

pointed lecturer in the newly formed department of general practice in Edinburgh in 1963. Since 1967 Dr. Morrell has built up the general practice teaching and research unit at St. Thomas' Hospital. He has pursued research on the patterns of medical care delivery in the community, and factors influencing levels of demand for medical care in general practice.

U.K. Private Medical Care

According to a report on provident schemes statistics in 1973 prepared for the Department of Health and Social Security subscriptions to these schemes increased by £7.5m. in 1973 compared with 1972. A record total of 121,000 new enrolments is reported, and at the end of 1973 2.25m. people were covered for the cost of private medical care. The report shows that payments made for accommodation and nursing have nearly trebled since 1968, fees to surgeons and anaesthetists have doubled, and unspecified "inpatient services" gone up five times in the same period. The report compares the average expenditure of £14.30 per person covered in 3 schemes with the £48.80 per person in the N.H.S., and points out that subscribers to provident schemes do not constitute a separate sector of the community, but rather people who opt out of the N.H.S. for certain medical episodes as these arise, relying on the N.H.S. for the rest. Industry and commercial firms, which arrange care of their key employees through these schemes, are the main users now. *U.K. Private Medical Care*. Provident Schemes Statistics 1973. Report for the Department of Health and Social Security. Obtainable from Lee Donaldson Associates, 21-24 Bury Street, London SW1Y 6AL, price 50p.

Restricted Services in the N.H.S.

As we go to press a letter from Dr. David Owen, Under Secretary, Department of Health, to union officials of the Association of Scientific, Technical, and Managerial Staffs containing suggestions about the interim pay award to radiographers was being discussed by the union (*Daily Telegraph*, 13 August). Of the country's 7,000 N.H.S. radiographers about 3,000 are said to be members of A.S.T.M.S., which has plans to step up strike action in various parts of Britain. Newcastle General Hospital was entering its fourth week of strike action by the radiographers, and as a result only 1,400 patients had been x-rayed compared with 4,240 in the same period last year, according to the *Newcastle Evening Chronicle* (8 August). The same newspaper reported an A.S.T.M.S. official as saying that this hospital was one of those selected for a full-scale, long-term strike. Other parts of the North East and Scotland have also been seriously affected by the strike. The *Yorkshire Post* (12 August) reported that emergency radiography services only would be available in five Manchester and Salford hospitals.

The Society of Radiographers, however, which represents the majority of N.H.S. radiographers, has said that it is prepared to wait for Lord Halsbury's recommendations and has advised its members to remain at work (*Birmingham Post*, 12 August). The *Post* also reported that there could be a meeting of the union action committee of the Confederation of Health Service Em-

ployees (after we had gone to press) to decide about any further nurses' strike action at Highcroft Hospital, Birmingham. The *Scotsman* reported that C.O.H.S.E. had increased its membership during July by 12,000 nurses, other health workers, and porters.

V.A.T. Relief on Donated Equipment

The Value Added Tax (Donated Medical Equipment) Order 1974 was laid before Parliament on 2 August. Its purpose is to zero-rate the supply of medical and scientific equipment purchased with charitable or voluntarily subscribed funds for donation to designated non-profit-making hospitals or research institutions, solely for use in medical research, diagnosis, or treatment. Further information may be obtained from any Customs and Excise V.A.T. office and copies of the order (price 3p) are available from H.M.S.O. or through booksellers.

Commissioned Male Nurses in the Army

The Armed Forces plans to increase the numbers of male nurses holding commissions. During the next five years 76 serving soldiers of the Royal Army Medical Corps are to be given short-service commissions as nursing officers. The first 15 of them are to be appointed to military hospitals later this year. Selection is being made from soldiers who are qualified State Registered Nurses and below the age of 39. The R.A.M.C. has about 190 men who are S.R.N.s.

These officers will become lieutenants and eligible for promotion to captain after four years commissioned service and to major after 12.

Festschrift for Sir Stewart Duke-Elder

The April issue of the *British Journal of Ophthalmology* is a Festschrift dedicated to Sir Stewart Duke-Elder, its editor for 25 years. Most of the contributors are ophthalmologists who worked as trainees in the immediate postwar years in his then newly founded Institute of Ophthalmology. Sir Stewart is renowned not only for his contributions to research in his subject but also as the author of that unique classic the seven-volume *Text-Book of Ophthalmology*. Copies of the Festschrift may be obtained, price £1.75 (\$5.25 abroad) including postage, from the Publishing Manager, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR.

COMING EVENTS

Institute for Research into Mental and Multiple Handicap.—Details and copies of the programme of meetings on the theme "Prevention of Handicap through Antenatal Care", September-March, and particulars of the institute, are obtainable from the secretary, I.R.M.M.H., 16 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 5HQ. (Tel. 01-387 6066.)

Charing Cross Hospital (Fulham) Postgraduate Medical Centre.—Copies and details of the programme, September-December, are obtainable from the postgraduate secretary, Charing Cross Hospital, Fulham Palace Road, London W6 8RF. (Tel. 01-748 2050, extn. 2980.)

Institute of Orthopaedics.—Instructional course, "Infective Disorders of Bones and Joints," Wednesdays, 11 September-11 December. Details of this and other courses, including events at Stanmore, are obtainable from the secretary for postgraduate studies, at the institute, Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, 234 Great Portland Street, London WIN 6AD. (Tel. 01-387 5070, extn. 33.)

Cambridge University School of Clinical Research and Postgraduate Medical Teaching.—(1) Symposium, "Current Trends in Rheumatology," 16-17 September, Churchill College, intended for consultants, registrars, and general practitioners. (2) Course on common fungal infections for clinicians and medical microbiologists, "Medicine and Mycology," 25-27 September, Fitzwilliam College. Details of both from the secretary, Cambridge University Medical School, Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 2QL.

Biochemical Society.—Meeting, 19-20 September, St. Andrews University, organized by the university department of biochemistry. Details from the meetings officer, Biochemical Society, 7 Warwick Court, Holborn, London WC1R 5DP. (Tel. 01-242 1076.)

"Role of the Old in Society."—Conference, 20-21 September, Royal Society of Medicine, London W.1, organized by the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland. Details and application forms from the director, R.A.I., 36 Craven Street, London WC2N 5NG. (Tel. 01-930 6328.)

"Advances in Urinary Tract Infection."—Symposium, 23-24 September, Heathrow Hotel, London, organized under the auspices of the International Society of Nephrology. Details and application forms from Dr. A. W. Asscher, K.R.U.F. Institute of Renal Disease, Royal Infirmary, Cardiff CF2 1SZ. (Tel. 0222 33101.)

Society for Drug Research.—Day symposium, "Human and Veterinary Trematode Infections," 24 September, 10 a.m., Chelsea College. Fee £3. Details from Dr. Alma B. Simmonds, Chelsea College, Manresa Road, London S.W.3. (Tel. 01-352 6421.)

"Compression Treatment of Fractures."—Course, 21-24 October, North Staffordshire Medical Institute. For details see advertisement on page xii.

Corrections

Annual Representative Meeting, Kingston upon Hull 1974

In the report on "General Medical Services" in the proceedings of the A.R.M. it was stated that a fee would now be payable for cervical smears (27 July, p. 282). This statement was incorrect. The L.M.C. Conference had adopted a recommendation from the G.M.S. Committee to press for an amendment of the rules for the payment of fees for taking cervical smears but this has not yet been put to the Department of Health. Should the recommendation be accepted a fee would be payable for smears taken from women of 20 years and over, at intervals of five years, and repeat smears would cease at the age of 60, provided that at least two previous negative smears had been obtained.

Pain and the Mind

We regret that our report of the lecture given under this title by Professor W. H. Trethowan at the Annual Meeting of the B.M.A. (3 August, p. 325) omitted to state that it was a Wyeth lecture.

Notice to Authors

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