

the exercise of clinical judgment or that the body complained against had not (as the legislation requires) been given an opportunity to consider the complaint.

The commissioner made detailed investigations of 128 complaints, and in 67 of those he upheld the complaint in whole or in part. The report draws attention to complaints over long waiting-times in antenatal clinics; to the lack of a sound complaints procedure in some psychiatric hospitals; and to the difficulties that can arise from the contrast between the personal attention given to elderly people by their families and the degree of attention in a hospital.

### Medical school at Hull?

The University of Hull has submitted to the University Grants Committee a feasibility study into the possibility of admitting 50 medical students a year. No major capital outlay would be needed at once—existing facilities could be used, says the university, and it adds that the project has wide support among local doctors and academic staff. The study argues that the planned expansion of existing medical schools is unlikely to provide enough doctors for the 1980s. It also claims that Humberside needs the stimulus of a medical school to ensure the expansion of NHS staffing that the region urgently needs.

### Medical Journalists' Association

The Medical Journalists' Association Award for 1976 was presented to Mr Brian Inglis for his book *The Forbidden Game—A Social History of Drugs* at the Medical Society of London on 15 July. Awards were also made to Mr Frederick Kavalier of *World Medicine* for a special report on the rural health problems of India, Mr Angus King of the *Yorkshire Post* for a series on the problems of haemophiliacs, and Miss Mollie Lloyd for her health education columns in local newspapers. This is the second year that the Reckitt & Colman Pharmaceutical Division has sponsored the awards.

### Care of the Elderly

After four years' work the BMA Board of Science working party on services for the elderly (chaired by the president-elect, Sir Ferguson Anderson) has produced a detailed analysis of the current arrangements for the care of elderly people and made recommendations for their improvement. The report (*Care of the Elderly*, 56 pp, price £1.00 post free from the Publications Department, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1) makes specific recommendations on medical staff numbers for the hospital services: a community of 200 000 people, with about 28 000 of pensionable age, should have a minimum of 3 consultants, 5 junior medical staff, and 19 sessions a week by part-time staff, and for the elderly mentally ill there should be another 2 consultants, 3 or 4 junior staff in training, and up to 20 sessions provided by part-time staff. However, the report stresses, even these requirements should be kept under constant review to take account of changes in the proportion of old people in the population. Time should be made available

for the development of closer links between the hospital and community services.

Within the community the report commends the increasing use of multidisciplinary teams. It also advocates further encouragement for voluntary organisations willing to help in the care of the elderly. Self-help, too, should be encouraged, says the report; many old people could and should be enrolled as voluntary workers, and activities similar to those provided by hospital leagues of friends should be promoted among groups of elderly people. Paid organisers of such activities might be a good investment.

### Child abuse

The Open University and the Newcastle upon Tyne Polytechnic are planning a collection of teaching materials on the subject of child abuse. The course will consist of 25 written units in one volume, approximately 50 hours' study, with supplementary and self-assessment material; a reader of key writings, and a teaching package. The course will be advertised and marketed by the Open University. The core course and the reader will be available in bookshops in the summer of 1977.

### Institute for Research into Mental and Multiple Handicap

The Institute for Research into Mental and Multiple Handicap have compiled a list of books for parents of handicapped children with brief annotations indicating their scope, to help both doctors and parents of handicapped children. These are available from the Institute, 16 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 5HQ, tel 01-387 9571, one copy free to general practitioners, 15p to others, 10p each for bulk orders over 20 copies.

### People in the News

Dr J L Blonstein is acting as president of the medical jury at the boxing championships in the Olympic Games in Montreal.

Professor Sir Martin Roth has been appointed professor of psychiatry at Cambridge University from a date to be determined.

Dr D M Prinsley has been appointed to the foundation chair in geriatric medicine in the University of Melbourne and as director of the Mount Royal National Institute of Gerontology from 21 July.

Professor Sir John Dacie is to succeed Sir Gordon Wolstenholme as president of the Royal Society of Medicine in July 1977.

### COMING EVENTS

**Second Forum in Rehabilitation**—"Roles in rehabilitation," 1 September, Stirling. Details from Professor Cairns Aitken, Rehabilitation Studies Unit, Princess Margaret Rose Orthopaedic Hospital, Fairmilehead, Edinburgh EH10 7ED. (Tel 031 445 2007.)

**Institute of Urology**—Course "Urology for the FRCS," 10-11 September. For details see advertisement at p v.

**Royal College of Psychiatrists**—Course on "Clinical Research and Statistics" organised

jointly by the College and the Department of Postgraduate Medical Studies, University of Leeds, 18-19 September and 9-10 October. Details from Mrs J M Brierly, Department of Psychiatry, University of Leeds, 15 Hyde Terrace, Leeds LS2 9LT, or Dean of Postgraduate Medical Studies, University of Leeds, Leeds General Infirmary, Leeds LS2 9NL. Closing date for applications 5 September.

**7th World Conference on General Practice**—1-8 October, Toronto. Details from Medical Conference Travel Service, 24 Preston Street, Brighton (tel 0273 203111) and World Organisation of National Colleges, Academies and Academic Associations of General Practitioners/Family Physicians, 4000 Leslie St Willowdale, Ontario, Canada M2K 2R9.

### 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.

#### Sunday, 1 August

PAKISTAN MEDICAL SOCIETY NORTH-WEST REGION—At Royton Assembly Hall, 5 pm, general meeting followed by annual dinner.\*

#### Friday, 6 August

WORTHING POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL CENTRE—1 pm, Professor Deborah Doniach: New aspects of endocrine autoimmunity with reference to the latest work on the pancreas and diabetes.

### APPOINTMENTS

BIRMINGHAM AREA HEALTH AUTHORITY (TEACHING)—Dr R N Allan consultant physician (gastroenterology). M J J McMillan (consultant neurosurgeon).

CITY AND EAST LONDON AREA HEALTH AUTHORITY (TEACHING)—The following consultants have been appointed: Dr J A L Amess, Dr B Brozovic (haematologists); Dr M E Hardcastle, Dr E M D O'Brien (child psychiatrists); Dr E C Huskisson (physician); Dr G C Siegruhn (community medicine, social services).

NORTH-WEST RHA—The following consultants have been appointed: J G Chang (haematology); R M Doshi (anaesthesia); R D Kingston (general surgery); J C Lowry (dental surgeon); M A Razzaque (mental handicap); D B Stevens (radiology); M A Zamon (physician in geriatric medicine).

### Corrections

#### Royal College of General Practitioners

In the list of those successful in the Membership examination of the College in May to July 17 (July, p. 186) the name of Dr I A Crowther was omitted. We apologise for this omission.

### Notice to authors

When original articles and letters for publication are not submitted exclusively to the *British Medical Journal* this must be stated. For detailed instructions to authors see page 6 of the issue dated 3 January 1976.

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