

National insurance contributions: BMA issues advice

Notes on the level of national insurance contributions for the year 1978-9 prepared by the BMA secretariat are available to Association members. There are two versions: for self-employed doctors (general practitioners) and for employed doctors. The notes will be of particular interest to those with mixed or multiple employments. They are obtainable from the Secretary, British Medical Association, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP. Please state which version you require and enclose a stamped addressed envelope. Notes on the employment of wives will be produced when the Government budget proposals are known.

Salmonella poisoning

Recorded cases of salmonellosis in man have ranged from 5000 to nearly 9000 a year in England and Wales in recent years. But salmonella poisoning could be much reduced by further education of the public in food hygiene, says a study group of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in its report *Salmonella: The Food Poisoner*. Written from a scientific standpoint but in layman's language, this recommends various measures to prevent the spread of infection in animals and man and the contamination of food. It may be obtained from the association, 23 Saville Row, London W1X 1AB (price £1).

Haemophilia survey

Of 750 haemophiliacs who answered a questionnaire in 1975, 35% considered themselves as disabled, reports the Haemophilia Society's latest bulletin; 47% of the sample had been diagnosed as clinically severe. Seventy-nine per cent found the treatment satisfactory, but only about half thought that professional help was speedy and sympathetic, and 70% competent. Forty per cent of the patients had no school qualifications; 32% held (or had previously held) clerical and 62% manual jobs. Difficulties in relationships outside the family were reported by 20%, and reluctance to marry or form sexual relationships by 9%. The bulletin containing the survey report may be obtained from the Haemophilia Society, PO Box 9, 16 Trinity Street, London SE1 1DE.

Medical audiovisual library

From its small beginnings in 1957 the Graves Medical Audiovisual Library has grown to a collection of 1000 titles of tapes and slides, designed for self-instruction or group study using simple equipment; in 1977 27 654 tapes were loaned. Copies can also be bought at cost price. A catalogue is available from the library (PO Box 99, Chelmsford, CM1 5HL).

Resource allocation

The Resource Allocation Working Party, maintains the Radical Statistics Health Group, tackled the wrong questions and gave deficient and misleading answers to them in *Sharing Resources for Health in England*. In its report,

RAW(P) Deals, this group of medical statisticians and doctors disputes the theoretical basis of the geographical redistribution of resources proposed in the RAWP report and argues that the formula fails to reflect the intention of redistributing resources towards services for the elderly and the handicapped and towards preventive services. The report (price 25p) may be obtained from the group BSSRS, 9 Poland Street London W1V 3DG.

COMING EVENTS

Lead pollution—health effects—Symposium, 6 April, London. Details from the Conservative Society Pollution Working Party, 43 Calverleigh Way, Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 8DH. (Tel 01-330 2134.)

"Drugs and immune responsiveness"—Symposium, 17-18 April, London. Details from Mrs Joan Kruger, Department of Pathology, Royal College of Surgeons of England, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PN.

Royal Medical Benevolent Fund—Annual general meeting, 11 May, London. Details from the Fund, 24 King's Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 8QN. (Tel 01-540 9194.)

"Treatment of chronic renal failure"—Course organised by the Boerhaave Committee for Postgraduate Medical Education, 11-12 May, Leiden. Details from Antwoordkaart, Machtiging 1575, Leiden.

European Federation for Medical Informatics—First congress, 4-8 September, Cambridge. Details from MIE78 Conference Office, Online Conferences Ltd, Cleveland Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 2DD. (Tel Uxbridge 39262.)

Indian Medical Service—1978 annual reunion, 28 June, London. Details from Colonel C W A Searle, 17 Lower Common South, London SW15 1BP.

Fondazione Giovanni Lorenzini—Details and copies of the programme of scientific activities for 1978 are now available from the Foundation, Via Monte Napoleone 23, 20121 Milano, Italy.

Nutrition Society—Details of forthcoming meetings are now available from Mrs J Schulkes, Nutrition Society, Chandos House, 2 Queen Anne Street, London W1M 9LE.

St George's Hospital and South-west Metropolitan Orthopaedic Training Scheme—Details and copies of the teaching calendar for the summer term 1978 are now available from Mr S C Gallanagh, MS, FRCS, Orthopaedic Department, St George's Hospital, London SW17 0QT.

SOCIETIES AND LECTURES

For attending lectures marked * a fee is charged or a ticket is required. Applications should be made first to the institutions concerned.

Wednesday, 29 March

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND—5 pm, Hunterian lecture by Professor R G Kay: Trace metals in human metabolism: studies during total parenteral nutrition. 6.15 pm, Mr P M Weston: Sepsis in the hand and fingers.*

Thursday, 30 March

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND—6 pm, Mr P S Boulter: Skin tumours.*

Friday, 31 March

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND—5.15 pm, Professor J C Goligher: colostomy and ileostomy. 6.30 pm, Mr C T Howe: Recurrent peptic ulceration after gastric surgery.*

BMA NOTICES

Central Meetings

MARCH	
28 Tues	Manpower Subcommittee (CCHMS), 2 pm.
29 Wed	Council, 10 am.
APRIL	
6 Thurs	General Purposes Subcommittee (GMSC), 10.30 am.
6 Thurs	Negotiating Subcommittee (CCCM), 10.30 am.
7 Fri	Paediatric Subcommittee (CCHMS), 2 pm.
8 Sat and 9 Sun	Junior Members' Forum, University of York.
12 Wed	Negotiating Subcommittee (CCHMS), 10 am.
13 Thurs	General Purposes Subcommittee (CCHMS), 10.30 am.
13 Thurs	Accident and Emergency Subcommittee (CCHMS), 2 pm.

13 Thurs to 15 Sat 21st Annual Clinical Meeting (jointly with Gibraltar Branch, BMA), Gibraltar.

Division Meetings

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

Guildford—At Bramley Grange Hotel, Friday, 31 March, 7.30 pm, supper meeting, speaker Dr W P MacLay: "Whither the pharmaceutical industry."*

Harrogate—At the Old Swan, Saturday, 1 April, 8 pm, annual dinner dance.* (Guests most welcome.)

Maidstone—At Veglios Motel, Thursday, 30 March, 8 pm, Dr James Cameron: "Current problems."* (With buffet meal, wives/husbands welcome.)

Walsall—At Three Crowns, Wednesday, 29 March, 7.30 for 8 pm, members and spouses invited to Walsall Law Association annual dinner, speaker Mr J R Sandy: "The Prison Service."*

Wigtown—At Judge's Keep Hotel, Wednesday, 29 March, 7.30 for 8 pm, Dr J B Scrimgeour: "Antenatal diagnosis."*

Woking and Chertsey—At Great Fosters, Egham, Friday, 31 March, 7.30 for 8 pm, dinner dance.* (Guests are invited.)

Worcester and Bromsgrove—At Raven Hotel, Droitwich, Friday, 31 March, 7.45 for 8.15 pm, annual dinner dance.* (Guests are invited.)

Regional Meetings

South-eastern Regional Hospital Junior Staff Committee—At BMA Scottish House, Wednesday, 29 March, 7 pm, agm.

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

At an ordinary meeting of the council held on 9 March with the president, Mr Reginald Murley, in the chair, the Sir Arthur Keith medal was presented to Dr David Haler.

Professor Nils Kock has been elected to the honorary fellowship.

Professor G D Tracy was appointed Sir Arthur Sims Commonwealth travelling professor for 1979.

Mr C L O Macalister, Mr A B MacLean, and Professor D E M Taylor were elected to the fellowship of the college ad eundem.

Mrs Margaret Ghilchik has been appointed Penrose May surgical tutor of the college.

The nomination of Mr A I S Macpherson as Gordon-Taylor memorial lecturer for 1979 and Professor S J G Semple as Tudor Edwards memorial lecturer for 1979 was reported.

The Hallett prize was awarded to Dr Martin Taube. Diplomas of fellowship were granted to H C McA Foster and P L McNicol.

CONSULTANT APPOINTMENTS

BIRMINGHAM AREA HEALTH AUTHORITY (TEACHING)—Dr A C White (psychiatrist); Mr A B Cross (accident and emergency services); Dr R B Hopkinson (anaesthetist).

NORTH-WEST THAMES RHA—Dr J E Thomas (physiologist).

NORTH-EAST THAMES RHA—Dr Kalyani Jash (anaesthetist).

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.

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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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