

dangerous substances and that the protection should be extended through the compulsory use of wet methods of dust control and the installation of local exhaust and dilution ventilation systems to include dust hazards.

A composite motion calling for stronger measures to prevent accidents at work was carried. Among its demands were heavier penalties against employers who abused the Factory Acts, more factory inspectors, compulsory introduction of joint safety committees with statutory powers, and the introduction of a medical register similar to the accident register to enable workers to report any increased ill health among fellow workers. It urged the Government to amend the Health and Safety at Work Act to bring the agricultural industry under the supervision of the Health and Safety Commission being set up under the Act.

### Nurses' Pay

On Wednesday, in a debate on a demand for a £30 basic minimum wage for men and women, Mr. D. BASNETT (National Union of General and Municipal Workers) spoke of the low pay of some workers in the government service, the shame of the N.H.S., of nurses, of Remploi, and of local authorities, which were only touching £25 per week. The low-paid were also present in high-paid industries, he said, adding that in printing 9% of workers earned less than £25 per week, in engineering it was 6%, and in chemicals it was 5%. The State's attitude in forthcoming negotiations for workers in local government, the N.H.S., and public utilities was crucial to the problem of low pay.

## MEDICAL NEWS

### Government and Hearing Research

The Secretary of State for Social Services, Mrs. Barbara Castle, announced on 5 September that the Government is to establish an institute for hearing research to investigate the causes of deafness and hearing impairment, and to find ways of preventing, curing, or mitigating it. Two working parties have been set up by the Medical Research Council to make recommendations on the form the institute should take. It is hoped they will report by the end of the year so that the necessary decisions can be taken about research priorities and availability of funds for increased work in the field of deafness. Mrs. Castle said she would consider what organizational structure would best promote the development of research carried out at existing centres and elsewhere, and whether there is a need for a survey of the incidence of hearing impairment.

### Colouring Matter in Food

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the Department of Health and Social Security, the Scottish Home and Health Department, and the Department of Health and Social Services for Northern Ireland have announced jointly that a review of the regulations which govern the use of colouring matter in food for human consumption is to be carried out by the Food Additives and Contaminants Committee.

Interested organizations wishing to make representations or comments about the need for any colouring matter, whether permitted at present or not, to be used in food, are asked to submit evidence of that need, together with details of its safety in use, proposed levels of use, and specifications of the colouring matter, to the Secretary, Food Additives and Contaminants, Room 558, Great Westminster House, Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AE, before 15 November 1974.

### Restricted Medicines and Poisons

Medicinal products and chemicals whose supply is restricted in some way by law are listed in a recent booklet from the Pharmaceutical Society. There are some 7,000 entries, and each is annotated with the restrictions that apply to the particular product. Cumulative amendments to this list are published in the *Pharmaceutical Journal* in the first issue of each month. The book is intended as a quick reference guide to present restrictions under the Pharmacy and Poisons Act 1933, the Therapeutic Substances Act 1956, the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, and Section 62 of the Medicines Act 1968. *Restricted Medicines and Poisons*: An annotated list of medicines and poisons the supply of which is restricted by law. 1974. £1.50 post free from the Pharmaceutical Press, 17 Bloomsbury Square, London WC1A 2NN.

### On being Pregnant

A new Family Doctor booklet describes step by step, from conception to birth, what occurs during pregnancy and what the patient can anticipate and will want to know about her condition as it progresses. Each section of the booklet represents a month of pregnancy, and deals with the maternal and fetal changes to be expected, and gives general advice. *You and Your Pregnancy Month by Month*, Elliot Philipp, F.R.C.O.G., available at chemists price 15p or direct from Family Doctor Publications, 47/51 Chalton Street, London NW1 1HT, price 20p.

## COMING EVENTS

**North Humberside Drug Addiction Committee.**—Day symposium, "Drug Addiction," 6 October, 9.45 a.m., Wolreton School, Willerby. Registration fee 75p. Application forms and details from Mrs. M. Smith, Drug Addiction Committee, De la Pole Hospital, Willerby, Hull, Yorks HU10 6ED.

**"Popularization of Health Care."**—Day Symposium, 10 October, 9.45 a.m., King's Fund Centre, London W.1., organized by Science Policy Foundation. Fee £10 (including lunch). Applications to symposium organizer, Science Policy Foundation, Benjamin Franklin House, 36 Craven Street, London WC2N 5NG. (Tel. 01-839 4985.)

**"Off-shore Medicine."**—Conference, 15-16 October, Aberdeen University. Details from the postgraduate dean, University Medical Buildings, Foresterhill, Aberdeen AB9 2ZD. (Tel. 0224 23423, extn. 2811.)

**M.R.C.P. Course (Part II).**—25-26 October, Ashford Hospital. The closing date is 1 October and details are obtainable from the postgraduate centre, at the hospital, Ashford, Middx TW15 3AA. (Tel. Ashford 5118, extn. 279.)

**Royal College of Physicians of London.**—For details of the 1974-5 programme of teach-in sessions for junior hospital staff see advertisement in *B.M.J.* 7 September, page xix.

## 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.

### Thursday, 19 September

**INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGY.**—5.30 p.m., Professor T. L. Perry (British Columbia): Amino-acid Metabolism and Hereditary Neurological Disease —Huntington's Chorea, Taurine-deficiency and Non-ketotic Hyperglycinaemia.

**LONDON UNIVERSITY.**—At Royal Postgraduate Medical School, 5 p.m., Professor Henry Harris, F.R.S.: Analysis of Malignancy by Cell Fusion.

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.**—At Cafe Royal, London W.1., 4.30 p.m., Robert Jones lecture by Mr. G. C. Lloyd-Roberts: Some Aspects of Orthopaedic Surgery in Childhood.

## B.M.A. ASSOCIATION NOTICES

### Diary of Central Meetings

SEPTEMBER	
19 Thurs.	Anaesthetists Subcommittee (C.C.H.M.S.), 10 a.m.
19 Thurs.	General Medical Services Committee, 10 a.m.
19 Thurs.	Finance Committee, 11 a.m.
19 Thurs.	Panel on Audio Visual Communications (Board of Science and Education), 2.15 p.m.
20 Fri.	Young Practitioners Subcommittee (G.M.S.), 2 p.m.
20 Fri. and 21 Sat.	<b>Annual Postgraduate Meeting, Douglas, Isle of Man</b>
24 Tues.	Executive Subcommittee (H.J.S.G.C.) (at 7 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh), 10 a.m.
26 Thurs.	Central Committee for Hospital Medical Services, 10 a.m.
26 Thurs.	Working Group on a New Contract (G.M.S.), 10.30 a.m.
27 Fri.	Full-time Medical Teachers and Research Workers Committee, 10.30 a.m.
OCTOBER	
4 Fri.	Board of Science and Education, 10.30 a.m.

## UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

### LONDON

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### Notice to Authors

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