

products, anthelmintics, and eye drops are excluded from this "general sales list" which is reproduced as Appendix A to the report. Approval of individual compounds does not imply that the Commission will regard combinations of them as "reasonably safe."

No recommendations are made about restricting the sale of medicines on a self-service basis, as the Commission considered this would be difficult to implement fairly. *Report of a General Sale List for Medicinal Products for Human Use*, Department of Health and Social Security, Medicines Commission, London, H.M.S.O., 1973, (21p).

The second report comprises the Commission's recommendations on medicines that should in future be sold retail only on the prescription of a doctor (or dentist or veterinarian, as appropriate). These two reports have the practical effect of placing medicines into three categories: those on the general sales list—that is, available in ordinary shops—which are the subject of the first report; those available in pharmacies with prescription; and those only available on prescription in pharmacies (the subject of this present report). *Report on Prescription Only Medicines and Related Matters*, H.M.S.O., 1973 (24p).

Before making any order based on either report the Department of Health and Social Security would like to have the views and comments of interested organizations or individuals, and these should be sent to the Secretary, Department of Health and Social Security, Finsbury Square House (Room 321), 33/37a Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1PP by 14 September 1973.

Regius Professor at Aberdeen

Dr. William Walker has been appointed to the regius chair of materia medica in the University of Aberdeen. Dr. Walker, born in 1920, graduated in arts and served as an infantryman before qualifying from St. Andrews University in 1946. He worked in pathology in Dundee and as a medical registrar in Newcastle upon Tyne before becoming lecturer in therapeutics at St. Andrews in 1952 and subsequently senior lecturer in 1955. In 1954-5 he was a research fellow in Boston University. Since 1964 he has been a consultant physician in Aberdeen and clinical reader in medicine since 1971. Dr. Walker's earlier work included papers on siliceous granuloma and probenecid but later it was chiefly in thrombotic and haemorrhagic disease, and most recently in the treatment of typhoid and sundry problems of infection and drug therapy.



Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

This Act comes into force on 1 July (see *B.M.J.* 26 May p. 498) and provisions in it of particular concern to doctors are new powers of investigation given to the Home Secretary to deal with practitioners who prescribe controlled drugs in an irresponsible

manner. Details of prescriptions must be handwritten by doctors to minimize forgery risks, and repeat prescriptions for controlled drugs are prohibited.

Four types of control are listed, according to use and therapeutic value. Hallucinogenic drugs, considered to have little or no therapeutic use, constitute the first group and will be available to specified practitioners on licence only. In the main such licences will be for research and the licensee will be required to keep records of use and be liable to Home Office inspection. The second group includes opiates and amphetamines. The control of these is as stringent as the first group with the exception that, because of their wide use in medical practice, the drugs will be available to doctors as a professional class, and not simply to a named licensee. Apart from no obligation to keep records of their use, the other two groups of drugs, which include minor stimulants and analgesics, are similarly controlled.

Penalties for offences under the Act have been increased to a maximum of 14 years imprisonment, or an unlimited fine, or both.

Chair of Cardiovascular Medicine, Oxford

Dr. Peter Sleight has been appointed Field Marshal Alexander professor of cardiovascular medicine at Oxford University. The chair carries with it a professorial fellowship at Exeter College. Dr. Sleight, who is 43, was educated at Leeds Grammar School and was an open scholar of Caius College, Cambridge.



He received his clinical training at St. Bartholomew's Hospital and graduated M.B., B.Chir. in 1953. After house appointments at Barts and a period at the Brompton Hospital he became senior medical registrar at St. George's Hospital. He then spent two years at the Cardiovascular Research Institute, California University, returning to the U.K. in 1964 to collaborate with Dr. J. G. Widdicombe at Oxford. In 1966 he was appointed to the staff of the Radcliffe Infirmary. At present he is visiting professor and Warren McDonald senior overseas fellow of the Australian Heart Foundation at the Hallstrom Institute of Cardiology, Sydney University. Dr. Sleight's interests include cardiac neurophysiology and he has published papers mainly relating to the nervous control of the circulation and to its derangement in hypertension.

COMING EVENTS

"Prospects and Training in Community Medicine."—Day symposium, 16 June, Bath, by the Society of Community Medicine. Details and application forms from Dr. J. F. Skone, Department of Health, G.P.O. Box 201, Tower Hill, Bristol BS99 7BQ. (Tel. 0272 291010.)

Faculty of Radiologists.—Annual meeting, 22-23 June, Bristol. Details from the secretary of the

faculty, at R.C.S., Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PN. (Tel. 01-636 4432.)

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, 11 June

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—4.30 p.m., Dr. M. Feiwel: Cutaneous Lipoidoses.

Tuesday, 12 June

EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY.—At medical school, 5 p.m. Professor D. C. Simpson: Rehabilitation Engineering. LONDON UNIVERSITY.—At Westminster Medical School, 5.30 p.m., Professor T. M. Fliedner (Ulm): Cell Renewal Systems following Human Exposure to Ionizing Radiation.

Wednesday, 13 June

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—4.30 p.m., Mr. R. R. Phillips: Photographic Methods in Dermatology. OXFORD UNIVERSITY.—At Radcliffe Infirmary, 5 p.m., Dr. F. S. Goldby: Pathogenesis of Arterial Damage in Experimental Hypertension—an Electron Microscope Study. ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—5 p.m., Arris and Gale lecture by Dr. C. L. Berry: Growth, Remodelling and Healing in Major Vessels. ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL.—2 p.m., Dr. R. Horobin: Mechanisms of Staining Reactions.

Thursday, 14 June

KENNEDY INSTITUTE OF RHEUMATOLOGY, LONDON.—5.30 p.m., clinical meeting: Penicillamine and Rheumatoid Arthritis. ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH.—4.30 p.m., Ivison Macadam lecture by Professor W. D. M. Paton, F.R.S.: Drugs with Affinity for Lipid and their Effect on Cellular Function. ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—5 p.m., Gordon-Taylor lecture by Mr. A. S. Till: Gordon-Taylor, War Surgeon and Historian. ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.—5.15 p.m., Dr. J. D. Singer: Clinical Cytogenetics.

Friday, 15 June

LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE AND TROPICAL MEDICINE.—5 p.m., Dr. J. H. Bryant (Columbia University): Interrelationships between Health Services and the Education of Health Personnel. ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.—5 p.m., Marc Daniels lecture by Dr. J. Marks: Tuberculosis without Tubercle Bacilli—a Study of the New Mycobacterial Infections.

Corrections

Is Your Pain Really Necessary?

In the letter from Dr. Bernard Sandler (2 June, p. 550) the first two sentences of the second paragraph should have read as follows: "In the treatment of infertility, in large numbers of apparently healthy women no apparent cause can be found, but quite often there is a significant history of dysmenorrhoea, sometimes of abrupt onset in late adolescence. In some of these women a hysterosalpingogram has shown no significant impairment of tubal function, and some years ago I began to ask my gynaecological colleagues to laparoscope these women." We much regret that the word "no" was omitted in error from the second sentence.

Notice to Authors

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