

and two-man practices to over 30 in health centre practices. Over 80% of all items of service were performed in the home. Injections were the largest single item either in home or surgery. S.R.N.s performed most of the services but the study found evidence to support the view that the services of S.E.N.s could be better used. The report states that casual visits accounted for almost one-third of visits by patients to see nurses in health centres, and it concludes that the most surprising finding was the benefit to the nursing staff of working from health centres.

### Health Service Statistics

The Office of Health Economics has produced a statistical record of the first 25 years of the N.H.S. The *O.H.E. Compendium of Health Service Statistics* points out the drastic rise in staffing of administrative grades. In English hospitals and related services between 1968 and 1973 administrative and clerical staff increased by 31%, professional and technical by 26%, medical and dental by 22%, and nurses and midwives by just over 16%. There was no rise in ancillary staff such as porters and cleaners. There has been a further increase in the number of administrators as a result of N.H.S. reorganization in 1974. The report says that there are still regional variations in per caput expenditure on the Service. Mental handicap hospitals are identified by O.H.E. as the most poorly financed area of hospital care. They are also the area where the smallest proportion of overall expenditure goes on medical salaries. Despite pharmacological innovations in the last 25 years the Health Service still spends under £1 in every £10 on medicines. The report can be obtained from O.H.E., 162 Regent Street, London W1R 6DD, price £2.50.

### Reclassification of Intermediate Areas

With the steady increase in the number of general practitioner principals open and designated areas have declined—the latter from 198 to 169 in the year ending 1 April 1975. But there are still severely underdoctored areas and the Medical Practices Committee has decided to change the upper limit for classifying an area as intermediate so that these areas might receive a bigger share of the additional medical manpower. The revised standard, effective from 1 October, will be an average list of between 1801 and 2200 (instead of 2100), after taking account of inflation of doctors' lists, anticipated medical list charges, and the admission of one more principal. There will be no changes in classifying designated or restricted areas.

### Long-term Hospital Care

A quarter of a million people are in long-term hospital care. The associate director of the King's Fund Centre, Mr. J. R. Elliott, and a panel of people working in health care have written a book about how these people live. They ask questions on practical ways of making living in hospital more like living at home. The book, *Living in Hospital*, is published by the King Edward's Hospital Fund for London, price £2.50. The centre is planning two conferences (1 October and

19 November) for people who are involved in providing services for the long-term hospital patient. Further information can be obtained from the centre, 24 Nutford Place, London W1H 6AN.

### Priority for the Disabled

Disabled candidates who apply for driving tests will automatically be given priority booking on an instruction from the Minister of Transport, Mr. John Gilbert. At present only half the candidates for tests who are disabled are given priority without asking for it. In 1974 of 1 677 831 "L" tests in Great Britain, 12 648 were for disabled drivers.

### People in the News

Dr. Bruce MacGillivray has been elected to succeed Dame Frances Gardner as dean of the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine from 1 October.

### COMING EVENTS

**Trainee Meeting.**—G.M.S. Committee Trainees Sub-Committee meeting for London-based trainees. Trainees for other regions may be able to attend. Topics include the development of general practice in the next decade and a review of the state of training, 24 September, London. Details from Dr. D. M. Wilks, 21 Edwardes Square, London W.8.

**King's College Hospital Medical School.**—Postgraduate weekend, London, 27-28 September. Details from Assistant Registrar, King's College Hospital Medical School, Denmark Hill, London SE5 8RX. (Tel. 01-274 6222 ext. 2030.)

**British Postgraduate Medical Federation.**—Open lecture inaugurating the 1975-6 series on the scientific basis of medicine, "Health—a Demystification of Medical Technology," by Dr. H. Mahler, Director-General of the World Health Organization, 9 October, 5.30 p.m., Senate House, London University, Malet Street, London, W.C.1. Admission free, without ticket.

**Royal College of Physicians.**—Copies and details of the programme of Teach-Ins for 1975-6 are now available from the College (see advertisement at p. xv).

**Royal College of Physicians.**—For details of the 1975-6 conferences see advertisement at p. xvi.

**South Essex Postgraduate Medical Centre.**—Details and copies of the programme October-December are now available from the Secretary, South Essex Postgraduate Medical Centre, Basildon Hospital, Nether Mayne, Basildon, Essex SS16 5NL. (Tel. 0268 3911 ext. 360.)

### 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.*

#### Wednesday, 10 September

ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL.—5 p.m., Dr. C. E. Pope (University of Seattle): Oesophageal Clinic—the Cardiologist's Pitfall.

#### Thursday, 11 September

POST GRADUATE MEDICAL CENTRE, CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL (FULHAM).—12 noon, Dr. Donald Forman (Illinois): The Biochemical Abnormalities in Rye's Syndrome.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—At University Hospital of Wales, 11.10 a.m., Robert Jones Lecture by Mr. R. Furlong: The Biomechanical Concept of the Osteoarthritic Hip.

### B.M.A. NOTICES

#### Diary of Central Meetings

SEPTEMBER	
10 Wed.	Scottish G.M.S. Committee (at 7 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh EH3 7QP) 10.30 a.m.
11 Thurs.	Journal Committee, 11 a.m.
11 Thurs.	Trainees Subcommittee (G.M.S.) 2 p.m.
14 Sun.	Welsh Committee for Hospital Medical Services, 2 p.m.
16 Tues.	Central Committee for Hospital Medical Services, 11 a.m.
18 Thurs.	General Medical Services Committee, 10 a.m.
19 Fri.	Full-time Medical Teachers and Research Workers Committee, 10.30 a.m.
24 Wed.	Council, 10 a.m.
24 Wed.	Practice Premises and Organization Subcommittee (G.M.S.) 10.30 a.m.
25 Thurs.	Central Committee for Hospital Medical Services, 10 a.m.
OCTOBER	
2 Thurs.	General Purposes Subcommittee (G.M.S.) 10.30 a.m.
3 Fri.	Board of Science and Education, 10.30 a.m.

#### Branch and Division Meetings to be Held

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

**City and Hackney Division.**—At Hackney Hospital, Wednesday, 10 September, 1 p.m., joint meeting with Tower Hamlet Division, speaker Miss Nemone Lethbridge: "Psychology of the Professional Criminal." (Preceded by buffet lunch, 12.30).

**Isle of Wight Division.**—At St. Mary's Hospital, Friday, 12 September, 8 p.m., meeting to discuss the separation of private practice from N.H.S. hospitals.

**Salisbury Division.**—At Salisbury General Infirmary, Thursday, 11 September, 8 p.m., extraordinary general meeting to discuss the future of the Salisbury Division of the British Medical Association.

**West Midlands Regional Hospital Junior Staff Committee.**—At Birmingham Medical Institute, Wednesday, 10 September, 7.30 p.m., meeting to discuss the separation of private practice from N.H.S. hospitals.

**Wigtownshire Division.**—At Judge's Keep Hotel, Glenluce, Wednesday, 10 September, 7.30 p.m., Dr. F. J. Bone: "Salmonellosis."

**Winchester Division.**—At Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Wednesday, 10 September, 8.15 p.m., extraordinary meeting to discuss the separation of private practice from N.H.S. hospitals.

### UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

#### LEEDS

Dr. Colin C. Bird has been appointed professor and head of the department of pathology from 1 October 1975.

#### Correction

The title of the article by Dr. C. H. Williams and colleagues (16 August, p. 411) should have read Energy Metabolism in Pigs Susceptible to the Fulminant Hyperthermia-Stress Syndrome.

#### 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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