

"Understanding Rheumatism"

The latest Family Doctor booklet, *Understanding Rheumatism*, explains the difference between the simple aches which affect most people at some stage in their lives. Rheumatism, declares the foreword, is one of the many medical problems where knowledge and understanding by the patient can make a lot of difference. The booklet's author, Dr F Dudley Hart, has described the treatment available for the various conditions, while disposing of some of the myths and folk remedies.

Kidney transplants

The number of kidney transplants undertaken in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland for the month ending 28 February was 49, and the number of potential recipients on file was 1311. Corresponding figures for the previous month were 55 and 1279.

Information, please

Dr H Fidler (The Haven, North Road, Glossop, Derbyshire SK13 9AX) would like to know about any epileptic attacks induced by television advertisements using strobe-light effects, with details of the advertisements.

People in the news

Dr Fred Wrigley, who recently retired as chairman of United Medical Enterprises Limited, has been appointed honorary consultant to the National Enterprise Board on the health care equipment and supplies industry.

Dr T D Hawkins has been appointed clinical dean in the University of Cambridge from 1 October.

COMING EVENTS

"Educational opportunities in retirement"—Conference, 3 April, Hatfield. Details from Ruth Michaels, Hatfield Polytechnic, PO Box 109, Hatfield, Herts.

Royal College of Physicians of London—Teach-in on "Liver failure," 3 April, London. Details from the secretary of the college, 11 St Andrew's Place, London NW1 4LE.

British Medical Association—Annual Scientific Meeting "Medicine for a new generation," 5-7 April, Nottingham. Residential accommodation still available at Derby Hall. Registration inquiries to Miss Jill Draper, British Medical Association, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1. (Tel 01-387 4499.)

Ileostomy Association of Great Britain and Ireland—Meeting, 12 May, London. Details from the secretary of the association, Mr T W Sturgeon, 29 Hulton Close, Boreham, Chelmsford, Essex.

3rd European Congress of Clinical Chemistry—4-8 June, Brighton. Details from Dr P J N Howorth, Department of Chemical Pathology, Guy's Hospital Medical School, London SE1 9RT.

Royal College of Physicians of London—Conference on "Clinical decision making: picking the best test," 6 June, London. Details from the secretary of the college, 11 St Andrew's Place, Regent's Park, London NW1 4LE.

International Symposium on Scientific Criteria and Methods for Drug Assessment—5-7 July, Rome. Details from Fondazione Giovanni Lorenzini, Via Monte Napoleone 23, Milan, Italy.

Association of Professions for the Mentally Handicapped—Sixth annual congress "Assessment—then what?" 10-13 July, Edinburgh. Details from the congress organiser, Barbara Hamilton, Social Work Dept, Fisherrow School, South Street, Musselburgh, Scotland. Closing date for applications 1 May.

Workshop on Bioethics and Public Policy—15-22 July, Boulder, Colorado. Details from Robert M

Veatch, the Hastings Center, 360 Broadway, Hastings-on-Hudson, New York 10706, USA. (Tel (914) 478-0500.)

International Congress on Respiratory Diseases—Main topic asthma, 10-13 October, Basle. Details from Dr D W Empey, London Hospital, Whitechapel, London E1 1BB.

Fifth Congress of the Medical Oncology Society—"Diagnosis, treatment of cancer, experimental studies," 1-3 December, Nice. Details from Pr M Schneider, Centre Antoine-Lacassagne, 36 Voie Romaine, 06054 Nice Cedex, France. (Tel 93 81 71 33.)

British Council—Course 953 "The clinical medicine of old age. Implications for the provision of geriatric services," 2-14 December, London. Details from the director of the Courses Department of the British Council, 65 Davies Street, London W1Y 2AA. (Tel 01-499 8011.) Closing date for applications 15 July.

Bicentenary of Birmingham General Hospital—Details of events including a dinner for senior and junior medical staff who have worked at the hospital from Mr M Baddeley, ChM, FRCS, General Hospital, Steelhouse Lane, Birmingham B4 6NH.

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.

Sunday, 1 April

POLISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION—At Polish Hearth, Exhibition Road, London, 10.30 am, scientific meeting for members and guests.

Monday, 2 April

BLAIR BELL RESEARCH SOCIETY—At Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, 5 pm, annual Duphar lecture by Professor A Thomson: Growing and reproducing.

NATIONAL HEART HOSPITAL—At Imperial College, 5.30 pm, surgical lecture by Dr J W Kirklin: The atrioventricular canal defects.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND—6 pm, Professor A D Roy: Surgery in tropical countries.

Tuesday, 3 April

BIRMINGHAM MEDICAL INSTITUTE SECTION OF PSYCHIATRY—8 pm, Dr Julian Leff: Interaction of social and biological factors in schizophrenia. (Preceded by buffet supper 7 pm.)*

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND—6 pm, Mr I M Hill: Principles of heart surgery.

Wednesday, 4 April

INSTITUTE OF ORTHOPAEDICS—Tumours around the knee joint, 6 pm, Dr M Chapman: Differential diagnosis. 7 pm, Mr J N Wilson: Management.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND—5 pm, Hunterian lecture by Professor R A Hurlow: The assessment of peripheral vascular disease by isotope angiography. 6.15 pm, Professor J P Mitchell: Management of trauma of the urinary tract.

ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL—2 pm, histopathology course, Dr J C Wagner: Hazards of asbestos.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD—At Radcliffe Infirmary, 5 pm, Macmillan lecture by Professor M J Krant (Massachusetts): Care of the patient with far-advanced cancer.

Thursday, 5 April

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD—At Radcliffe Infirmary, 2 pm, Litchfield lecture by Dr P B Beeson (Seattle): Changes in the practice of medicine during the past half-century.

Friday, 6 April

INSTITUTE OF LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOLGY—5.30 pm, Mr T R Bull: Rhinoplasty: the problems with septums and saddles.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND—6 pm, Professor J P Blandy: Advances in the treatment of carcinoma of the urinary tract.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE—5.30 pm, Pharmacia lecture by Dr Martin Holmdahl (Sweden): Post-operative pain control.

BMA NOTICES

Central Meetings

MARCH
31 Sat Junior Members Forum, University of Reading.

APRIL
1 Sun Junior Members Forum, University of Reading.
3 Tues Joint Consultants Committee (Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, 18 Nicolson Street, Edinburgh); 9.30 am.
4 Wed Journal Committee, 2 pm.
5 Thurs General Purposes Committee (GMSC), 10.30 am.

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).

5 Thurs to
7 Sat Annual Scientific Meeting, University of Nottingham.
11 Wed Finance and General Purposes Committee, 10 am.

Division Meetings

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

Aldershot and Farnham—At Frimley Park Hospital, Wednesday, 4 April, 8 pm, agm.

Bradford and Airedale—At Bradford Royal Infirmary, Wednesday, 4 April, 8.30 pm, film: "Sexuality and communication."

Eastbourne—At Sussex Police Headquarters, Tuesday, 3 April, 7.30 pm, tour followed by buffet supper.*

East Surrey—At Redhill General Hospital, Tuesday, 3 April, 8.30 pm, business meeting.

Kingston/Richmond/Epsom—At Burford Bridge Hotel, Dorking, Wednesday, 4 April, 7.30 for 8 pm, dinner/lecture, speaker Professor Keith Simpson: "How to face the lawyers."* (Wives and guests welcome.)

Scunthorpe—At Scunthorpe General Hospital, Tuesday, 3 April, 7.45 pm, agm.

South-east Essex—At Civic Centre, Southend-on-Sea, Tuesday, 3 April, 7.30 for 8 pm, dinner, guest speaker Norman Ellis.*

Stockport—At Stepping Hill Hospital, Tuesday, 3 April, 8 pm, joint LMC/BMA meeting to discuss new GP contract, industrial relations, and unionism in medicine.

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