecil Gray, past dean of the faculty of anaesthetists of the Royal College of Surgeons of England and of the faculty of medicine, University of Liverpool, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to medicine and surgery and to the science of anaesthesia.

COMING EVENTS

International Symposium on Current Trends in Tumour Immunology—10-12 March, Cremona, Italy. Details from Organising Secretariat, Piazza del Carmine 4, 20121 Milan, Italy.

Socialist Medical Association—Day seminar on "Thirtieth anniversary of the National Health Service—what of the future?", 12 March, London. Details from SMA, 9 Poland Street, London W1V 3DG. (Tel 01-439 3395.)

Camden Association for Mental Health—Details and copies of the programme of a monthly series of lectures and discussions on "To calm the troubled mind" are now available from the Association, Raglan Day Centre, Raglan Street, London NW5. (Tel 01-485 0229.)

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, 20 February

INSTITUTE OF LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOTOLOGY—5.30 pm, Professor R M H McMinn: Electron microscopy of the tympanic membrane.

Wednesday, 22 February

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY—4.30 pm, Dr R H Mears: Skin manifestations of internal malignancy.

INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGY (QUEEN SQUARE)—Sandoz Foundation advanced lectures, 6 pm, Professor M Coltheart: Cognitive psychology and acquired dyslexia. 7 pm, Dr Hazel E Nelson: The role of memory in childhood dyslexia.

INSTITUTE OF ORTHOPAEDICS—5 pm, Mr D M Dunn: Slipped upper femoral epiphysis. 7 pm, Professor B McKibbin: Treatment of Perthes's disease.

INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY—5.30 pm, Dr J C Gunn: A study of Grendon Prison.

ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE—5 pm, Dr R G Petersdorf (Washington): Factors affecting antimicrobials.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD—At Radcliffe Infirmary, 5 pm, Dr N A Wright: Cell kinetics, tumour growth, and cancer therapy.

Thursday, 23 February

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY—At Department of Genetics, Downing Street, 4.30 pm, Dr C Bostock: Analysis of satellite DNAs on individual human chromosomes.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN—Joint evening meeting with Guild of Hospital Pharmacists at Pharmaceutical Society's Headquarters, 7 pm, Dr R P Enever: The application of innovative dosage form design to improved drug therapy.

WESTMINSTER MEDICAL SCHOOL—5.15 pm, Dr F I D Konotey-Ahulu (Ghana): Clinical and public health aspects of sickle-cell disease in West Africa.

Friday, 24 February

INSTITUTE OF LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOTOLOGY—5.30 pm, Dr G A S Lloyd: Radiology of the paranasal sinuses.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND—5 pm, Hunterian lecture by Professor A J MacGregor: The radiological assessment of lower third molars. At Birmingham Dental School, 5 pm, Hunterian lecture by Professor R M Baddeley: The management of gross refractory obesity by jejunio-ileal bypass.

BMA NOTICES

Central Meetings

	FEBRUARY
20 Mon	Medical Academic Staff Committee, 10.30 am.
21 Tues	Scottish Joint Consultants Committee (7 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh EH3 7QP), 10.15 pm.
22 Wed	Finance and General Purposes Committee, 10 am.
22 Wed	Executive Subcommittee (SHJSC) (7 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh EH3 7QP), 1 pm.
23 Thurs	New Charter Working Party (GMS), 10 am.
	MARCH
1 Wed	Private Practice Committee, 10.30 am.
1 Wed	Rheumatology and Rehabilitation Group Committee, 2.30 pm.
2 Thurs	General Purposes Subcommittee (GMS), 10.30 am.
3 Thurs	Scottish General Medical Services Committee (7 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh EH3 7QP), 10.30 am.

Division Meetings

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

Aberystwyth—At Swyn-y-don Hotel, Saturday, 25 February, 7.30 for 8 pm, dinner and talk by Mr Adrian M Evans: "A native returns." (Guests are invited.)

Aldershot and Farnham—At Camberley Heath Golf Club, Thursday, 23 February, 8 for 8.30 pm, annual dinner. (Guests are welcome.)

Birmingham—At Birmingham Medical Institute, Tuesday, 21 February, 8.15 pm, joint meeting with Medical Women's Federation, Midland Medical Society, and Midland Veterinary Association, "Zoonoses and rabies."

Bradford and Airedale—At Bradford Royal Infirmary, Wednesday, 22 February, 8.30 pm. Professor John Marshall: "Models of the central nervous system."

Bristol—At Bristol Royal Infirmary, Wednesday, 22 February, 8.30 pm, Professor John Mitchell: "Antique maps." (Preceded by informal dinner, 7 pm.)

Bromley—At Farnborough Hospital, Thursday, 23 February, 8.15 for 8.30 pm, Dr D K Browne will give an illustrated talk on Malawi.

Burnley—At Burnley General Hospital, Friday, 24 February, 8 pm, joint meeting with Burnley and District Incorporated Law Society, Mr Nigel Keddie: "Res ipsa loquitur or does it?"

Croydon—At Conservative Club, Thursday, 23 February, 8 pm, second annual joint meeting with BDA Croydon Division with buffet supper. (Wives welcome.)

Gateshead—At Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Friday, 24 February, 7.30 pm, joint party for members and guests with British Dental Association.

Greenwich and Bexley Divisions—At Greenwich District Hospital, Friday, 24 February, 7.30 for 8 pm, dinner for members and guests, speaker Dr A L De Silva: "My eyes have four legs."

Harrow—At Northwick Park Hospital, Monday, 20 February, 8 pm, joint meeting with Harrow and Hillingdon Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, speaker Dr Peter Borcham: "A scientific safari to Africa."

Holland Lines—At Pilgrim Hospital, Saturday, 25 February, 7.30 pm, Dr Richard Fox: "Suicide." (Followed by buffet supper.)

Manchester—At Boyd House, Tuesday, 21 February, 8 for 8.30 pm, scientific meeting, Dr T R Wilson: "Current treatment of depressive illness."

Salon—At Martin Institute, Friday, 24 February, 8 pm, Mr Martin S. Brookes: "Hypnosis in medicine and dental surgery." (Spouses are welcome.)

Scarborough—At Scarborough Hospital, Thursday, 23 February, 8.30 pm, Dr George Cust: "The ill made well; the well made ill."

Scunthorpe—At Scunthorpe General Hospital, Tuesday, 21 February, 8 pm, meeting.

South-west Durham—At Bishop Auckland General Hospital, Tuesday, 21 February, 8 pm, buffet meal followed by lecture.

South-west Wales—At Ivy Bush Royal Hotel, Carmarthen, Saturday, 25 February, 7 for 7.30 pm, annual dinner and BMA lecture by Dr K P Duncan: "Is work good for you?" (Guests are invited.)

Swindon—At Princess Margaret Hospital, Thursday, 23 February, 7.30 for 8 pm, early music evening. (Guests are invited.)

Wakefield—At Stoneleigh Hotel, Thursday, 23 February, 7.30 for 8 pm, informal lecture dinner, Dr Ian Adams: "Sports media." (Guests are welcome.)

Woking and Chertsey—At St Peter's Hospital, Wednesday, 22 February, 8.30 pm, Professor Roger Dyson: "The place trade unions occupy in the NHS today, and their anticipated role in the future, with particular reference to the implications this may have for the medical profession." (Members of neighbouring divisions welcome.)

Regional Meetings

South-east Thames Regional Council—The meeting arranged for Tuesday, 28 February, has been postponed to April.

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 7 January 1978.

Correspondence on editorial business should be addressed to the Editor, *British Medical Journal*, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR. Telephone: 01-387 4499. Telegrams: *Aitiology, London WC1*. Communications will not be acknowledged unless a stamped addressed postcard or an international reply coupon is enclosed.

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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