

a shortage of doctors. Yet the majority of doctors will be subject to the arbitrary ceiling for salary increases which bears no relationship to their work load. The loss of doctors from the N.H.S. is already a problem and the Government's proposals may well accelerate this process to the detriment of the Service. We made a number of detailed points to the Secretary of State, including the effect the Government's proposals will have on the various branches of medicine. She undertook to consider together with her colleagues everything we had to say and to give us a reply as soon as possible."

G.M.S. Committee Comments on White Paper "The Attack on Inflation"

After its meeting on 17 July the General Medical Services Committee issued the following statement:

"In common with other professional groups general practitioners have already suffered cuts in their standard of living over the past three years as a result of the last incomes policy and of increases in taxation and self employed national insurance contributions. Nevertheless, the G.M.S. Committee accepts the need to introduce measures to combat inflation and will strongly support any effective policy which can be applied fairly throughout the community.

"Unfortunately, as has been repeatedly emphasized by the Doctors' and Dentists' Review Body, it has proved impossible to apply fairly to the system of general practitioner remuneration policies based on flat rate increases. As a result general practitioner earnings were allowed to fall considerably behind those of comparable income groups in the last three years. An important consequence of this is that general practitioner earnings are now well below those of their colleagues in other member countries of the E.E.C., to which they will be free to migrate and practise at the end of next year. This country is already short of 1600 general practitioners and a similar situation exists in most other member countries.

"Furthermore, it is clear from the proposed cuts in N.H.S. expenditure that additional work load and strains will fall upon family doctors, for which there is no provision for additional remuneration under the new proposals. Faced with continuing cuts in their standard of living, and the prospect of having to work harder, many general practitioners will feel cynical about a government policy which urges negotiators to give priority 'to reducing normal hours to 40 in sectors where this has not been obtained'—when they know that there can be no question of the Government, as the monopoly employer of general practitioners, conceding this in negotiation without dire consequences to the National Health Service.

"The medical profession was not consulted about the formulation of the proposals in the White Paper and the G.M.S. Committee will be seeking an early meeting with the Department of Health to discuss this and other issues arising out of the new policy."

Danish Medical Association/B.M.A. Joint Clinical Meeting

There is a limited amount of accommodation still available on the inclusive package (both by sea and air) for the meeting at Scanticon,

Aarhus, Denmark, from 25-28 September. The closing date for receipt of applications is Thursday, 31 July.

For the programme please see *B.M.J.*, 31 May, p. iv. Illustrated brochure and application form available from the Executive Officer (Danish Meeting), B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP (01-387 4499).

Product Recall: Neutrapen Penicillinase Injection

Riker Laboratories have issued the following statement about Neutrapen: "Repeat testing after storage has shown that all current batches of Neutrapen are unsuitable for use as they have been found to be pyrogenic. All packs of Neutrapen should be withdrawn from stock and returned to Minnesota 3M Laboratories Limited, Morley Street, Loughborough, Leicestershire, for credit. As factory stocks are now exhausted the product is discontinued with immediate effect."

Sales of Baby Food Overseas

British manufacturers of milk-based baby foods are being asked to ensure that their products are not misused in developing countries. A letter was sent on 7 July to the manufacturers by Mr. John Grant, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Overseas Development, drawing attention to the public concern in Britain about the potential hazards of these foods in developing countries. "There are strong reasons," the letter says, "for arguing that these foods are not appropriate for use by mothers in developing countries, who often do not understand how they should be administered or lack the facilities for preparing and sterilizing feeding bottles in hygienic conditions . . . the industry should consider whether there are measures that they could either take themselves or encourage their local representatives or associates to take to seek to ensure that misleading advertising or misuse does not occur."

Royal College of Psychiatry

The Royal College of Psychiatry are proposing to hold a two- or three-day course in research methods, probably in the south of England in the Easter recess next year. The course would be designed for all trainees in psychiatry particularly interested in research and would serve as an introduction to a wide range of methods. The college would like to have some idea of the number of people who would be interested in attending such a course. Please contact Dr. Malcolm Lader, Institute of Psychiatry, De Crespigny Park, Denmark Hill, London SE5 8AF.

COMING EVENTS

International Society of Haematology.—Third International Meeting, London, 24-28 August. Details from Dr. S. M. Lewis, Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Ducane Road, London, W12 0HS. (Tel. 01-743 2030, ext. 511).

British Association for the Advancement of Science.—Annual Meeting, 27 August-3 September, Surrey University. Details from B.A.A.S., Fortress House, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 2AA. (Tel. 01-734 6010).

"The Introduction of New Subjects into the Medical Curriculum: a case study, medical engineering".—Meeting held jointly by the Association for Medical Education in Europe, the Nordic Federation for Medical Education and Linköping University, Sweden, 27-30 August, Sweden. Details from the Administrator, A.M.E.E., 150b Perth Road, Dundee, DD1 4EA. (Tel. 0382 27076).

E.O.R.T.C. Breast Cancer Cooperative Group.—Working conference, Brussels, 19-20 September. Details from Dr. M. Rozenzweig, E.O.R.T.C., Institut J. Bordet, 1 rue Heger-Bordet, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium.

Second Asian Cancer Conference.—22-26 September, Singapore. Details from Dr. Tan Kheng Khoo, Chairman, 2nd Asian Cancer Conference, Singapore Cancer Society, 334 Peace Centre, 1 Sophia Road, Singapore 9.

International Union Against Tuberculosis.—23rd Conference, 22-26 September, Mexico City. Details from the secretariat, I.U.A.T., 3 Rue Georges Ville, 75116 Paris, France.

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.*

Friday, 1 August

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH.—At School of Physics, University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 4.30 p.m., James J. Mason Brown memorial lecture by Sir John Bruce: 'The Footprints of Scottish Paediatric Surgery.'

B.M.A. NOTICES

Diary of Central Meetings

JULY
30 Wed. Liaison Committee between General Medical Services Committee and Royal College of General Practitioners, 2.30 p.m.

Branch and Division Meetings to be Held

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

East Yorkshire Branch.—At St. Mary's Manor, Beverley, Wednesday, 30 July, 10.30 a.m., film meeting: "Le Rage—Un Nouveau Visage."

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PATHOLOGISTS

At the council meeting of the Royal College of Pathologists on 16 July 1975 the following officers were elected (their term of office starts after the A.G.M. on 19 November 1975): president, Professor R. E. O. Williams; vice-presidents, Professor J. R. Anderson, and Professor F. V. Flynn; assistant registrar, Dr. Joan F. Zilva.

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.

© British Medical Journal 1975

All Rights Reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the *British Medical Journal*.