

Fallout from Chinese weapon test

Fresh fission product activity was detected in the air by the National Radiological Protection Board at Harwell on 28 December. The timing is consistent with reports of a Chinese atmospheric nuclear test on 14 December. This fresh radioactivity, however, will have little effect on the existing radiation dose level due to fallout from all previous nuclear tests; it cannot be regarded, says the NRPB, as a risk to health.

A medical authors group

The Society of Authors has many doctors, engaged in writing textbooks and medical journalism, among its members. A proposal has been made to form these doctor members into a medical authors group that could concentrate on the particular business, contractual, and other problems associated with medical writing. All doctor members of the society have been invited to a meeting to discuss the proposal at the English Speaking Union, 37 Charles Street, London W1, at 3 pm on 30 January. Any doctors who write about medicine, either full-time or part-time, will be welcome whether or not they are members.

COMING EVENTS

British Postgraduate Medical Federation—The Federation have arranged a series of two-day courses in clinical occupational medicine. For details see advertisement at p x.

University of Dundee—Details and copies of the spring term programme of postgraduate medical education are now available from Dr Hamish Watson, Postgraduate Medical Education, University of Dundee Medical School, Ninewells Hospital, Dundee DD1 9SY. (Tel Dundee 60111 ext 2181.)

Exeter Postgraduate Medical Centre—Details and copies of the January programme and spring term lunchtime clinical meetings are now available from the Centre, Barrack Road, Exeter. (Tel Exeter 70018.)

Birmingham Medical Institute—Details of forthcoming meetings on 19 January and 30 January are now available from the institute, 36 Harborne Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 3AF. (Tel 021-455 5007.)

Ashton Postgraduate Medical Centre—Surgical study day "Parenteral feeding," 30 January, Ashton-under-Lyne. Details from Mrs Joyce Choularton, Ashton Postgraduate Medical Centre, Tameside General Hospital, Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire. (Tel 061-330 8373 ext 343.)

South Essex Postgraduate Medical Centre—Details and copies of the programme January to July are now available from the Centre, Basildon Hospital, Nether Mayne, Basildon, Essex. (Tel 0268 3911 ext 3360.)

Royal College of Surgeons of England—College evening on "Abdominal trauma," 5 February, London. Details from the college, 35/43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PN. (Tel 01-405 3474.)

International Symposium Rehabilitation—6-8 March, Utrecht. Details from Royal Netherlands Industries Fair, Special Events Department, PO Box 8500, 3503 RM Utrecht, the Netherlands.

"Health in the farming environment"—Conference, 19-23 March, Dundee. Details from Professor Alex Mair, University Medical School, Ninewells, Dundee DD1 9SY. (Tel 0382-60111, ext 2425 or 2124.)

"The epidermis in disease"—International symposium sponsored by the European Society for Dermatological Research, 18-20 April, Cardiff. Details from Dr R Marks, Welsh National School of Medicine, Heath Park, Cardiff CF4 4XN.

International Symposium on Infant Nutrition and the Development of the Gastrointestinal Tract—3-8 June, Niagara Falls. Details from Continuing Medical Education, Children's Hospital, 219 Bryant Street, Buffalo, New York 14222, USA. (Tel (716) 878-7355.)

Twenty-first International Hospital Congress—24-29 June, Oslo. Details from International Hospital Federation, 126 Albert Street, London NW1 7NX.

World Congress on Mental Health—"Mental health of children and families," 8-13 July, Salzburg. Details from Professor Dr H Lechner, Psychiatric-neurological Clinic, the University, Graz, Auenbruggerplatz 22, Austria.

International Conference on Drug Absorption—24-26 September 1979, Edinburgh. Details from Mr W Campbell, University of Edinburgh, Centre for Industrial Consultancy and Liaison, 18 George Square, Edinburgh EH8 9LD. (Tel 031-667 1011 ext 2369.)

1st South-east Asian and Pacific Congress of Clinical Biochemistry—14-19 October 1979, Singapore. Details from Dr Tan It-Koon, c/o Singapore Professional Centre, 129B Block 23, Outram Park, Singapore 3, Republic of Singapore.

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.

Monday, 15 January

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY—4.30 pm, Dr M F Spittle: Principles of radiotherapy.

INSTITUTE OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY—12.30 pm, Mr M J Bennett: Routine ultrasound in the 2nd trimester—a preliminary report.*

Tuesday, 16 January

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL COLLEGE—5 pm, Mr D Henderson: The surgical correction of facial deformity.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE—6 pm, Jephcott lecture by Sir Kenneth Berrill: Education for what?—an old yet new dilemma.

Wednesday, 17 January

CLINICAL RESEARCH CENTRE—4.30 pm, Professor R Y Calne, FRCS: Liver grafting.

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY—4.30 pm, Dr Y M Clayton: Role of fungi in skin disease.

INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGY, QUEEN SQUARE—Sandoz Foundation advanced lectures on clinical and experimental neurology, 6 pm, Professor J Widdicombe: Respiratory sensory mechanisms. 7 pm, Professor A Guz: Clinical aspects of respiratory sensations.

INSTITUTE OF ORTHOPAEDICS—6 pm, Professor Verna Wright: Joint lubrication. 7 pm, Mr J W Goodfellow: Biomechanics of the tibio-femoral joint.

INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY—5.30 pm, Professor J E Cooper: Group psychotherapy and faith healing—some contrasts and similarities.

ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE—5 pm, Professor R Hoffenberg: The transport and metabolism of thyroid.

WILLESDEN HOSPITAL MEDICAL SOCIETY—At Willesden General Hospital, 8.30 pm, centennial meeting, Sir Robert Williams: "Microbes and their 'ologists in the modern world."

Friday, 19 January

INSTITUTE OF LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOTOLOGY—5.30 pm, Mr P McKelvie: Cryosurgery.

BMA NOTICES

Central Meetings

JANUARY	
16 Tues	Scottish General Medical Services Committee (7 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh EH3 7QP), 10.30 am.
17 Wed	Finance and General Purposes Committee, 10 am.
17 Wed	General Purposes Subcommittee (CCHMS), 10.30 am.
17 Wed	Scottish Committee for Community Medicine (7 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh EH3 7QP), 10.30 am.
17 Wed	Membership and Communications Subcommittee (CCHMS), 12.45 pm.
18 Thurs	General Medical Services Committee, 10 am.
18 Thurs	Negotiating Subcommittee (CCHMS), 10 am.
23 Tues	Joint Consultants Committee (Royal College of Psychiatrists, 17 Belgrave Square, London SW1), 9.30 am.
24 Wed	Council, 10 am.
25 Thurs	Hospital Junior Staff Committee, 10 am.

Division Meetings

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

Buckinghamshire—At Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Thursday, 18 January, 8 pm, joint meeting with Buckinghamshire Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society, speaker Mr K Fitzgerald: "Alcoholism."

North Warwickshire—At Chase Hotel, Nuneaton, Tuesday, 16 January, 7.30 pm, Professor O Wade: "Problems and adverse reactions to drugs in the community." (Followed by dinner, guests are invited.)*

South-west Wales—At Ivy Bush Hotel, Carmarthen, Friday, 19 January, 8.30 pm, annual dinner dance.*

Sutton and West Merton—At St Helier Hospital, Tuesday, 16 January, 8 pm, business meeting.

St Marylebone and North-east Westminster—At Royal Academy, Monday, 15 January, 7.30 pm, private view of the exhibition "The gold of El Dorado."* (Guests are invited.)

West Sussex—At Avisford Park Hotel, Thursday, 18 January, 7 for 7.30 pm, annual meeting with members of the legal profession.*

Instructions to authors

The following are the minimum requirements for manuscripts submitted for publication.

A stamped addressed envelope or an international reply coupon *must* accompany the manuscript if acknowledgment of its receipt is desired.

(1) **Typing** should be on one side of the paper, with double or triple spacing between the lines and 5-cm margins at the top and left-hand side of the sheet.

(2) **Two copies** (or preferably three) should be submitted.

(3) **Spelling** should conform to that of *Chambers Twentieth Century Dictionary*.

(4) **References** must be set out in the style used in the *BMJ*, and their accuracy verified before the manuscript is submitted.

(5) **SI units** are used for scientific measurements. In the text they should be followed by traditional units in parentheses. In tables and illustrations values are given only in SI units, but a conversion factor must be supplied. For general guidance on the International System of Units, and some useful conversion factors, see *The SI for the Health Professions* (WHO, 1977).

(6) **Authors** should give their names and initials, their current appointments, and not more than two degrees or diplomas. Each author must sign the covering letter as evidence of consent to publication.

(7) **Letters to the Editor** submitted for publication must be signed personally by all the authors.

(8) **Acknowledgments** will *not* be sent unless a stamped addressed envelope or an international reply coupon is enclosed.

(9) **Detailed instructions** are given in the *BMJ* dated 6 January 1979 (p 6).

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PATHOLOGISTS

The following candidates were successful in the MRCPPath examinations held in October-December 1978—B A Al-Irshayim, N S Al-Sakkal, K Amaratunga, S A Bari, R W Blewitt, Margaret A Boots, P A Burgess, R Devarajulu, R D S Dillon, J S Dinnen, B I Duerden, Susan M Fairhead, Anne-Marie R Feeney, A J Franks, Phyllis M Furnell, G S Gabra, Patricia Gill, P B Gray, I Gupta, M R Haeney, T C Haji, C A Hall, A Hannan, K Z Hashmi, A J Howard, Susan R Howatson, M W Humble, N B N Ibrahim, T J Israhim, A J Keller, J K Kelly, W E Kenyon, A M Light, S B Lucas, G B MacLennan, M J Mills, M Mirakhor, J A Morris, T E Mulvihill, B Naylor, K G Patterson, S J Proctor, A T M F Rashid, Gemma Rebello, D J Reynolds, T R F Rogers, Frances Rotblat, R M Sandler, S Sarkar, Katharine Schaffer, J Scott, H Shaikh, Janet A Shirley, M J Strevens, W Taylor, D R Telford, W D Thompson, P Vanezis, Mary J Warrell, Elizabeth W Williams.

CONSULTANT APPOINTMENTS

RAMPTON HOSPITAL—Dr I McL Stewart, Dr V T Perera (forensic psychiatrists).

CITY AND EAST LONDON AREA HEALTH AUTHORITY (TEACHING)—Dr S A Bradbrooke, Dr J A W Webb (radiologists); Dr P F Prior (clinical neurophysiologist).

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