

ever, that recombinant DNA work must be carried out (and be seen to be carried out) in a safe manner; but concludes that the evidence it had taken was not sufficient for final recommendations.

The British Society for Social Responsibility and Science's genetic engineering group, in one of the memoranda published in the report, argues that expansion of recombinant genetics raises serious social, ethical, and political issues, beyond the question of biological hazards, that must be confronted now—and not only by scientists. Thus the group recommends that the research councils and advisory bodies should have a wider representation. It also proposes that community health councils should be given more scope to consider ethical problems, such as genetic screening programmes, in vitro fertilisation, and the range of conditions for which gene therapy (as distinct from social and environmental change) should be permissible.

Latest code of practice for the pharmaceutical industry

The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry has brought out a new edition of the *Code of Practice for the British Pharmaceutical Industry*. The Code of Practice Committee for the first time includes, in addition to an independent legally qualified chairman, Mr Philip Cox QC, two independent members from the medical profession, one with recent experience as a general practitioner and the other a consultant (Dr E B Lewis and Dr W G A Riddle). The ABPI emphasises that the code, drawn up after consultation with the BMA and the DHSS, reflects the determination of the ABPI to secure acceptance and adoption of high standards of conduct in the marketing of medical products. It also points out the necessity for the manufacturer operating in a keenly competitive industry and serving professions in which freedom of choice is essential "to draw attention to the existence and nature of a particular product." The constitution and procedure for the Code of Practice Committee, which describe the procedure to be followed by complainants and became operative in March this year, have been included in the publication. The association emphasises that only the Code of Practice Committee can determine whether a company has contravened the code: the fact that a complaint is made against a company does not imply that there has been any contravention. Copies of the code may be obtained from the ABPI, 162 Regent Street, London W1R 6DD (01-734 9061).

Health Education Council annual report

Despite the growing public awareness of the harmful effects of smoking, which is reflected in a 6% drop in consumption last year, the Health Education Council, in its annual report for 1978-9, calls for tougher health warnings on cigarette packets. It argues that the existing warning, "Cigarettes can seriously damage your health," requires strengthening and diversification. There is growing public resentment of harm done to non-smokers by cigarette smoke, and tighter restrictions on smoking in public places must be enforced, says the council. It also calls for legislation to prohibit cigarette advertisements

other than at the point of sale. Many advertisements for tobacco, liquor, and sugar confectionery are strongly criticised for blatantly encouraging consumption of their products despite the health consequences. The council reports that it issued over 24 million posters and leaflets during the year—an increase of 34% over the previous year and 527% in the last five years. The report may be obtained from the council at 78 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1HA (01-637 1881).

COMING EVENTS

Conference on "The Christian's attitude to health and healing"—7-9 September, Fittleworth. Details from Graham and Brenda Salmon, The Old Rectory, Fittleworth, Pulborough, Sussex. (Tel 079 882 306.)

Medical Association for the Prevention of War—Conference, 7-9 September, Birmingham. Details from the association, 77 Theberton Street, London N1; applications to Dr G Cumberbatch, Applied Psychology Department, University of Aston in Birmingham, Birmingham B4 7ET. (Tel 021 359 3611 ext 6123.)

International conference for medical computing—17-20 September, Berlin. Details from Ausstellungs-Messe-Kongress-GmbH, Abt 11/3, Postfach 19 17 40, D-1000 Berlin 19, Germany.

"ECT after 40 years"—Conference, 20-22 September, Leicester. Details from Mrs Kim Brooks, Department of Psychiatry, Clinical Sciences Building, Leicester Royal Infirmary, PO Box 65, Leicester LE2 7LX.

British Society of Medical and Dental Hypnosis Metropolitan Branch—Introductory course for doctors and dentists, 29-30 September, Cambridge. Details from Mrs M Samuels, 42 Links Road, Ashted, Surrey KT21 2HJ. (Tel Ashted 73522.)

"Clothing for the disabled, elderly, children, and the incontinent"—Day courses, 28-29 November, London. Details from the Disabled Living Foundation, 346 Kensington High Street, London W14 8NS. (Tel 01-602 2491 ext 44.)

URI Marine Advisory Service—International Conference on Hypothermia, 9-11 January, and educational workshop on hypothermia, 11-13 January, Rhode Island. Details from Neil Ross, University of Rhode Island, Marine Advisory Service, Narragansett, Rhode Island 02882, USA.

Second International Congress on Colonoscopy and Diseases of the Large Bowel—6-8 March 1980, Bal Harbour, Florida. Details from Dr J P Christie, 7330 SW 62nd Place—Suite 220, South Miami, Florida 33143, USA. (Tel (305) 667 7440.)

Birmingham Medical Institute Midland Medical Society—Details and copies of the programme to April 1980 are now available from the society, 36 Harborne Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 3AF. (Tel 021 454 5007.)

World Health Organisation—International course on the utilisation of non-human primates in cancer research, 10-20 May 1980, Sukhumi, USSR. Details from Chief Research Training and Liaison Unit, International Agency for Research on Cancer, 150 cours Albert-Thomas, 69372 Lyon Cedex 2, France. Closing date for applications 31 December.

BMA NOTICES

Ophthalmic Group Committee

The constitution of the Ophthalmic Group Committee provides for the rotational retirement of members of the committee elected on a regional basis. One member in each of the following NHS regions is to be elected for a three-year period from 1979-80 to 1981-2:

- Region 3 (Trent)
- Region 4 (East Anglia)
- Region 12 (West Midlands)
- Region 14 (North-Western)
- Region 17 (Northern Ireland)

Nominations are therefore invited from BMA members whose specialist practice is predominantly in ophthalmology in each of the above regions for the period specified.

Nominations forms are obtainable from the undersigned and must be returned not later than first post on Friday, 31 August 1979 to BMA House, Tavistock Square, London

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).

WC1H 9JP. (It is advisable for first-class post to be used near the closing date.)

In the event of a contest arising for any seat, voting papers will be issued at a later date.

E GREY-TURNER
Secretary

Division Meetings

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

Hillingdon—At Hillingdon Hospital, Wednesday 15 August, 12.30 pm, Norman Ellis will talk on the developing role of the BMA as a professional union. Lunch provided.*

Perth and Kinross—At Perth Royal Infirmary, Friday, 17 August, 8 pm, barbecue.*

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

ROYAL COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

As from 16 August the telephone number of the college will be 01-581 3232 and the old number, 01-584 6262, will be discontinued.

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