

decade, and that though waiting lists have increased from 521,000 in 1963 to 578,000 last year the effect on this of the existence of the pay beds can have been "at the very most" only marginal. (Over 90% of the waiting lists are in surgical specialties and gynaecology.) The Government noted the allegations of abuse made to the Expenditure Committee and the latter's view that it did not believe abuses were widespread. The White Paper states that it is impossible to be "completely certain" that a system of such size and complexity as the N.H.S. will be entirely free of abuse, but "where it occurs it must be firmly checked and it is the Government's intention to ensure that any specific evidence of abuse . . . is fully investigated and that any necessary action is taken on it." Overall, however, the conclusion is that private practice operates to the benefit of the N.H.S.

R.A.F. Medical Badge

The first new Flight Medical Officers' badges were presented by Air Marshal Sir Ernest Sidey to four officers on 5 April at the Ministry of Defence. Duties of Flight Medical Officers include practice of aviation medicine and advising of both executives and aviators on the medical problems of flight. The officers chosen for the preliminary flying squadron course will not be below the rank of squadron leader and will be serving on permanent commission. They will have completed not less than 30 hours flying in a period of six weeks as part of their training.



Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons

According to a report from the National Fund for Research into Crippling Diseases, who commissioned a survey on the subject, implementation of the requirements of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act, 1970, varies greatly in different local authority areas, and is not necessarily an index of the finance available or the policy of that area. Their survey showed that less than a quarter of the people estimated by a Government survey in 1971 to be in need of services had been identified by social service departments. It further showed that provision of home helps, telephones, meals on wheels, and housing adaptations differed markedly from area to area, and the reasons for this were often unclear.

The Implementation of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Act is available from Action Research—for the Crippled Child, Vincent House, 1 Springfield Road, Horsham, Sussex, price £2, post free.

People in the News

Dr. D. Mattingly, director of the Postgraduate Medical Institute, Exeter University, has been appointed to the chair of postgraduate medical studies at Exeter.

Mr. Michael P. Ward, F.R.C.S., has received the Cuthbert Peek award of the Royal Geographical Society for "exploratory and medical surveys in the Himalayas."

COMING EVENTS

Institute of Neurological Sciences, Glasgow.—Copies and details of the postgraduate teaching programme, 11 April-27 June, are obtainable from the meetings secretary, Dr. D. Doyle, Southern General Hospital, 1345 Govan Road, Glasgow S.W.1. (Tel. 041-445 2466.)

Biological Engineering Society.—3rd Conference on "Recent Advances in Biomedical Engineering," 15-19 April, Cardiff. Application forms and details from Mr. J. D. Gasking, Department of Pharmacology, St. Bartholomew's Medical College, Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6BQ. (Tel. 01-253 0661.)

North London Postgraduate Medical Centre.—Symposium, "The Use of Verapamil in Cardiology," 17 April, 1 p.m. For details see advertisement on page xx.

Leukaemia Research Fund.—Annual guest lecture, "The Nature of Myeloid Leukaemia," by Dr. D. Metcalf (Melbourne), 30 April, 5.30 p.m., Institute of Child Health, London W.C.1. Admission by ticket only and application must be made to the director of the fund, 61 Great Ormond Street, London WC1N 3JJ. (Tel. 01-405 0101.)

"Quality Control."—Day meeting, 2 May, Bloomsbury Centre Hotel, London W.C.1, organized jointly by Royal College of Pathologists and Institute of Medical Laboratory Technology. Application forms and details from Miss P. L. Chater, Royal College of Pathologists, 2 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AF. (Tel. 01-930 5861.)

Royal Medical Benevolent Fund.—Annual general meeting, 3 May, 4.30 p.m., Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, London N.W.1. Preceded at 2.30 p.m. by annual meeting of guilds. Details from the director, R.M.B.F., 24 King's Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 8QN. (Tel. 01-540 9194.)

Glasgow Reunion Dinner.—4 May, medical students of 1927-32 are invited. Details from Dr. Catherine H. S. Begg, 2 Ledcamerock Crescent, Bearsden, near Glasgow.

B.M.A. (East Herts Division).—Symposium, "Blood," 12-13 May, Queen Elizabeth II Hospital, Welwyn Garden City. Details from Dr. J. D. Hall, 4 Cashio Lane, Letchworth, Herts., SG6 1AX. (Tel. Hitchin 50411.)

Crichton Royal Hospital, Dumfries.—Symposium, morning session, "Jaundice," afternoon session, "Respiratory and Circulatory Failure," 18 May, under the joint auspices of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. Admission is free but application must be made to one of the above colleges.

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, 9 April

ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL.—10 a.m., lecture by Mr. G. A. J. Ayliffe.

Tuesday, 10 April

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL COLLEGE.—5 p.m., Dr. A. Ward Gardner: Teaching First Aid.
ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—5 p.m., Pocklington memorial lecture by Dr. D. Shafer: Human Vitreous Transplantation.

Wednesday, 11 April

INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY.—5.30 p.m., Professor T. C. N. Gibbins: Remands of Offenders for Medical Reports.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN.—At School of Pharmacy, Brunswick Square, London W.C.1, 7 p.m., Mr. R. Baker: Problems Arising in Preparation of Solutions for Intravenous Injection.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—5 p.m., Lister oration by Professor J. W. Kirklin: An Academic Surgeon's Work.

ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL.—2 p.m., Dr. M. T. Parker: Use of Typing Methods in Study of Hospital Infection.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS.—2.30 p.m., Professor W. Burns: Control of Occupational Hearing Loss.*

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE.—2 p.m., Leah Lederman memorial lecture by Sir Hedley Atkins: Cancer of the Breast—Forward Look in the '70s.

Thursday, 12 April

ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY.—5 p.m., Gilchrist lecture by Dr. A. S. V. Burgen, F.R.S.: The Progress and Present Aspects of Medical Science.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—5 p.m., Cecil Joll prize lecture by Professor J. Charnley: Some Reflections on Surgery of Arthrosic Joints by Mechanical Replacement.

Friday, 13 April

INSTITUTE OF LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOTOLOGY.—5.30 p.m., Mr. G. Qvist: Surgical Management of Various Lung Lesions.

ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL.—11 a.m., Mr. B. Nolan: Vascular Injuries.

Saturday, 14 April

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL SCHOOL.—At Addenbrooke's Hospital, 10 a.m., day symposium: Chest Diseases.*

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

BIRMINGHAM

Appointments.—Dr. Heather M. Beaumont, Dr. M. Berry, Mr. T. F. Spence (senior lecturers, department of anatomy); Dr. A. C. Pincock (senior lecturer, department of medicine).

H.M. FORCES

ARMY

Brigadier T. W. Carrick, late R.A.M.C., has been appointed Commandant and Director of Studies, Royal Army Medical College, and has been granted the acting rank of Major-General.

ROYAL AIR FORCE

Wing Commander D. Sturrock to be Group Captain.

Corrections

We regret that in the list of new Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (31 March, p. 812) the name of Mr. O. Olaore was incorrectly printed as U. Ilaore.

Herpes Simplex and Zoster

In the letter from Dr. J. Richardson (31 March, p. 799) the dosage of corticotrophin was given incorrectly as 4 IU daily. This should have read "40 IU daily."

Notice to Authors

When original articles and letters for publication are not submitted exclusively to the *British Medical Journal* this must be stated. Accepted articles may subsequently be selected for publication in the North American monthly edition.

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