

of the most satisfactory proportion found naturally in drinking water, namely, in temperate climates, one part of fluoride per million parts of water. Extensive studies here and abroad have shown that this proportion of fluoride in drinking water, combined with the intake from the diet, is not associated with any harmful effect in children or adults."

### Medical reports

Asked about the current guidelines to hospitals on the disclosure of medical reports on patients to individuals and organisations other than medical advisers, Mr Roland Moyle said in a written answer on 1 November, "Guidance to health authorities on disclosure of information about hospital patients engaged in legal proceedings is contained in memorandum HM(59)88 as modified by circular letters DS211/73 and DS179/74. . . . There is no departmental guidance on disclosure of medical reports in other circumstances. Such disclosure is a matter for the doctor concerned, subject as may be appropriate to the consent of the patient."

### Medical records

In a written question on 1 November the Minister of State was asked why patients who had been treated either by NHS general practitioners or in hospital were not allowed to see, or have copies of, their personal medical records. Mr Roland Moyle replied, "Medical records are compiled by doctors to assist them in the management and treatment of a case. It is a matter of clinical judgment for the doctor concerned to disclose to his patient such information as he considers necessary and advisable in the circumstances. Although he will wish to keep his patient properly informed, there are many occasions when it would not be in the interest of the medical well-being of a patient to disclose information contained in his medical records."

## MEDICAL NEWS

### Marburg-type virus

The infectious disease which has caused many deaths recently in the Southern Sudan and Zaire is now known to be caused not by Marburg virus but by a virus with slightly different properties. The infecting virus differs from true Marburg virus antigenically. It is either a variant of Marburg virus or an entirely new one.

A male technician at the Microbiological Establishment at Porton who had been working with the virus was admitted to hospital last week for observation. He has a remittent fever and slight diarrhoea of undetermined aetiology.

### "Statistics at Square One"

A book compiled from the articles published under this heading is now available. The text of the articles has been revised and extended. The price is £1.50 (see advertisement, p vii).

### Kidney transplants

The number of kidney transplants performed in Great Britain and Eire was 41 in September and 59 in October. The number of patients awaiting transplant at the end of each month was 1082.

## COMING EVENTS

**British Institute of Radiology—Symposium** "The application of cell kinetics in the treatment of cancer," 4 December, London. Details from the Institute, 32 Welbeck Street, London W1M 7PG. (Tel 935 6237/6867.)

**Royal College of Physicians of London—Christmas lecture**, 20 and 30 December, London. For details see advertisement at p viii.

## 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, 22 November

**INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY**—4.30 pm, Professor M W Greaves: The pharmacology of normal skin.  
**UNIVERSITY OF LONDON**—At King's College, Strand, 5.30 pm, Professor R E Coupland: The functional and clinical anatomy of chromaffin tissue.

### Tuesday, 23 November

**MCCARRISON SOCIETY**—At Royal Society of Medicine, 7.15 pm, Dr T G Randolph (Chicago): The clinical significance of adaptation in nutrition and dietetics.  
**ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND**—4.30 pm, Arnott demonstration by Mr J Zimmerman: The cardiac valves.

### Wednesday, 24 November

**INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGY**—Sandoz Foundation lectures, 6 pm, Professor G Burnstock: Autonomic neuro-effector systems, with emphasis on the innervation of blood vessels. 7 pm, Professor C T Dollery: The mechanism of action of alpha-receptor agonists and beta-receptor blocking drugs in reduction of blood pressure.  
**INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY**—5.30 pm, Dr S Greer and Dr K Pettingale: Interdisciplinary research: a psychological investigation of breast cancer.  
**ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL**—5 pm, Professor A J Zuckerman: Recent aspects of viral hepatitis.  
**UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD**—At Radcliffe Infirmary, 5 pm, medical consilia, Dr J W Adamson (USA): Polycythaemia vera: studies of the cellular origin and response to humoral regulators.

### Thursday, 25 November

**ROYAL INFIRMARY, EDINBURGH**—5 pm, Honyman Gillespie lecture by Professor C I Phillips: Glaucoma and beta-adrenergic blockers: some exercises in clinical pharmacology.  
**ST MARY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL**—5.15 pm, Aleck Bourne lecture by Dr J R W Harris: Gynaecology and sexually transmitted disease.

### Friday, 26 November

**SOCIETY OF COMMUNITY MEDICINE**—At London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 6 pm, Dr C S Smith: Child health—what of the future?

## BMA NOTICES

### Diary of Central Meetings

NOVEMBER	
24 Wed	Finance and General Purposes Committee, 10 am.
24 Wed	BMA Council Executive, 2 pm.
24 Wed	Royal Commission Evidence Working Group (GMSC), 10.30 am.
DECEMBER	
2 Thurs	Central Committee for Hospital Medical Services, 10 am.
7 Tues	Scottish Hospital Junior Staffs Committee (7 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh), 2 pm.

### Division Meetings to be Held

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

**Barking and Havering**—At Harold Wood Hospital, Tuesday, 23 November, 7.30 for 8.30 pm, Dr David Hughes: "Sir William Osler." (Guests are welcome.)

**Blackburn**—At Montague Street Health Centre, Tuesday, 23 November, 8 pm, general meeting to discuss evidence to the Royal Commission on the National Health Service. Medical non-members are welcome.

**Bradford and Airedale**—At Bradford Royal Infirmary, Wednesday, 24 November, 8.15 pm, Dr B Mann: "Asbestosis." (Husbands or wives welcome.)

**Buckinghamshire**—At Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Thursday, 25 November, 8.30 pm, Dr Fergal Nally: "Oral medicine." (Preceded by supper, 7.15 pm.)

**Chesterfield**—At Conservative Club, Friday, 26 November, 7 for 7.30 pm, Professor W H Trethowan: "Madness in great ones."\* (Guests are invited.)

**Cleveland and Middlesbrough**—At Marton Hotel and Country Club, Thursday, 25 November, 7.30 for 8 pm, annual dinner and dance.\*

**Croydon**—At Selsdon Park Hotel, Saturday, 27 November, 6.15 for 7 pm, annual dinner and dance.\*

**Eastbourne**—At Merrydown Wine Company, Horem, Tuesday, 23 November, 7 pm, tour of vinery followed by dinner at Boship Farm Hotel.\*

**Enfield**—At Enfield District Hospital, Wednesday, 24 November, 8 pm, agm.

**Hillingdon**—At Hillingdon Hospital, Thursday, 25 November, 8.30 pm, agm.

**Kesteven**—At Grantham Hospital, Thursday, 25 November, 8 for 8.30 pm, scientific meeting, Dr E Jackson: "Some current aspects of therapeutic medicine."\*

**King's Lynn**—At West Norfolk and King's Lynn General Hospital, Tuesday, 23 November, 8 pm, agm.\*

**Lambeth and Southwark**—At Hurlingham Club, Tuesday, 23 November, 7.30 pm, annual dinner.\*

**Leeds**—At St James's Hospital, Thursday, 25 November, 8 pm, annual wine and cheese party.\*

**Lincoln**—At County Hospital, Wednesday, 24 November, 8 pm, agm.

**Northampton District**—At Cripps Postgraduate Medical Centre, Thursday, 25 November, 8.30 pm, symposium on medical politics.\* (Preceded by cheese and wine party, 7.30 pm.)

**North and Mid Staffordshire**—At Medical Institute, Hartshill, Wednesday, 24 November, 8.15 pm, Dr J F Munro: "Obesity."\*

**Oldham**—At Oldham and District General Hospital, Monday, 22 November, 8 pm, agm.

**Portsmouth and South-east Hampshire**—At St Mary's Hospital, Tuesday, 23 November, 8 pm, agm.

**Rotherham**—At Brecon Hotel, Monday, 22 November, 7.30 for 8 pm, dinner/lecture, speaker Professor B McKibbin: "Science and medicine—a case for humility."\*

**Southampton and SW Hampshire**—At Southampton Postgraduate Medical Centre, Wednesday, 24 November, 8 for 8.30 pm, ordinary meeting.

**South Bedfordshire**—At Luton Medical Centre, Saturday, 27 November, 2 pm, symposium on paediatrics.

**South Warwickshire**—At Warwick Hospital, Wednesday, 24 November, 7.30 pm, panel discussion on up-to-date medicopolitics.

**South-west Wales**—At Ivy Bush Royal Hotel, Saturday, 27 November, 7 for 7.30 pm, dinner lecture, Dr G L Mills: "Old and cold."\*

**Tameside**—At Tameside Hospital, Thursday, 25 November, 12.30 for 1 pm, agm.

**Woking and Chertsey**—At St Peter's Hospital, Wednesday, 24 November, 8.30 pm approx, Professor Noel Dilly: "Iatrogenic disasters from the Pole to the Himalayas." (Guests are invited.)

**Worcester and Bromsgrove**—At Kidderminster General Hospital (Bewdley Road), Wednesday, 24 November, 7.45 for 8.15 pm, Dr Peter Taylor: "The problems of sickness absence in industry."\*

### 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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