

MEDICAL NEWS

Deaths under 50

An investigation of the events leading up to death in patients under 50 is the first major project of the Medical Services Study Group set up last May by the Royal College of Physicians. Established with the help of the King's Fund, the group aims to look into various aspects of the quality of medical care.

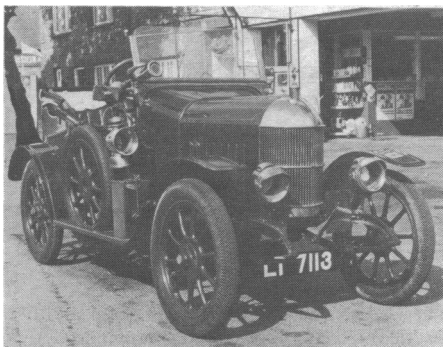
Its first project was to have been restricted to unexpected deaths; but it was extended to all deaths under 50 when difficulties in management that might be relevant to terminal illness in general came to light. So far the study has been confined to medical deaths occurring in hospital in the Merseyside and West Midlands Regions, but the Grampian Region has shown interest. The study is already uncovering important defects in medical services that consultants may have to contend with. Full confidentiality is preserved. Studies are also being planned on nationwide deaths from meningococcal infection (where there is evidence of a social class and racial bias), rhesus haemolytic disease, and bronchial asthma. Further details from the group at the King's Fund Centre, 126 Albert Street, London NW1 7NF.

DHSS research and development

Several research projects on services available to "battered wives" were commissioned by the DHSS in 1976—including studies on setting up and running one "refuge," the services offered in a northern town and its possible need of a 24-hour crisis service, and the views of users of services in an urban county district. These and other projects are summarised in the Department's *Research and Development Report and Handbook 1977* (HMSO, £2.60). This gives a brief review of the subjects of research followed by a summary of expenditure and details of projects, together with full indexes. The total R and D expenditure was nearly £26m in 1976-7, over £2m more than the previous year.

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Despite Government assurances to the contrary, single-parent families living on social security alone cannot buy enough food for the minimal nutritional requirements of rapidly growing children, according to evidence produced by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. This is one of the topics covered in a review of research on child health in the school's report for 1976-7. A review of diarrhoea in developing countries describes work on water supplies and the provision of pure water; a manual has been produced for public health workers and a low-cost sanitation programme is being carried out for the World Bank by the school's Ross Institute. Other subjects reviewed include obesity, tropical malabsorption, and the rational control of African trypanosomiasis; and the report lists all the school's research projects and publications by staff. The postgraduate courses attract students from over 80 countries, and competition for places is strong. The report may be obtained from the London School of Hygiene, Keppel Street, London WC1E 7HT (tel 01-636 8636).



The 1913 bull-nosed Morris Oxford that was on display at the Nuffield centenary dinner at the Royal College of Surgeons of England on 12 October (22 October, p 1091), reproduced by kind permission of Mrs Hilary Brock.

New editor of "Clinical and Experimental Immunology"

Professor John Turk will become editor of *Clinical and Experimental Immunology* on the resignation on 31 December of Dr James Irvine. From 1 January the editorial office will be in London, and all correspondence should be addressed to Professor Turk, c/o Blackwell Scientific Publications, 8 John Street, London WC1N 2ES.

The BMJ

The issue of the *BMJ* published today is a composite one for 24-31 December. The extended holiday from 24 December to 28 December made printing and dispatch of a 53rd issue particularly difficult, and hence we have decided not to publish one.

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.

Wednesday, 4 January

ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL—5 pm, Professor H P Lambert: The pathogenesis of gastroenteritis.
INSTITUTE OF ORTHOPAEDICS—6 pm, Miss Ruth Wynne-Davies: Growth and dwarfism. 7 pm, Mr A Catterall: Birth palsies.

BMA NOTICES

Division Meetings to be Held

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

Exeter—At Postgraduate Medical Centre, Wednesday, 4 January, 8.15 pm, Professor Sir Derrick Dunlop: "Modern medicines: their problems."

St Helens and Knowsley—At Whiston Hospital, Tuesday, 3 January, 7.30 for 8 pm, joint meeting with St Helens Medical Society, Mr R Brearley: "Medicine in the EEC."*

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

BRISTOL

Appointments—Dr P J Simpson (consultant senior lecturer in anaesthetics); Dr P A Dieppe (consultant senior lecturer in rheumatology).

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

At an ordinary meeting of the council held on 8 December with the president, Mr Reginald Murley, in the

chair, Sir Rodney Smith was elected to the Court of Patrons.

Mr N V Addison, Mr L R J De Jode, Mr P Goodall, and Mr P S London were re-elected, and Mr J G Brice was elected to the Court of Examiners in General Surgery, Mr H W H Sheppard was elected to the Court of Examiners in Otolaryngology, and Mr G V Catford and Mr B S Jay were re-elected and Mr S I Davidson was elected to the Court of Examiners in Ophthalmology for the ensuing three years.

The following lecturers were appointed—Mr G Qvist, Hunterian orator 1979; Professor J C Goligher, Bradshaw lecturer 1978; Mr A G Apley, Robert Jones lecturer 1978; Dr A H T Robb-Smith, Thomas Vicary lecturer 1978.

The Sir Arthur Keith medal was awarded to Dr David Haler.

A Diploma of Fellowship was granted to Dr J B Boulton.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH

At a meeting of the Council of the College held on 9 December, D Lister was admitted to the Fellowship of the College.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS

In the membership examination held in November 1977 the following candidates were successful—Margaret Alker, N P Allison, J R Armond, K M Asen, W W Baird, T R E Barnes, R K Baruah, M H Best, P J Bhatt, G W Blackwood, Janet P Boakes, Pamela I V Bowling, R M Bowman, C E Boyd, M F Burrell, Eleanor J Byrne, Joan Callendar, R Canagaratnam, T-S Cheah, J E Christie, P V F Cosgrove, G T Crockett, Janice A Culling, G J N Davies, K H De Alwis, W J Delaney, N G M Dunnett, D K Dutta, K N Dwivedi, J W Eastgate, Christine M Edwards, A A Fido, Rosalind C S Furlong, P Gaminiratne, Valerie M Goff, D G Goodhead, C M Green, Judith Greenwood, J F Haggis, A J Haines, S Hillu, Sheila C Hollins, F P Hume, A Jolozynski, T K Jamieson-Craig, Mary Y Jardine, Margaret E Jenkins, T D O Jenkins, D Jennings, Marlene H D Johnson, S H Kamlana, T Kidger, B Kiehn, A L King, A C Knight, S Lakshminipathi, R H Lawson, Margaret J Little, W J Livesley, Teresa C M Lo, Diana M Lowe, U T Lwyn, N D Macaskill, A M McClelland, Anne McD McHarg, Janet M McQuitty, DR Master, G A Mowat, L D Mulgirigama, Elaine G Munro, V A G Nanayakkara, U Niaz, S V Oakes, Olwyn K Ockelford, D A O'Leary, Pauline O'Neill, J M Pfeffer, Pamela Pilkington, D D M R M Pinto, J K T G Prematilake, S C Rastogi, G J R Richardson, M E Richardson, G J Riley, J M J Rodney, Joan Rule, Irene G G Saunders, A Q Siddique, J Sklar, Janet H W Smith, D E Somekh, Jean M Speirs, N Srisankarajah, G Stewart, J G Strachan, J S Strang, W T K Tam, Judith F A Theman, N Theofilopoulos, J E Thomas, T R Trevelyan, Carol A Trotter, M P K Twomey, P J W Van Boxel, C G K J Van Rensburg, S Verma, Jillian Vites, A J Warren, M V Warunny, Helen M Waters, I M Whitaker, Judith C Whyte, Margaret A Wilkinson, S R Wilkinson, R A Williams, Margaret E Williamson, C J M Wood, Neomi E Zukowski.

APPOINTMENTS

CITY AND EAST LONDON AREA HEALTH AUTHORITY (TEACHING)—Dr J D Perry (consultant rheumatologist).

GREATER GLASGOW HEALTH BOARD—The following consultants have been appointed—Mr I G Stother (orthopaedic surgeon); Dr D C Young (physician in geriatric medicine).

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 1 January 1977.

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: *Aitiology, 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.

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