

be kept. Seizures of LSD have decreased. Nine-tenths of all seizures are of cannabis. The number of people found guilty of offences involving controlled drugs increased a little in 1978 from 1977 but is still below the 14 400 of 1973. The average age of the offenders is increasing: in 1973 44% were under 21 and 8% over 30, whereas in 1978 24% were under 21 and 17% were over 30. The number of addicts registered on 31 December increased from 1977 to 2408 in 1978 (there were 1426 in 1973); The number of newly registered addicts increased by 22% in 1978, to 1352. The average age of the addicts rose: the most frequent ages were between 19 and 23 in 1973, but between 25 and 30 in 1978.

### New professors, University of London

Mr L Spitz has been appointed to the Nuffield chair of paediatric surgery at the Institute of Child Health from 1 October. Mr Spitz, who is 39, graduated in medicine from Pretoria in 1962. After house appointments at Pretoria and Johannesburg general hospitals, he became surgical registrar at the Johannesburg group of teaching hospitals and University of Witwatersrand. In 1970 he was appointed honorary paediatric surgical registrar at Alder Hey Children's Hospital and the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street. Mr Spitz returned to South Africa for two years, where he was senior consultant paediatric surgeon at the Transvaal Memorial Hospital for Children and Witwatersrand University. He was appointed consultant paediatric surgeon at the Children's Hospital, Sheffield, and honorary clinical lecturer in paediatric surgery at Sheffield University in 1974, and in 1978 was appointed to his present post of senior consultant paediatric surgeon at the Children's Hospital, Sheffield.

Dr S N Wickramasinghe has been appointed to the chair of haematology at St Mary's Hospital Medical School. Dr Wickramasinghe, who is 38, graduated in medicine from Ceylon in 1964, and, after house appointments, from 1966 to 1968 was Gulbenkian research student, Churchill College, Cambridge. He was John Lucas Walker senior (post-doctoral) student in the pathology department at Cambridge University until 1969. In 1969 Dr Wickramasinghe was appointed clinical research fellow in the department of experimental pathology and cancer research, University of Leeds, and in 1970 was appointed lecturer in haematology at St Mary's Hospital Medical School. He was promoted to his present post of senior lecturer in 1973.

### Nutrition of children in Glasgow

A report *Nutrition Survey of Immigrant Children in Glasgow 1974-6* by K M Goel (Edinburgh, Scottish Home and Health Department, 1979) describes how only 1% of Scots mothers fed their babies by the breast alone until six months (and 12.7% by breast and bottle), and how Asian, Chinese, and African mothers progressively abandoned breast-feeding because they considered it more "civilised" to bottle-feed. The study also estimated that 41% of Asian, 50% of Chinese, 31% of Scots, and 22% of African children had a diet deficient in vitamin D, although clinical rickets was seen almost only in Asian children. Many children had a diet deficient in

calcium (11% of Asians and Chinese), iron (45% of Asians, 33% of Scots), and folic acid (5% of Chinese, 4% of Scots). Few of the African or Chinese children received any supplements.

### Esperanza group

The Esperanza group was started by the inspiration of Dr Sheila Cassidy to help prisoners of conscience and their relatives. Further information on the group and its current activities can be obtained from Dr A Merriman, Whiston Hospital, Prescot, Merseyside L35 5DR.

## COMING EVENTS

**British Medical Pilots Association**—Summer fly-in, 15-16 September, Yeovilton. Details from Dr G Fearnley, 195 Thorpe Hall Avenue, Thorpe Bay, Essex. (Tel Southend 586028.)

**Kent Postgraduate Medical Centre at Canterbury**—Therapeutic day on "Inflammatory bowel disease," 10 November, Canterbury. Details from the Postgraduate Administrator, Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury CT1 3NG. (Tel 0227 66877.)

**Edinburgh Postgraduate Board for Medicine**—Course on "Local anaesthesia," 20-21 November, Edinburgh. Details from the Postgraduate Dean, Edinburgh Postgraduate Board for Medicine, Pfizer Foundation, Hill Square, Edinburgh EH8 9DR.

**First International Medical Congress on Sports for the Disabled**—1-8 February 1980, Norway. Details from the congress secretariat, Norwegian Sport Organization for the Disabled, Hauger Skolevei 1, 1351 Rud, Norway.

**International symposium "Influence of nutrition on naval and maritime history"**—16-18 April 1980, London. Details from the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London SE10 9NF. (Tel 01-858 4422.)

**IXth World Congress on the Prevention of Occupational Accidents and Diseases**—6-9 May 1980, Amsterdam, Netherlands. Details from Benelux Organising Committee, IXth World Congress on the Prevention of Occupational Accidents and Diseases, Veiligheidsinstituut, Postbox 5665, 1007 AR Amsterdam, Netherlands. (Tel (020) 73 64 14.)

**Czechoslovak Medical Society**—Details and copies of the medical congresses and symposia with international participation to be held in 1980 are available from the Czech Medical Society, Vítězského únoru 31, 120 26 Praha 2, or the Slovak Medical Society, Mickiewiczova 18/1, 883 22 Bratislava, Czechoslovakia.

## BMA NOTICES

### Armed Forces Committee

#### Nomination of members for co-option

The constitution of the Armed Forces Committee allows for the co-option of two representatives, one of whom should preferably be of specialist status, from the medical branch of each of the three Services, such representatives being of the rank of major, surgeon lieutenant-commander, squadron leader, or below. Last session the following members were co-opted:

Royal Navy: Surgeon Lieutenant-Commander M O'Connell and Surgeon Lieutenant-Commander D Holt.

Army: Major R H Jago and Major A M Grieve.  
Royal Air Force: Squadron Leader A G Higginson and Squadron Leader C J Sharples.

Serving medical officers are now invited to nominate members of the BMA in the armed Forces in the above-mentioned ranks for co-option to the committee for the 1979-80 session. The members named above are eligible for reappointment provided that their rank is not now above that of major or equivalent.

Nominations should be sent to the Secretary, British Medical Association, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP, by Monday 17 September 1979. Nominees will be informed of the co-options made by the Armed Forces Committee following its first meeting after the closing date.

E GREY-TURNER  
Secretary

## 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).

## UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

### LONDON

The title of professor of immunology conferred on Professor J F Soothill at the Institute of Child Health has been amended to the Hugh Greenwood professor of immunology during Professor Soothill's tenure.

### LEICESTER

*Appointment*—Dr M S Tanner (senior lecturer in the department of child health).

### NOTTINGHAM

At a degree congregation held on 12 July an honorary DM conferred on Dr J M Macfie.

## CONSULTANT APPOINTMENTS

BIRMINGHAM AHA(T)—Mr J D Campbell (surgeon).

NORTHERN RHA—Mr J G W Feggetter, Mr F J Holmes, Mr J N Longrigg (general surgery); Dr Jill D McK Jeffery (anaesthetics); Dr D G Limb, Dr R Garry (obstetrics and gynaecology); Dr B Thalavasingam (paediatrics); Dr A Ribeiro (radiology); Dr A W Popple (histopathology); Dr T Gordon, Dr L G Bryson (general medicine); Dr Irene G G Saunders (mental illness); Mr F W Martin (otolaryngology).

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