

It is of interest that both she and her husband have also been found to have been infected with brucellosis.

It is now accepted, after the fascinating work of Hutchison *et al.*,⁸ that cats (domestic cats in particular) and food contaminated by cat excrement are the major source of infection in man. Pregnant women should therefore avoid contact with young cats. Cases 7, 8, and 9 had almost certainly been infected by their cats. None of the other families had cats as pets. Case 7 was diagnosed only after a process of elimination. The tiredness and prolonged fatigue associated with this disease was only too well demonstrated in all members of this family. The diagnosis was made more quickly in case 10 as he presented shortly after the diagnosis had been established in cases 5 and 7.

Sulphadiazine and pyrimethamine are the drugs usually used in treatment, but only cases 2 and 3 were treated with these drugs.

References

- 1 Sabin, A. B., and Feldman, H. A., *Science*, 1948, 108, 660.
- 2 Beattie, C. P., *Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*, 1957, 51, 96.
- 3 Sabin, A. B., *Advances in Pediatrics Intersciences*, 1942, 1, 1.
- 4 Ludlam, G. B., and Beattie, C. P., *Lancet*, 1963, 2, 1130.
- 5 Fleck, D. G., and Ludlam, G. B., *British Medical Journal*, 1965, 2, 1239.
- 6 Price, J. H., *British Medical Journal*, 1969, 4, 141.
- 7 Sharman, G. A. M., *et al.*, *Veterinary Record*, 1972, 91, 670.
- 8 Hutchison, W. M., *et al.*, *British Medical Journal*, 1970, 1, 142.

MEDICAL NEWS

Committee on Alcoholism

Membership of the Department of Health's Advisory Committee on Alcoholism was announced last week in Parliament by Dr. David Owen. The committee is to advise on services relating to alcoholism and a sub-group will help in the planning and development of services for homeless alcoholics. The chairman is to be Professor W. I. N. Kessel; other medical members include Dr. D. I. Acres, Dr. R. Bluglass, Dr. W. H. R. Cook, Dr. D. L. Davies, Dr. J. Griffith Edwards, Dr. H. H. John, Professor W. H. Trethowan, and Dr. J. M. Werner.

Cost of Nuffield Beds

The Nuffield Nursing Homes Trust, which is sponsored by B.U.P.A., now has 24 hospitals in operation in Britain. The average daily cost of a bed at present is £28.13, made up of £15.23 for nursing and domestic salaries, £3.02 for administration, £5.22 for catering and domestic services, £1.92 for rent, rates, heat, light, and power, £1.53 for repairs and renewals, and £1.21 for drugs and dressings.

Free Prescriptions for Low-income Groups

A new leaflet, PC11, has been issued this month by the Health Departments giving

details of exemptions from prescription charges available to patients in low-income families. Copies of the leaflet will be available at post offices and social security offices.

B.M.A. Film Awards

On 7 May the President of the B.M.A., Sir Ronald Tunbridge, will present the 1974 awards to the following 11 winners chosen from 87 films.

Gold: Colonoscopy: Principles and Techniques (Dr. C. Williams).

Silver: Leprosy (Dr. R. J. W. Rees); *Without Due Care* (Medical Defence Union).

Bronze: Alveolar Section for the Correction of Anterior Open Bite (Dr. R. Whitlock); *Breast Feeding* (Dr. H. B. Valman); *Bunion Surgery—A New Approach* (Dr. E. O. Leventen and Dr. D. W. Austin); *Fast Action at the Accident Scene* (Professor W. Herzog and Professor W. Reichmann); *The Heart: From Cell to Organ* (Professor E. Coraboeuf); *Lens Aspiration* (Mr. J. L. K. Banks); *Vaginoplasty in Excision of the Rectum* (Dr. G. W. Johnston); and *Worth It Every Inch of the Way* (Surgical Unit and Department of Physiotherapy, St. Mary's Hospital, London).

Medical Art

The annual exhibition of the Medical Art Society will be held at Leighton House Art Gallery on 14-26 April (11 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.). Membership of the society is open to members of the medical and dental professions, and evening meetings are held from autumn to spring. This year's president is Dr. F. J. C. Roe.

Medical Journalism

The annual awards of the Medical Journalists Association are this year being presented by the Reckitt and Colman Pharmaceutical Division. Prizes will be awarded to the "person(s) who, in their view, provided the most valuable service to medical Journalism in 1974." Nominations may be put forward by or on behalf of entrants and must relate to written work published in Great Britain during 1974. Entries should be addressed to Dr. Douglas Robb, 33 Lillian Road, London SW13 9JG.

COMING EVENTS

"Renal Diseases"—Symposium, organized jointly by the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Glasgow, and Northern Regional Postgraduate Medical Education Committee, 8-9 May, Inverness. For details see advertisement on page xii.

Marie Curie Memorial Foundation.—Day symposium, "Cancer and the Nation," 13 May, Royal College of Surgeons of England. Fee £5.50. Details from the assistant secretary, M.C.M.F., 124 Sloane Street, London SW1X 9BP. (Tel. 01-730 9157.)

Royal Medical Benevolent Fund.—Annual meeting, 15 May, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. Details from Colonel A. J. S. Crockett, Royal Medical Benevolent Fund, 24 King's Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 8QN. (Tel. 01-540 9194).

7th International Thyroid Conference.—9-13 June, Boston, under the auspices of the American and the European Thyroid Associations. Details from the general secretary, 7th I.T.C., 6 Beacon Street, Suite 620, Boston, Massachusetts 02108, U.S.A.

5th International Conference on Endocrinology.—13-18 July, Royal Postgraduate Medical School, London. Details from Dr. I. MacIntyre, Director of the Endocrine Unit, Department of Chemical Pathology, Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Du Cane Road, London W12 0HS. (Tel. 01-743 2030, extn. 457.)

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, 14 April

INSTITUTE OF LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOTOLOGY.—5.30 p.m., Clinicopathological conference.

Wednesday, 16 April

ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL.—2 p.m., Professor Mary Cooke: Food and Hospital Infection.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE.—2 p.m., Symposium on Genetics and Disease.

ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL, HAMPSTEAD.—5 p.m., Dr. P. J. Lawther: Medical Aspects of Air Pollution. ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—5 p.m., Hunterian lecture by Professor M. J. Knight: Glucagon in Pathogenesis and Treatment of Acute Pancreatitis.

Thursday, 17 April

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—5 p.m., Hunterian lecture by Professor A. A. Spence: Lung Function Changes in Surgical Patients—Mechanisms and Therapeutic Implications.

Friday, 18 April

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—5 p.m., Hunterian lecture by Professor K. P. Robinson: The Place of Long Posterior Flap Amputation in Geriatric Patients with Ischaemic Disease.

ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL.—11 a.m., Professor A. D. Roy: Geographical Variation in Gastroenterological Disease.

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS D.C.H.—J. Ahmed, M. M. Das, Adrienne J. J. Garner, D. C. Munday, Kathleen M. Murtagh, Tharuna M. Naidoo, Catherine M. Pouncey.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS At a meeting of the college held on 24 March Sir Cyril Clarke, K.B.E., M.D., P.R.C.P., F.R.S., was elected president for the ensuing year.

Correction

Unity and Diversity in Schizophrenia

In the 15th line of the second paragraph of the letter from Professor G. Winokur (22 March, p. 683) the figure "9.8%" should read "0.8%". In the next sentence the figure "62" should read "49."

Notice to Authors

When original articles and letters for publication are not submitted exclusively to the *British Medical Journal* this must be stated.

Correspondence on editorial business should be addressed to the Editor, *British Medical Journal*, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR. Telephone: 01-387 4499. Telegrams: *Aitology, London, W.C.1.*

Authors wanting reprints of their articles should notify the Publishing Manager, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, WC1H 9JR, on receipt of proofs.

© British Medical Journal 1975

All Rights Reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the *British Medical Journal*.