

Social Security Abuse

Problems of medical certification receive attention in the Government's *Report of the Committee on Abuse of Social Security Benefits*, London, H.M.S.O., Cmnd. 5228, price £1.65. The committee, chaired by Sir Henry Fisher, stated that it did not intend to examine the standards of certification applied by family doctors or to pass judgement on them, but it had taken considered evidence from the B.M.A. and the General Medical Services Committee. Among the conclusions reached by the committee were that where long-term certification is concerned few difficulties arise; that while introduction of self-certification for claims of up to seven days might be an effective means of relieving general practitioners of routine work and making them freer to examine on behalf of the Regional Medical Service, it would certainly encourage fraudulent claims; and that patients should be more readily referred to the Regional Medical Service despite doctors' fear that this will repercuss unfavourably on their practice size and doctor-patient relationships. Patients' requests for convenience-dating of certificates is deprecated, and the period of a certificate's validity should, in the view of the committee, be related to the doctor's ability to predict the duration of the incapacity. Overall, it does not appear from the report that abuse of benefits by fraudulent medical certification is a major finding.

Medical Art Society

The 30th Exhibition of the society was opened by Professor Carel Weight, R.A., at the Leighton House Art Gallery, London. Professor Weight commented on the high standard of the paintings, drawing, and sculpture on view. There were 124 exhibits in all by members of the profession, mostly in active practice, and a few by their immediate families, including wives and a schoolboy son. The Exhibition is open daily until 14 April.

COMING EVENTS

Institute of Orthopaedics.—Instructional course, "Accident Surgery," Wednesdays, 18 April-18 July. Details of this and other courses including some at Stanmore are obtainable from the secretary for postgraduate studies, Institute of Orthopaedics, Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, 234 Great Portland Street, London W1N 6AD. (Tel. 01-387 5070.)

Royal College of Physicians of London.—Growing points in medicine, "The Enterocyte and its Disorders," by Dr. B. Creamer, 18 April, 2.15 p.m. For details see advertisement on page xv.

Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.—Symposium, "Puberty and Adolescence," 4 May, 10 a.m. at the college. Details from the treasurer, R.C.P.Ed., 9 Queen Street, Edinburgh EH2 1JQ.

"Psychiatry in General Practice."—Symposium, 4-5 May, Torquay, by the South-west England Faculty of the Royal College of General Practitioners. Details from the Medical Postgraduate Dean, Bristol University, 21 Woodland Road, Bristol BS8 1TE.

Faculty of Anaesthetists, Royal College of Surgeons of England.—One day meeting on

"Suxamethonium," 5 May, Manchester. Details from the Secretary, Faculty of Anaesthetists, Royal College of Surgeons of England, 35/43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PN. (Tel. 01-405 3474.)

"Chemical Engineering Contribution to Medicine and Health Care."—Day symposium, 9 May, 9.30 a.m., at Royal Aeronautical Society, London W.C.1, by the London and South-eastern Branch of Institution of Chemical Engineers. Details from Mr. R. Mason, Institution of Chemical Engineers, 16 Belgrave Square, London S.W.1.

International Society of General Practice.—Spring congress of general practice, 1-3 June, Budapest, organized in co-operation with Hungarian Society of General Practice. Details from the general secretary, Dr. G. Melhorn, I.S.G.P., Taunusstr. 62, D-7030 Böblingen, West Germany.

"Radioimmunoassay and Related Procedures in Clinical Medicine and Research."—Symposium, 4-8 June 1973, Istanbul, organized by International Atomic Energy Agency. Details from national authorities for atomic energy matters or from the I.A.E.A. Kärtner Ring 11-13, A-1010 Vienna, Austria.

"Immunology in Obstetrics and Gynaecology."—International congress, 7-9 June, Padua, Italy. Details from Professor N. Carretti, Obstetrics and Gynaecology Clinic, Padua University, Via Giustiniani no. 3, Padua 35100, Italy.

4th International Symposium on Endocrinology.—8-13 July, Royal Postgraduate Medical school, London. Details from Dr. Iain MacIntyre, Endocrine Unit, Department of Pathology, Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith Hospital, London W.12.

Manchester Medical Society.—Copies and details of the April-May programme are obtainable from the honorary secretary of the society, the University, Manchester M13 9PL. (Tel. 061-273 6048/3074.)

Hampshire Medical Federation.—Copies and details of the May-June programme are obtainable from the secretary, Postgraduate Medical Centre, Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester. (Tel. 63535, extn. 356.)

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.

Tuesday, 17 April

INSTITUTE OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY.—At Queen Charlotte's Maternity Hospital, 2 p.m., Mr. V. V. Kakkar: Puerperal Deep Vein Thrombosis. (Admission by ticket only, obtainable from secretary, Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Chelsea Hospital for Women, London S.W.3.)

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.—5.35 p.m., Goulstonian lecture by Dr. M. L. Rutter: Development of Infantile Autism.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—4.30 p.m., Erasmus Wilson demonstration by Dr. E. M. Lance: Lymphoid Cell Traffic.

ST. CHARLES'S HOSPITAL, LONDON.—8.45 p.m., Dr. S. Szanto: Management of Dementia.

Wednesday, 18 April

INSTITUTE OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY.—At Chelsea Hospital for Women, 3 p.m., Miss Aileen Dickens, Mr. F. Loeffler: Puberty. (Admission by ticket only, obtainable from secretary, Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Chelsea Hospital for Women, London S.W.3.)

INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY.—5.30 p.m., Dr. M. H. Lader: Psychophysiology of Anxiety.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS.—5.30 p.m., postgraduate museum demonstration by Dr. C. W. Elston: Pathology of Trophoblastic Disease.

ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL.—5.15 p.m., Dr. V. P. Dole (New York): Management of Drug Dependence.

ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL.—2 p.m., Bacteriology guest lecture.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE.—8.15 p.m., Albert Wander lecture by Dr. Keith Hodgkin: Doctors' Responsibility to Society.

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

ABERDEEN

Appointment.—Dr. R. J. L. Davidson (senior lecturer, pathology (haematology)).

LIVERPOOL

Appointments.—Dr. C. Powell (senior lecturer in geriatric medicine); Dr. P. Laidler (lecturer in pathology).

ROYAL COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

A special joint meeting between the Royal College of General Practitioners and the College of Family Physicians of Canada was held in Central Hall, Westminster, on 5 April, presided over by the president of the R.C.G.P., the Duke of Edinburgh.

The College of Family Physicians of Canada conferred its honorary Membership on the Duke of Edinburgh, Professor R. Scott and Dr. B. C. S. Slater. The W. Victor Johnston Medal was awarded to Dr. J. H. Hunt.

The Royal College of General Practitioners conferred its honorary Fellowship on Dr. W. Falk and Dr. B. Halliday. The Foundation Council award was conferred on Dr. D. I. Rice.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as president of the Royal College of General Practitioners, bestowed the awards and honours conferred by that college and afterwards addressed the audience of British and Canadian doctors and their wives who were attending the Congress in Family Medicine at Central Hall.

APPOINTMENTS

SOUTH-WESTERN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.—Mr. J. R. Friend (consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist, Plymouth clinical area); Dr. P. A. Taylor (consultant anaesthetist, Plymouth clinical area); Mr. P. J. Witherow (consultant orthopaedic surgeon, British clinical area, joint appointment with Board of Governors, United Bristol Hospitals); Dr. R. C. S. Moss (consultant psychiatrist, Devon and Exeter clinical area); Mr. J. A. W. McKelvey (consultant ophthalmologist, Cornwall clinical area); Dr. D. L. Stevens (consultant neurologist, North Gloucestershire clinical area).

UNITED CAMBRIDGE HOSPITALS.—Mr. R. H. Whitaker (consultant urologist, Addenbrooke's Hospital).

WESSEX REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.—Mr. W. E. G. Griffiths (consultant orthopaedic surgeon, Portsmouth group); Dr. D. F. Barrett (consultant dermatologist, Portsmouth and Isle of Wight groups); Dr. A. R. Evans (consultant anaesthetist, Bournemouth and East Dorset group).

Corrections

Potassium Overdosage: A Potential Hazard of Non-rigid Parenteral Fluid Containers

In the article by Dr. R. H. P. Williams (24 March, p. 714) the third column in the table (potassium concentrations in 500 ml N Saline in plastic container) should have read: 0, 252, 465, 90, 11, 2.

Notice to Authors

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