

MEDICAL NEWS

Training for occupational medicine

"Doctors in industry today must have much more than clinical expertise; understanding of management and union organisation and, above all, anticipation of health hazards and their control are essential," said Dr Peter Taylor, vice-dean of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians, commenting on the work of the faculty during its first year. Six hundred and fifty doctors have so far been admitted to the faculty, which was established last year to act as a professional standard-setting body. Proposals for minimum standards of training and experience for doctors who work in industry are being formulated by the faculty and a discussion document has already been circulated to all members. Final proposals, expected in the next year, are likely to specify a minimum training period under the guidance of an accredited specialist and also an examination. Dr Taylor also spoke of the ethical problems that may arise for a doctor practising in industry: for example, he or she must preserve the professional code and at the same time avoid being seen as either "a tool of management" or "in the pocket of the unions." The faculty is now formulating guidelines for its members. It can also make a valuable contribution, said Dr Taylor, as an authority on occupational medicine. During its first year it has submitted evidence on occupational asthma and prescribed diseases to the Industrial Injuries Council and has given evidence to the DHSS on occupational health services in the NHS.

Health Service Commissioner: annual report for 1978-9

In 1978-9, 712 complaints were received by the Ombudsman, compared with 584 in 1977-8 and 493 in 1974-5. Of the 712 complaints last year, 574 were rejected as being outside his jurisdiction, chiefly because they concerned clinical judgment; and over half were found to be unjustified (compared with 36% the previous year). The Health Service Commissioner's annual report for 1978-9 is published by HMSO, price 80p.

Drugs withdrawn

Antihistamine preparations containing methapyrilene are being withdrawn from sale in Britain on the advice of the Committee on Safety of Medicines, following reports in the United States that the drug causes hepatic tumours in rats. The products concerned are Co-Pyronil capsules, Histadyl EC syrup, and Vortel capsules and syrup.

New professors, University of London

Dr J S Kelly has been appointed to the chair of pharmacology at St George's Hospital Medical School. Dr Kelly, who is 42, graduated in medicine from Edinburgh in 1962 and, after house appointments in Edinburgh, became assistant lecturer in the department of pharmacology at Edinburgh University, being promoted to lecturer in 1965. In 1967-8 he was Wellcome postdoctoral fellow in the depart-

ment of research in anaesthesia, McGill University, and was Canadian Medical Research Council scholar and assistant professor in the departments of research in anaesthesia and physiology from 1968 to 1971. Dr Kelly then joined the Medical Research Council's Neurochemical Pharmacology Unit in Cambridge. In 1976 he was appointed to his present post of lecturer in pharmacology and neurobiology in the University of Cambridge.

Dr J S Malpas has been appointed to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund chair of medical oncology at St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College. Dr Malpas, who is 47, graduated in medicine from London in 1955, and after house appointments at St Bartholomew's Hospital served as an RAF medical officer from 1957 to 1960. After appointments at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School and St Bartholomew's Hospital, in 1962 he became lecturer in medicine in the Nuffield department of medicine, Oxford. In 1965 Dr Malpas was appointed registrar and later senior registrar at St Bartholomew's Hospital; he was senior lecturer in medicine there from 1968 to 1973, when he was appointed to his present post of director of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund department of medical oncology at St Bartholomew's Hospital.

Road Traffic (Seat Belts) Bill

A private member's Bill "to confer power to make regulations requiring the wearing of seat belts in motor vehicles" had its first reading in the House of Commons on 27 June. The expected second reading will be on 20 July.

COMING EVENTS

Manchester Royal Infirmary Old Residents' Club—Reunion dinner, 29 September, Manchester. Details from the honorary secretaries of the club, c/o Manchester Royal Infirmary, Manchester M13 9WL.

IV All Pakistan Congress of Cardiology—3-4 December, Karachi. Details from National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases, Karachi, Pakistan.

Boerhaave Committee for Postgraduate Medical Education—Course on "Recent advances in the treatment of ovarian and testicular cancer and of bone and soft tissue sarcomas," 6-8 December, Noordwijkerhout. Details from the secretariat of the committee, Academisch Ziekenhuis, Rijnsburgerweg 10, Leiden, the Netherlands.

Pittsburgh Conference on Analytical Chemistry and Applied Spectroscopy—10-14 March 1980, Atlantic City. Details from Dan P Manka, Pittsburgh Conference on Analytical Chemistry and Applied Spectroscopy Inc, 1109 Lancaster Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA 15218. (Tel (412) 371-7737.)

Royal College of Psychiatrists Psychotherapy Specialist Section—Details of the 1979-80 open meetings are now available from the section, 17 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PG. (Tel 01-235 2351-5.)

SOCIETIES AND LECTURES

For attending lectures marked * a fee is charged or a ticket is required. Applications should be made first to the institutions concerned.

Saturday, 21 July

RADCLIFFE INFIRMARY—11.30 am, Gavin Livingstone memorial lecture by Professor I G Taylor: The prevention of sensorineural deafness.

BMA NOTICES

Central Meetings

JULY
18 Wed Membership and Communications Subcommittee (CCHMS), 2 pm.
19 Thurs General Medical Services Committee, 10 am.
24 Tues Joint Consultants Committee (Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, 27 Sussex Place, NW1), 9.30 am.

Instructions to authors

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

A stamped addressed envelope or an international reply coupon *must* accompany the manuscript if acknowledgment of its receipt is desired.

(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) **Letters to the Editor** submitted for publication must be signed personally by all the authors.

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

(9) **Detailed instructions** are given in the *BMJ* dated 6 January 1979 (p 6).

31 Tues Scottish General Medical Services Committee (7 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh EH3 7QP), 10.30 am.

Division Meetings

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

Darlington—At Bowes Museum, Thursday, 19 July, 7.30 pm, conducted tour followed by meal at Morritt Arms Hotel.* (Guests are welcome.)

Swansea and West Glamorgan—At Singleton Hospital, Tuesday, 17 July, 8 pm, general meeting.

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

LONDON

The title of professor of biophysical ophthalmology has been conferred on Dr R F Fisher in respect of his posts at the Institute of Ophthalmology and St Mary's Hospital Medical School.

The title of professor of clinical psychopharmacology has been conferred on Dr M H Lader in respect of his post at the Institute of Psychiatry.

The title of professor of medicine has been conferred on Dr N McIntyre in respect of his post at the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine.

LIVERPOOL

Promotion—Dr J Watt (reader in pathology).

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