

candidate obtained the diploma in or before October 1976, and has held it for two years. Candidates who hold a recognised diploma and fail the final examination in or before October 1978 will continue to have this exemption.

Writing and speaking in medicine

Another seminar, much the same as those held in London, Edinburgh, and Dublin, is being organised jointly by the *BMJ* and the Birmingham Medical Institute in Birmingham on Friday, 22 October 1976 (for full programme see p i). The emphasis will be on discussion groups and it is hoped that participants will bring along their own articles for analysis and advice. The numbers will be strictly limited to 100.

International Society for Clinical Enzymology

The International Society for Clinical Enzymology was formally established on 7 April 1976 at a meeting in Venice attended by clinical enzymologists from 16 countries. Professor J H Wilkinson (UK) was elected president and Professor A Burlina (Italy) vice-president. Other members of the board are Professor E Kaiser (Austria), Dr E Gerhardt (Sweden), Professor G Szasz (German Federal Republic), Dr D M Goldberg (Canada), and Dr M Roth (Switzerland). The object of the society is the promotion of all aspects of clinical enzymology, and membership is open to medical and science graduates active in the field. Further particulars may be obtained from the secretary, Dr M Roth, Laboratoire central, Hôpital cantonal, 1211 Geneva 4, Switzerland.

Surgeons in South-east Asia

The Association of Surgeons of South-east Asia was formed at an inaugural meeting held on 23 May in Singapore. There were 17 overseas delegates from Hong Kong, Indonesia, Philippines, and Malaysia and 22 from Singapore.

Professor G B Ong of Hong Kong was elected president and Dr T Oposa (Philippines) as president elect. The first scientific meeting of the association will be held in Hong Kong in September 1977. Membership will be open to all qualified surgeons in the SEA countries over the age of 30 years.

People in the News

Dr Wallace Fox has been awarded the Carlo Forlanini gold medal by the Federazione Italiana contro la Tuberculosis e le Malattie Respiratorie.

Professor P A Parish has been appointed to the third chair in the Welsh School of Pharmacy, University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology.

Dr R B Arnold, at present commercial manager of May and Baker's pharmaceutical division, has been appointed director of the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry at the end of the year. He succeeds Mr Teesdale, who has been director for 11 years.

National Ankylosing Spondylitis Society

A National Association for Ankylosing Spondylitis has been formed to provide a forum for ankylosing spondylitis sufferers and their families. It will appoint a medical advisory panel, will press for more and better treatment facilities, will raise funds for research, and seek to promote the welfare of those afflicted. The society is open to ankylosing spondylitis sufferers, their families, friends, and doctors, and to those medical scientists researching into the disorder. Further details are available from Mr L G M Tanfield, 4 Beaconsfield Road, Clifton, Bristol BS8 2TS.

Private Patients Plan

The annual report of Private Patients Plan shows that in 1975 subscription income topped £10m for the first time. A record sum of £8½m was paid out in benefits to subscribers. Donations totalling £89 001 (gross) were made under deed of covenant to the Nuffield Nursing Homes Trust, which operates 26 private hospitals throughout the country, with more being built and planned.

Provident schemes

A net decrease of 9000 subscribers to provident schemes for private medical care was recorded in 1975 according to the fifth annual survey done for the DHSS by Lee Donaldson Associates. The decrease was entirely among individuals who pay all their own subscriptions and was the first for 25 years. Numbers of subscribers belonging to group schemes, which are normally operated by employers, continued to increase.—*Uk Provident Medical Care* (Lee Donaldson Associates, 21-24 Bury Street, London SW1Y 6AL).

COMING EVENTS

Biochemical Society—565th meeting, 9-10 September, Stirling. Details from the Meetings Officer, Biochemical Society, 7 Warwick Court, Holborn, London WC1R 5DP. (Tel 01-242 1076.)

Association for Research in Infant and Child Development—Intensive course on use of the Griffiths Mental Development Scales, 13-17 September, Missenden Abbey. Details from D B H Birchen, Eden House, Clifton Lawns, Chesham Bois, Amersham, Bucks.

Churches' Council of Healing in Ireland—Conference on "Christ is the healer," 13-17 September, Belfast. Details from the Churches' Council of Healing in Ireland, St Martin's on the Mount, 11 The Mount, Belfast BT5 4NA. (Tel Belfast 57853.)

6th Combined Meeting of the Orthopaedic Associations of the English-Speaking World—13-18 September, London. Details and copies of the programme from the Conference Centre, 43 Charles Street, London W1X 7PB. (Tel 01-499 1101.)

Royal Society of Health—“Medicine on television,” 14 September, London, and “The care of immigrant under-fives,” 22 September, Leeds. Details of both meetings from Conference Department, Royal Society of Health, 13 Grosvenor Place, London SW1X 7EN. (Tel 01-235 9961 ext 39.)

Migraine Trust—International symposium, 16-17 September, London. Details from the Director,

Migraine Trust, 23 Queen Square, London WC1N 3AY. (Tel 01-278 2676.)

Institute of Medical and Biological Illustration—9th annual conference, “Audio-visual communication, past—present—future,” 16-19 September, Bath. Details from IMBI Conference Secretary, Department of Medical Illustration, University Hospital of Wales, Heath Park, Cardiff CF4 4XW.

Campaign on the Use and Restriction of Barbiturates—Symposium, 19 September, Belfast. Details from Miss C Moore, Belfast Post-graduate Medical Centre, Belfast City Hospital, Belfast BT9 7AB. (Tel Belfast 29241, ext 448.)

Second International Symposium on Rapid Methods and Automation in Microbiology—19-25 September, Cambridge. Details from Dr S W B Newsom, Papworth Hospital, Papworth Everard, Cambridge CB3 8RE. (Tel 048-088 271.)

Faculty of Homoeopathy—Details of a series of lectures beginning in September are now available from Dr Margery Blackie, Faculty of Homoeopathy, Royal London Homoeopathic Hospital, Great Ormond Street, London WC1N 3HR. (Tel 01-837 3091.)

Exeter Postgraduate Medical Centre—Details and copies of the programme September-December 1976 are now available from the Postgraduate Medical Centre, Barrack Road, Exeter, Devon. (Tel Exeter 70018.)

Bateman Centre for Postgraduate Medical Studies—The programme for 1976 to 1977 is now available from the Postgraduate Tutor, Bateman Centre for Postgraduate Medical Studies, Birch Hill Hospital, Rochdale OL12 9QB. (Tel 0706 78297, ext 253.)

Royal College of Physicians of London—The 1976-77 programme of teach-ins is now available.

“Clinical and Research Problems in Endocrinology”—Symposium, 16-20 January, Israel. Details from Dr J Sack, P O Box 1081, Tel-Aviv, Israel. (Tel 717159 and 622606.)

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.

Friday, 3 September

INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGY—1 pm, Dr C Kerber (Oregon): Experimental and practical problems in catheter occlusive therapy.

APPOINTMENTS

To THE QUEEN—Surgeon Captain (Commodore) J A B Harrison (honorary physician).

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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