

lodged it to do so without delay—an action which the BMA considers deplorable.

"At its meeting the CCHMS learned from the Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association (of which Dr Lawlor is a member) that it had received a letter from Mr Ennals which stated:

"I understand that Dr Lawlor has been offered alternative employment as a consultant in the region and this demonstrates that there is no question of his competence being impugned before the inquiry is held."

In a letter (dated 23 September) to the Secretary of State seeking a Section 70 inquiry Dr Gullick said:

"We have a situation in which a senior and experienced consultant has been suspended from his appointment by an employing authority which has no reason whatever to doubt his competence in the carrying out of his duties. Of even greater public importance is the fact that Dr Lawlor's suspension, we understand, and the industrial action which precipitated his suspension, followed upon his very proper request that certain unexplained instances of injury sustained by mentally retarded patients should be the subject of an inquiry."

New professor of medical microbiology at Birmingham

Dr Henry Samuel Bedson has been appointed to the chair and headship of the department of virology, renamed medical microbiology,



at the University of Birmingham, in succession to Professor Peter Wildy. Dr Bedson, who is 47, graduated from the London Hospital Medical College. After National Service with the RAMC he spent six years in the department of bacteriology at the University of Liverpool, moving

to Birmingham as senior lecturer in 1964, later being promoted to reader in virology. Dr Bedson's laboratory is one of several collaborating with the WHO Reference Laboratories in the evaluation of poxviruses now being isolated in smallpox-free areas. He is a member of the WHO Informal Group on Monkeypox and Related Poxviruses and of the Dangerous Pathogens Advisory Group set up by the DHSS.

COMING EVENTS

"Assessment and use of disinfectants, antiseptics, detergents and detergent-disinfectants"—Symposium, 26-28 October, London. Details from Symposia Secretary, Scientific Symposia Ltd, 42-34 Gerrard Street, London W1V 7LP. (Tel 01-439 6611.)

Ultrasonic Spectroscopy—Seminar, 27 October, London. Details from Meetings Officer, Institute of Physics, 47 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QX. (Tel 01-235 6111.)

Royal National Institute for the Deaf—Conference, 27-29 October, Harrogate. Details from RNID, 105 Gower Street, London WC1E 6AH. (Tel 01-387 8033.)

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, 4 October

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND—6 pm, Mr M Gough: Herniae in childhood and undescended testes.*

Tuesday, 5 October

INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH—5.30 pm, Alex Simpson: Smith lecture by Professor R D Zachary: A good pair of hands.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND—6 pm, Mr R C Fuller: Minor ano-rectal conditions and the management of swallowed foreign bodies.*

Wednesday, 6 October

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON—5.35 pm, Croonian lecture by Dr J D N Nabarro: Hormone secreting pituitary tumours.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND—5 pm, Hunterian lecture by Professor P Shridhar: The lymphatics of the prostate gland and their role in the spread of prostatic carcinoma.

ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL—5 pm, Dr A M Connell (USA): Second thoughts about natural fibre.

WEST LONDON HOSPITAL MEDICAL TRUST—5.30 pm, 29th Alex Simpson Smith memorial lecture by Mr J R Cobbett: The microscope in reconstructive surgery.

WILLESDEN GENERAL HOSPITAL MEDICAL SOCIETY—8.30 pm, presidential address by Mr R M Kirk: Exploration of the abdomen.

Thursday, 7 October

BRITISH POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL FEDERATION—At Senate House, 5.30 pm, Sir Douglas Black: Looking at research.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND—6 pm, Mr A G Cox: Post-gastrectomy syndromes.*

ST MARY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL—5.15 pm, Aleck Bourne lecture by Professor A C Turnbull: The modern view on induction of labour.

Friday, 8 October

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND—6 pm, Mr G J Hadfield: Varicose veins.*

Saturday, 9 October

NORTH OF ENGLAND OTOLARYNGOLOGICAL SOCIETY—At Hull Royal Infirmary, 12.15 pm, 86th ordinary and 30th agm.

BMA NOTICES

Medical Assistants Subcommittee (CCHMS)

Nominations are invited from medical assistants to fill the following vacancies on the subcommittee for the session 1976-7:

1 representative for North-west Thames region.

1 representative for South-east Thames region.

Nomination forms are obtainable from the undersigned and must be returned not later than Friday, 15 October 1976.

In the event of a contest voting papers will be issued at a later date.

E GREY-TURNER
Secretary

Diary of Central Meetings

OCTOBER	
6 Wed	Council , 10 am.
8 Fri	Consulting Radiologist Group Committee, 11 am.
12 Tues	Scottish Council (7 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh), 10.45 am.
19 Tues	Joint Consultants Committee (Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh), 9.30 am.
20 Wed	Central Ethical Committee, 10 am.
20 Wed	Occupational Health Committee, 10.30 am.
20 Wed	Scottish Committee for Hospital Medical Services (7 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh), 10.45 am.
20 Wed	Committee on the EEC, 2.30 pm.
21 Thurs	General Medical Services Committee, 10 am.
21 Thurs	Hospital Junior Staffs Committee, 10 am.
21 Thurs	Organisation Committee, 10 am.

Division Meetings to be Held

Members proposing to attend meetings marked * are asked to notify in advance the honorary secretary concerned.

Bradford and Airedale—At Bradford Royal Infirmary, Wednesday, 6 October, 8.15 pm, meeting.

Durham—At Dryburn Hospital, Monday, 4 October, 8.30 pm, agm. (Preceded by supper, 7 for 7.30 pm.* Guests are invited.)

Grimsby—At Humber Royal Hotel, Thursday, 7 October, 7.30 for 8 pm, annual BMA dinner.* (Guests are invited.)

Harrow—At Harrow Hospital, Tuesday, 5 October, 8.45 pm, agm.

Mid Essex—At Chelmsford and Essex Hospital, Wednesday, 6 October, 8 pm, agm.

Nottingham—At City Hospital, Tuesday, 5 October, 8.30 pm, ordinary meeting.

South-east Kent—At Dover Medical Centre, Friday, 8 October, 8.30 pm, dinner followed by illustrated talk by Dr Brian Lewis: "Paths of glory—an account of Canadian medicine near Folkestone in the Great War."*

Walsall—At Manor Hospital, Thursday, 7 October, 7.30 for 8 pm, joint meeting with the Law Association, Mr E Biddle: "Antiques and art at auctions."* (Followed by supper, guests are invited.)

Wakefield—At Milford Hall Country Club, Friday, 8 October, 7.30 for 8 pm, dinner dance.*

APPOINTMENTS

MANCHESTER AREA HEALTH AUTHORITY (TEACHING)—The following consultants have been appointed: Dr E N Iyengar (geriatrician); Dr A C Peterson (anaesthetist)*

WESSEX RHA—Mr G L D Gibbens (consultant in obstetrics and gynaecology).

Corrections

Life in Lister's wards

In the third paragraph of the letter from Mr V A J Swain (18 September, p 700) the date of publication of some of Henley's hospital verses in the *Cornhill Magazine* was given in error as 1975 instead of 1875.

Polycystic ovary syndrome

In the article by Drs Jean Ginsburg and C W H Havard (25 September, p 737) we regret that a printing error occurred at the end of the third paragraph. It should read as follows: "The exact prevalence of the disorder is difficult to assess. In a series of 160 abdominal operations where the ovaries were examined routinely polycystic changes were found in 12 cases, which is a prevalence of 7.5%;³ a prevalence of 3.5% was found in a necropsy series.⁴ The prevalence of polycystic ovarian change in patients attending an endocrine clinic is in our experience, however, much higher—about 17%.⁵"

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.

Correspondence on editorial business should be addressed to the Editor, *British Medical Journal*, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR. Telephone: 01-387 4499. Telegrams: *Aitology, London WC1*. Communications will not be acknowledged unless a stamped addressed postcard or an international reply coupon is enclosed.

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

© British Medical Journal 1976

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*.