

whose admission is deferred at the patient's own wish—should be kept separate from the waiting list.

REPORTS

Regional health authorities have been asked to collate the reports together with their own observations for submission to the D.H.S.S. As well as statistical information (at 30 September 1975 and 31 March 1976) the Department wants a brief description of the present system used for waiting list admissions and details of any changes made following the review. The following figures are required for each specialty: total number of patients on waiting list, number of patients on waiting list classified as urgent, number of the latter who have been waiting for more than one month, number of patients not classified as urgent, and the number of these who have been waiting for more than one year. The Department wants authorities to state their proposals for further action if insufficient progress has been made.

The Secretary of State has decided that £5m. of the total sum available to authorities for minor capital works should be devoted to reducing long waiting lists in 1975-6. A follow-through programme will be undertaken in 1976-7 when the management review and statistical data should have provided evidence on which to base such a programme.

M.R.C. Travelling Fellowships 1976-7

The Medical Research Council invites applications from suitably qualified candidates for a number of travelling fellowships available for the academic year 1976-7. The fellowships are intended for established workers in the biomedical field with some years' postgraduate experience. They are normally tenable for one year, and, apart from certain awards which are restricted to the U.S.A., may be held in any country.

Further information and application forms from Medical Research Council, Training Awards Group, 20 Park Crescent, London W1N 4AL, tel. 01-636 5422 (ext. 141 or 241). The closing date for application is 26 September 1975. (See advertisement in our issue of 16 August, p. xiii.)

People in the News

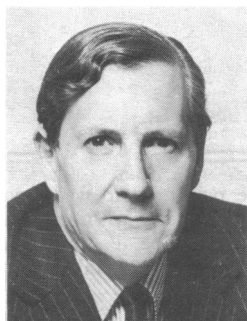
The following officers have been elected to the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London: Dr. E. Grey-Turner, master; Professor Donald Teare, senior warden; Mr. I. M. Jackson, junior warden.

Registrar Training Scheme

The D.H.S.S. has agreed with officers of the Royal College of Radiologists to continue the supernumerary registrar training scheme for those trainees who start their training in or before October 1975. The post must be filled and the application for funding received by the D.H.S.S. not later than 28 November. As a matter of policy the D.H.S.S. intends to discontinue the scheme and is recommending that, in order to maintain the number of people in training, the registrar establishment should be expanded by a number equal to the existing number of supernumerary posts.

New Permanent Secretary at D.H.S.S.

Sir Patrick Nairne will succeed Sir Philip Rogers as permanent secretary to the D.H.S.S. in October. Sir Patrick, who is 53, has been second permanent secretary in the Cabinet Office since 1973. He entered the



Civil Service in 1947 and has held posts in the Admiralty and the Ministry of Defence.

Hunterian Society Medal Essay Competition

The Hunterian Society Medal for 1974 was awarded to Dr. Trevor Hudson for his essay "The Medical Problems of Retirement."

The subject for the 1975 Essay is "The Better Utilization of Medical and Paramedical Skills in Medical Practice" and is open to all general practitioners resident in the British Isles. Further details from Dr. Napier Thorne, 96 Harley Street, London W1, tel. 01-935 4811.

Report on Drugs

The Committee on Safety of Medicines has been undertaking a retrospective inquiry into the drugs taken by mothers who have given birth to babies with a congenital abnormality. The committee's latest annual report (for 1974) says that the investigation is based on a sample of birth defects notified to the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys. The committee also comments on alcohol in medicinal products. It states that when ethyl alcohol or other excipients are present in sufficient quantity to be pharmacologically active they should be listed on the packaging as active ingredients.

By the end of 1974 the committee had received 187 reports of adverse effects on the eye in patients treated with practolol. There were also several hundred reports of skin reactions and 25 of deafness; 14 patients had developed a syndrome resembling systemic lupus erythematosus and eight an unusual form of sclerosing peritonitis. It therefore sent out a leaflet in its "Adverse Reactions" series in January this year, and in its annual report it expresses the hope that doctors will continue to report adverse reactions with this or any other beta-blocking agent.

COMING EVENTS

Biochemical Society.—558th meeting, held jointly with the Gesellschaft für Biologische Chemie and Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Biochemie, 10-12 September, Edinburgh. Details and copies of the programme from the Meetings Officer, The Biochemical Society, 7 Warwick Court, Holborn, London WC1R 5DP. (Tel. 01-242 1076-8).

Royal College of Radiologists and British Institute of Radiology.—Joint radiological meeting, 26-27 September, Sheffield. Details from the Meetings Secretary, Royal College of Radiologists, 28 Portland Place, London W1N 4DE. Closing date for applications 12 September.

Institute of Orthopaedics.—Week-end course, 21-23 November, Oswestry. For details see advertisement at p. viii.

Branch and Division Meetings to be Held

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

Eastbourne Division.—At Drusilla's Restaurant, Alfriston, Tuesday, 26 August, 7.30 p.m., a.g.m.

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

CAMBRIDGE

M.D.—P. A. Poole-Wilson, E. N. Wardle.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

At the ordinary meeting of the council, held on 31 July, with Sir Rodney Smith, president, in the chair, Professor N. L. Browne, Mr. C. V. Mann, and Mr. V. T. Hammond were admitted to the court of examiners. Professor A. I. Darling and Professor K. V. Mortimer were admitted to the boards of examiners for the fellowship and the licence in dental surgery, respectively.

Mr. John Hovell has been re-elected dean and Professor P. A. Bramley elected vice-dean of the Faculty of Dental Surgery for the ensuing year.

The Lady Cade medal was awarded to Group Captain C. B. Wynn Parry.

The appointment of Dr. A. E. Maunee of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, as Pocklington memorial lecturer for 1975 was reported.

Mr. J. D. Hennessy and Mr. D. B. E. Foster were elected to the fellowship *ad eundem*.

The Handcock prize was awarded to Dr. Susan A. Behrman and the Evelyn Sprawson prize for 1975 was awarded to Mr. G. A. Irvine.

A diploma of fellowship was granted to Mr. M. A. Coe.

Corrections

Dr. W. Y. Loebel

Dr. W. Y. Loebel will not be taking up the appointment as consultant rheumatologist to the North-east Thames Regional Health Authority (10 May, p. 348).

Annual Representative Meeting—Superannuation

In the debate on the Annual Report of Council under superannuation (2 August, p. 331) the penultimate sentence in the second column should have read: "Most of the inequities in the compensation arrangements and the transfer had now been resolved." The ninth line in the paragraph headed Shopping List in the third column should have read: "The Superannuation Committee and the association's actuaries thought the document was misleading." We regret these errors.

Notice to Authors

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

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