

the minimum number of staff on duty necessary to maintain essential services. Doctors who use the Post Office transfer service and require changes during the Christmas and New Year period should notify the telephone exchange before the holiday begins. If many changes will be required a letter detailing these should be sent to the supervisor at the local exchange by 18 December. The Post Office has asked that doctors do not request the exchange to switch their lines on Christmas Day (New Year's Day in Scotland). If this is unavoidable it would be helpful if switchings could be made operative before midnight on Christmas Eve and after 9 am on 26 December (31 December and 2 January in Scotland).

### Chair of medical statistics, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Mr M J R Healy has been appointed to the chair of medical statistics at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine from 1 March 1977. Mr Healy, who is 53, graduated from Cambridge. Until 1947 he served in the Admiralty as temporary experimental officer, and moved to Rothamsted Experimental Station as scientific and later senior principal scientific officer. Mr Healy became head of the computing and statistics division of the Medical Research Council's Clinical Research Centre at Northwick Park Hospital in 1965, and was visiting professor at Imperial College from 1965 to 1967.

### People in the News

On 9 December Mr Ernest Busby completed a 50-year association with the Society of Apothecaries. At present he holds the posts of bursar, clerk, and registrar.

Dr Stanley Gilder will become the new editor of the *South African Medical Journal* on 1 January 1977.

### COMING EVENTS

**Manchester Medical Society**—The programme for December is now available from the Society, University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL. (Tel 061-273 6048.)

**BMA/MIA Music Society**—Christmas music in St Pancras Church, Euston Road, Tuesday, 21 December, 1.15 pm. The collection will be for charity. All are welcome.

**Open Medicine Trust**—Conference on "Open medicine. Medical education at the Open University. Why? How? When?" 11 January, London. Details from Open Medicine Trust, 3 Pickhurst Lane, Hayes, Bromley, Kent BR2 7JE. (Tel 01-462 2216.)

**Basingstoke Area Postgraduate Medical and Dental Society**—Details and copies of the programme January to April are now available from Dr H S Platt, Postgraduate Medical Centre, Basingstoke & District Hospital, Aldermaston Road, Basingstoke, Hants RG24 9NA. (Tel Basingstoke 3202.)

**St George's Hospital and SW Metropolitan Orthopaedic Training Scheme**—Details and copies of the programme for the Spring term are now available from Mr S C Gallannaugh, MS, FRCS, Orthopaedic Training Scheme, St George's

Hospital, Blackshaw Road, Tooting, London SW17 0QT.

### 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, 13 December

**INSTITUTE OF LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOTOLOGY**—5.30 pm, Professor A C Thackray: Malignancy in salivary gland tumours.

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND**—4.30 pm, Erasmus Wilson demonstration by Dr B M Ogilvie: Host resistance in helminthic infections.

**UNIVERSITY OF LONDON**—At St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College, 5 pm, Professor J J Fischer (USA): Mathematical games in radiation therapy.

#### Tuesday, 14 December

**INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY**—4.30 pm, Professor Ruth Bowden: Embryology of human skin.

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL**—5 pm, 2nd UCH Cow and Gate lecture, Dr D G Nathan (Boston): Thalassemia pathophysiology prevention treatment.

#### Thursday, 16 December

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND**—5 pm, Hunterian lecture by Professor S Nade: Clinical implications of cell function and osteogenesis: a reappraisal of bone graft surgery.

### BMA NOTICES

#### Diary of Central Meetings

	DECEMBER	
15 Wed	Finance and General Purposes Committee, 9.30 am.	
15 Wed	Negotiating Subcommittee (CCHMS), 10 am.	
16 Thurs	General Medical Services Committee, 10 am.	
16 Thurs	Executive Subcommittee (CCHMS), 10.30 am.	
21 Tues	Scottish General Medical Services Committee (7 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh), 10.30 am.	
22 Wed	Council, 10 am.	

#### Division Meetings to be Held

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

**Edgware and Hendon**—At Hendon Hall Hotel, Tuesday, 14 December, 8 for 8.30 pm, clinical meeting.\*  
**Harrow**—At Edith Martin Memorial Hall, Tuesday, 14 December, 8.30 pm, Dr David Wardle on the problems of junior hospital doctors and negotiations with the Elephant.

**Maidstone**—At West Kent General Hospital, Wednesday, 15 December, 8 pm, open meeting.

**Manchester**—At Boyd House, Tuesday, 14 December, 8 for 8.30 pm, scientific meeting, speaker Dr W A F Turnbull: "Crisis in asthma."\*

**North and Mid Staffordshire**—At North Staffordshire Medical Institute, Thursday, 16 December, 6.30 pm, with North Staffordshire Medical Society, annual joint cocktail party.\* (Guests are invited.)

**North and South Camden Divisions**—At Rockefeller Nurses Home, UCH, Thursday, 16 December, 7.30 for 8.15 pm, Christmas dinner.\* (Guests are welcome.)

**Redbridge and Stratford**—At Ilford Postgraduate Centre, Tuesday, 14 December, 7.30 for 8 pm, clinical-social meeting, speaker Professor Desmond Pond: "Place of psychiatry in the vocational training of GPs."

**Rotherham**—At Chatham Hall, Friday, 17 December, 8.30 pm, Christmas party.\*

**Tameside**—At Tameside Hospital, Wednesday, 15 December, 12.30 for 1 pm, meeting, speaker Dr I Black.\*

**Walsall**—At Manor Hospital, Thursday, 16 December, 12.30 pm, meeting to elect representative for the 1977 ARM.

**West Derbyshire**—At Newholme Hospital, Bakewell, Wednesday, 15 December, 8.30 pm, Dr T Chambers: "Some thoughts on infant feeding."

**Worcester and Bromsgrove**—At Postgraduate Centre, Ronkwood, Monday, 13 December, 7.45 pm, supper, film and business meeting.\*

### UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

#### LONDON

Dr R A Risdon has been appointed reader in morbid anatomy at the London Hospital Medical College from

1 January 1977. MD—P R Armistead, P Beck, M K Benson, R F Heller, M A Preece, J A Summerfield.

#### ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF EDINBURGH

At the annual meeting of the College held on 2 December, the following office-bearers were elected: Dr R F Robertson (president); Dr J A Strong (vice president); Dr James Innes, Dr A W Wright, Dr William Macleod, Dr A J Keay, Dr J Syme (members of council).

#### ROYAL COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

At the annual general meeting of the college held on 20 November, the following office bearers were elected: Dr E V Kuenssberg (president); Dr M J Linnett (chairman of council); Dr A G Donald (vice chairman); Dr R MacG Aitken (deputy vice chairman); Dr S J Carne (honorary treasurer); Dr D H Irvine (honorary secretary); Dr R J Bennison, Dr K J Bolden, Dr J F Burdon, Dr I Burns, Dr D L Crombie, Dr G S Duncan, Dr A E Elliott, Dr D E Fraser, Dr Sheila E Fraser, Dr S C Freedlander, Dr P Freeling, Dr J Fry, Dr E De Gabriele, Dr D G Garvie, Dr J P Horder, Dr G Jessup, Dr C R Kay, Dr J A R Lawson, Dr J S McCormick, Dr A G McKnight, Dr J J McMullan, Dr M L Marinker, Dr J O Mason, Dr D H H Metcalfe, Dr G J Moses, Dr M J Oldroyd, Dr S F Oliver, Dr M O'Sullivan, Dr R B Parker, Dr R J F H Pinsent, Dr Mary Robertson-Glasgow, Dr J Rose, Dr Katalin Schöpfung, Dr K H Trigg, Dr C Waine, Dr E A Waldron, Dr D M Wilks, Dr D G Wilson, Dr A E Wood (council members).

The following awards were presented: Dr M C Stone (James Mackenzie prize); Dr J L Stevens (Butterworth Gold Medal); Dr C J Leonard (Upjohn essay prize); Dr C R Hartshorn (Fraser Rose Gold Medal); David Kernick, Andrea Penketh, Peter Norris (undergraduate essay prizes); Dr I K Campbell, Dr L P Dobson, Dr G P H Mason, Dr J E D Meads, Dr N T A Oswald, Dr H H Ronn, Dr J G Surridge/Dr C P Vartan, Dr A J Tulloch, Dr D E Tunnadine, Dr D L Watson (Upjohn Travelling Fellowships).

Mr Ancrum Evans and Mr John Mayo were elected Honorary Fellows.

The following were elected Fellows: Dr D T C Barlow, Dr D G Barton, Dr Janet Bisset, Dr J Crane, Dr R W Edmonds, Dr D P Finnegan, Dr B Flacks, Dr H K Ford, Dr P I Frank, Dr S Gang, Dr J D Harte, Dr D H Jones, Dr E J C Kendall, Dr B K Lim, Dr E P MacKenzie, Dr F W Millard, Dr J S Patterson, Dr R M Richards, Dr G D Starte, Dr C P Tanner, Dr K H Trigg, Dr C Waine, Dr R Webb, Dr E I Williams.

### APPOINTMENTS

**BIRMINGHAM AREA HEALTH AUTHORITY (TEACHING)**—Dr H Desai (consultant anaesthetist).

**HAMPSHIRE AREA HEALTH AUTHORITY (TEACHING)**—Dr E Blackstock (consultant psychiatrist adult mental illness). Dr E R Hillier (consultant in continuing care).

**NORTH-EAST THAMES RHA**—Dr S O Banim (consultant cardiologist).

### Corrections

#### d-Penicillamine in palindromic rheumatism

We regret that a printing error occurred in the letter from Dr D N Golding (4 December, p 1383). In the fifth sentence of the third paragraph the word "unblemished" should read "unpublished".

#### 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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