

of outstanding fees should be strengthened and the changes we have already noted with regard to budgetary control and overhead distribution should be incorporated.

"(ii) The system for computer processing of the register should be modified at the end of the present contract to accommodate a further streamlining of certain clerical tasks.

"(iii) The Finance Committee's standing orders should be rewritten to provide a more specific definition of its duties and responsibilities and consideration should be given to extending, on a regular basis, the present arrangement for obtaining advice from a qualified accountant.

"(iv) Further consideration should be given to the possible addition of other sources of revenue as a result of:

(a) including a wider range of registered information in the register, and

(b) contributions from the central exchequer.

"(v) The administrative staff should review and report annually to the Finance Committee on possible methods by which cost increases can be contained or reduced."

Royal College of Psychiatrists

Under its president, Sir Martin Roth, the Royal College of Psychiatrists held an inaugural banquet at the Guildhall, London, on 3 July to celebrate the college's foundation. Proposing the toast to the college, Sir Keith Joseph expressed his appreciation of the work in the past of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association and welcomed its metamorphosis into a royal college. He said that in the autumn he would be consulting the college about new initiatives in the mental health field. He paid a special tribute to the president, who bridged, he said, both academic and practical psychiatry. Dr. T. F. Main then proposed the health of the guests, and Lord Platt replied. Finally Sir Martin Roth spoke on behalf of the new college. Armed with a charter, psychiatrists had now achieved what in our culture was the seal of professional maturity. He said that practical action on matters such as the psychiatric problems of ageing, the rising suicide-attempt rate, and chronic alcoholism were high on the college's list of priorities. The college was also concerned about a decline in the numbers of doctors choosing psychiatry as a career. He welcomed the opportunities of co-operation with the Department of Health on the future of the mental health services.

Chair at Newcastle

Dr. John K. G. Webb has been appointed to the James Spence Chair of Child Health at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne from 1 October 1972. Dr. Webb graduated from Oxford in 1942. After service with the R.A.M.C. he decided to specialize in paediatrics and spent two years as registrar in the Babies' Hospital and the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle, where he worked with Sir James Spence and Professor S. D. M. Court. In 1953 he was appointed head of the paediatrics department of the Christian Medical College at Vellore and was appointed professor in 1958. He became director of the college in 1967. He returned to England in 1971, when he was awarded the O.B.E., and has since been a locum tenens consultant paediatrician at the United Bristol Hospitals.

Mentally Abnormal Offenders

Lord Butler of Saffron Walden is to chair a committee which will review the provisions of the criminal law relating to mentally abnormal offenders and the facilities for their treatment. A review of the arrangements for the discharge and supervision of patients from hospitals such as Broadmoor is to be made by Sir Carl Aarvold, the recorder of London, Sir Dennis Hill, and Mr. G. P. Newton. These decisions were announced in the House of Commons on 29 June by the Home Secretary, Mr. Reginald Maudling, in a statement about the conviction of Graham Young, the former Broadmoor patient convicted of murder by poisoning (see leading article p. 70).

Memorial Service for Doctors

A memorial service was held on 29 June at the church of St. George The Martyr, Queen Square, London W.C.1., for the doctors who died in the crash of the B.E.A. Trident on 18 June. The B.M.A. was represented by the President, Sir John Peel. Dr. L. R. Twentyman, senior consultant at the Royal London Homoeopathic Hospital, gave an appreciation of the homoeopathic practitioners killed in the disaster.

Consultant Training Certificates

The Joint Committee on Higher Surgical Training (which represents the Royal College of Surgeons, the Association of Professors of Surgery, and the specialist surgical associations in Great Britain and Ireland) has announced that it will shortly be recommending the appropriate Royal Colleges to grant certificates of satisfactory completion of higher surgical training to individuals in a number of specialties in which training programmes have been approved. The occupants of these programmes will have completed the required periods of training (even though recognition by the Joint Committee may have been given after they entered the programme).

The statement emphasizes that for some time to come the possession of a certificate of higher training will be the exception rather than the rule, and adds that college representatives on advisory appointment committees will continue to use the existing criteria for consultant status in assessing the eligibility of applicants for consultant posts. In the longer term, however, says the statement, the possession of a certificate will clearly demonstrate the claims to consultant posts of their holders as compared with those who have not undergone an approved training programme.

People in the News

Professor C. I. Phillips, M.Sc., Ph.D., M.D., F.R.C.S., D.P.H., has been appointed honorary consultant ophthalmologist to the Army in Scotland in succession to Professor G. I. Scott.

Professor Phillips, at present professor of ophthalmology in the University of Manchester, is to be appointed to the chair of ophthalmology in the University of Edinburgh on 1 October.

Major-General J. Irvine, late R.A.M.C., has been appointed Honorary Surgeon to the Queen.

COMING EVENTS

Academy of Medicine of Malaysia.—7th Malaysia-Singapore Congress of Medicine, 4-6 August, Kuala Lumpur. Details from Dr. Chin Tuck Shiew, c/o Department of Surgery, General Hospital, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

International Society of Surgery.—Biennial congress, "Infection," 21 August, 1972, Moscow. Details of the congress and of membership of the Society are obtainable from Mr. H. W. S. Wright, The Stone House, 9 Weymouth Street, Portland Place, London, W1N 3FF.

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.*

Monday, 10 July

INSTITUTE OF LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOTOLOGY.—At 5.30 p.m., combined staff consultation clinical meeting.

Wednesday, 12 July

ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL.—2 p.m., Pathology lecture by Dr. L. W. Duchon.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—3 p.m., Bernhard Baron Lecture by Professor D. Slome: Some Aspects of Experimental Surgical Research.

ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL.—At 5.15 p.m., Dr. S. Goulston (Sydney): Ischaemic Mesenteric Disease.

Thursday, 13 July

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.—In conjunction with the Society of Occupational Medicine, at Kings Alfred's College, Winchester, 2.15 p.m., Mackenzie Industrial Health Lecture, by Professor W. R. Lee: An Anatomy of Occupational Medicine.*

INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH.—At 5.30 p.m., Dr. R. Koch (Los Angeles): Experiences of a Large Mental Retardation Regional Centre.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—5 p.m., Hunterian Lecture by Professor O. Daniel: The Value of Radiomanometry in Bile Duct Surgery.

Friday, 14 July

NEUROLOGICAL RESEARCH DISCUSSION GROUP.—At Newcastle General Hospital, 5.30 p.m., Mr. R. M. Gibson: Certain Aspects of Intracranial Pressure Reading.

Saturday, 15 July

OXFORD GRADUATES MEDICAL CLUB.—At New College, Oxford, 7 for 7.30 p.m., summer dinner.* (Guests are invited.)

Corrections

Treating Incontinence Electrically

In the leading article on this subject (17 June, p. 670) we inadvertently stated that the Sphincter Research Unit at Exeter came under the Medical Research Council. We apologize for this error.

Notice to Authors

When original articles and letters for publication are not submitted exclusively to the *British Medical Journal* this must be stated.

Correspondence on editorial business should be addressed to the Editor, *British Medical Journal*, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR. Telephone: 01-387 4499. Telegrams: *Aitiology*, London, W.C.1.

Authors wanting reprints of their articles should notify the Publishing Manager, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, WC1H 9JR, on receipt of proofs.

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