

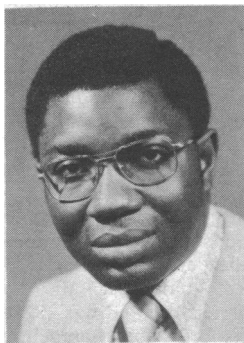
## MEDICAL NEWS

### New aspirin trial

Doctors who took part in Sir Richard Doll's study of the effects of smoking are again being asked to take part in a trial, this time on the prophylactic effects of aspirin on myocardial infarction. Though several studies have shown the value of aspirin in coronary thrombosis, none have examined its effects in people without heart disease. Sir Richard Doll has written to 20 000 doctors asking them to participate, and he hopes to recruit 6000: 4000 would be randomly allocated to take aspirin daily for three to six years. The entire group will then be followed up for signs of ischaemic heart disease. The study will be financed partly by contributions from manufacturers and will be co-ordinated by the Aspirin Foundation.

### New medical dean for University of Ibadan

Professor E O Akande has been elected dean of the faculty of medicine, University of Ibadan, in succession to Professor E O Osuntokun. Professor Akande, who is 40, received his early education at Christ School, Ado-Ekiti, and King's College, Lagos. He entered the Ibadan Medical School in 1959 and was a Leverhulme visiting scholar at University College Hospital, London, in 1964. He obtained the MB, BS degree of the University of London in 1964 and after preregistration posts in Ibadan worked in several hospitals in the UK, including Hammersmith Hospital and the Radcliffe Infirmary. Professor Akande took the MRCOG in 1969; and after spending two years as an Oxford Trust Fund research fellow at Brasenose College, Oxford, working on thyroid dysfunction and menstrual disturbances, he obtained a DPhil in 1972. He was appointed professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at Ibadan in October 1975. His special interest is in reproductive endocrinology and he is a member of the steering committee of the WHO task force on long-acting systemic agents for the regulation of fertility.



### Smoking in public places

A plea for further restrictions on smoking in public places has been made by Mr Bruce Millan, MP, Secretary of State for Scotland. In a letter to leading organisations in public transport, entertainment, and catering and retail trades in Scotland Mr Millan points out that adult smokers are now in the minority, and that a recent survey showed 67% of smokers to favour more restrictions on smoking in public. "I want to encourage this trend," he writes, "in order to reduce the pressure on young people to start smoking, to make it easier for smokers to stop, and to reduce the

discomfort and sometimes worse which non-smokers have to suffer because other people smoke." Last year the Scottish Home and Health Department issued guidelines to the Health Service in Scotland for discouraging smoking in health service premises. In his letter Mr Millan suggests on grounds of hygiene a total ban on smoking in places such as food shops and supermarkets. Where smoking causes discomfort to others in a confined space—in other shops, for example, in places of entertainment, and in public offices—he would like more areas to be reserved for non-smokers if a total ban cannot be implemented. For places where food and drink are served he recommends segregation of smokers and non-smokers, and for public transport suggests that smoking areas are needed only on long journeys.

### Tougher controls on drug advertising

New controls on the content and form of advertisements for medicines prescribed under the National Health Service are planned for 1 December. They are contained in draft regulations (published last week after widespread consultations), to which the Opposition, however, has objected. The controls would help to ensure that advertisements aimed at doctors and dentists give complete and accurate information, including contra-indications, warnings, and precautions, with references to major side effects. Misleading graphs and tables and unqualified use of the word "safe" would be prohibited. Under separate regulations, advertisements that could lead to the use of an over-the-counter medicine for diseases and conditions unsuitable for self-diagnosis and self-treatment were banned on 1 August.

### Campaign by London Ambulance Service

The number of emergency journeys made by the London Ambulance Service rose from 428 942 in 1975 to 447 330 in 1977, while the number of non-urgent journeys rose from 2 319 416 to 2 531 105. This increase occurred without a corresponding improvement in manpower, and the service is now unable to meet all the (non-urgent) demands made on it. It has therefore launched a campaign to persuade patients to avoid delay and wasted journeys. Leaflets are being distributed to outpatient departments asking non-urgent users to be ready for the ambulance when it calls for them, to inform the hospital in good time if they cannot keep an appointment, and not to wander off while waiting for an ambulance to take them home.

## COMING EVENTS

**Society for the Study of Addiction**—Conference on "Alcohol problems in industry," 22 September, Glasgow. Details from the Society for the Study of Addiction, 3 Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1X 7EL.

**Glasgow University Club**—Annual dinner, 24 October, London. Details from Dr D M Mackay, Ross Institute of Tropical Hygiene, Keppel St, London WC1E 7HT. (Tel 01-636 8636.)

**Disabled Living Foundation**—Seminar on "The elderly person with failing vision," 28 November, Portsmouth. Details from Mr P Fenton's secretary, Eye Department, Queen Alexandra Hospital, Cosham, Portsmouth. (Tel 01-602 2491.)

**First International Congress on Cardiovascular Diseases and 14th Annual Scientific Assembly of the American Society of Contemporary Medicine and Surgery**—14-19 January, Las Vegas. Details from Dr R W Howard, CME Director, American

### Instructions to authors

The following are the minimum requirements for manuscripts submitted for publication.

(1) **Typing** should be on one side of the paper, with double or triple spacing between the lines and 5-cm margins at the top and left-hand side of the sheet.

(2) **Two copies** (or preferably three) should be submitted.

(3) **Spelling** should conform to that of *Chambers Twentieth Century Dictionary*.

(4) **References** must be set out in the style used in the *BMJ*, and their accuracy verified before the manuscript is submitted.

(5) **SI units** are used for scientific measurements. In the text they should be followed by traditional units in parentheses. In tables and illustrations values are given only in SI units, but a conversion factor must be supplied. For general guidance on the International System of Units, and some useful conversion factors, see *The SI for the Health Professions* (WHO, 1977).

(6) **Authors** should give their names and initials, their current appointments, and not more than two degrees or diplomas. Each author must sign the covering letter as evidence of consent to publication.

(7) **Acknowledgments** will not be sent unless a stamped addressed envelope or an international reply coupon is enclosed.

(8) **Detailed instructions** are given in the *BMJ* dated 7 January (p 6).

Society of Contemporary Medicine and Surgery, 6 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60602, USA.

**Thermal characteristics of tumours: applications in detection and treatment**—Conference 14-16 March 1979, New York. Details from the Conference Department, New York State Academy of Sciences, 2 East 63 Street, New York, New York 10021. (Tel 212 838-0230.)

**Symposium on Infarct Size**—9-10 April 1979, Utrecht. Details from Prof Dr F L Meyler, Department of Cardiology, University Hospital, Catharijnesingel 101, 3500 CG Utrecht, Netherlands.

**British Council**—Course 925, "Information sources on pollution," 13-25 May 1979, Loughborough; Course 931, "Perinatal paediatrics," 10-22 June, London; Course 938, "Neonatal surgery," 24 June-6 July, London. Details from the British Council, Courses Department, 65 Davies Street, London W1Y 2AA. (Tel 01-499 8011.)

**Ultrasonics International 79**—Conference, 15-18 May 1979, Graz, Austria. Details from Dr Z Novak, Conference Organiser, Ultrasonics International 79, IPC House, 32 High Street, Guildford, Surrey GU1 3EW, England.

**Italian Group for Mass Spectrometry in Biochemistry and Medicine**—10th International Symposium on Chromatography and Electrophoresis, 21-23 May 1979, Rimini, and 6th International Symposium on Mass Spectrometry in Biochemistry and Medicine, 20-22 June 1979, Venice. Details from the Italian Group for Mass Spectrometry in Biochemistry and Medicine, Istituto di Ricerche Farmacologiche "Mario Negri," Via Eritrea 62, 20157 Milano, Italy. (Tel 35 54 546.)

**Czechoslovak Medical Society**—Details of medical congresses and symposia with international participation in 1979 are now available from the Czechoslovak Medical Society, 120 26 Praha 2, Sokolska 31, Czechoslovakia.

© British Medical Journal 1978

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*.