

Disposal of Unused Medicines

More than 300,000 unused tablets, capsules, and other medicines were returned to chemists in the Metropolitan Borough of Stockport during the town's campaign for the disposal of unwanted medicines and pills. The campaign was launched on 16 October by the Metropolitan Borough of Stockport in conjunction with local pharmacists. More than one in 20 of all home accidents dealt with at Stockport Infirmary concern child poisoning, and 40% of these cases are children who have swallowed medicines prescribed for other people.

Pedestrian Safety Campaign

The Department of the Environment has launched a road safety publicity campaign aimed at adult pedestrians and older children and intended to cut the casualty rate and to bring the problem of pedestrian safety to the attention of the public. The campaign will continue until early January 1975. Television commercials will show genuine, recent histories of pedestrian accidents and how such accidents could have been avoided.

Psychiatric Units in General Hospitals

A survey of the opinions of patients and staff in 14 psychiatric units located in general hospitals has been published as a 48-page booklet by the King's Fund. While a great diversity of view points is expressed, in general both patients and staff emphasized the advantage of the units' location in terms of accessibility, smaller size, and lesser stigma than the large psychiatric institutions.

Separating age groups, particularly the elderly demented from the young, was generally considered desirable, and criticism of the unit design, particularly with regard to lack of office space, was common among staff interviewed. *Just an Ordinary Patient*: A preliminary survey of opinions on psychiatric units in general hospitals. King Edward's Hospital Fund for London, 14 Palace Court, London W2 4HT, price £1.30.

COMING EVENTS

British Institute of Radiology.—Day meeting, "A Critical Evaluation of Ultrasonic Diagnosis," 17 December, Leeds University. Details from the general secretary, B.I.R., 32 Welbeck Street, London W1M 7PG. (Tel. 01-935 6237.)

London University Heath Clark Lectures.—Two lectures. "Slow Virus Infections," by Dr. D. C. Gajdusek (Bethesda, U.S.A.), 26 and 27 November, 5.30 p.m., London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, W.C.1. Admission free, without ticket.

Postgraduate Medical Week at Edinburgh.—Intensive programme of lectures and discussions, and exhibition "Medicine—Ancient and Modern," 26-29 November, Lister Institute, Roxburgh Place, Edinburgh, organized by Wellcome Foundation. Applications to Mr. R. Mathers, Medical Division, Wellcome Foundation Ltd., Ravens Lane, Berkhamsted, Herts. (Tel. Berkhamsted 3333.)

"Nursing and the Medical Profession."—Symposium to discuss current problems, 28 November, 2 p.m., Royal College of Physicians of London, jointly by R.C.N., R.C.O.G., R.C.P., and R.C.S. All members of the nursing and medical professions are invited. Admission is free, by programme, and early application is advised. Details from the conference organizer, Dr. M. Joseph, R.C.P., 11 St. Andrew's Place, Regent's Park, London NW1 4LE. (Tel. 01-935 1174.)

"Problems and Opportunities in the Health Service—1974-80."—Conference, 29-30 November, University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, organized jointly by B.M.A., Institute of Health Service Administrators, and Royal College of Nursing. Fee £6. Application forms and details from the B.M.A. Welsh Office, 195 Newport Road, Cardiff CF2 1UE. (Tel. 0222 25336.)

Royal College of Surgeons of England.—Annual meeting of Fellows and members, 13-14 December, Exeter University. The symposia are open to all interested medical and dental practitioners. Full particulars are obtainable from the secretary, R.C.S., 35/43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PN. (Tel. 01-405 3474, extn. 163.)

"Noise Legislation."—Conference, 16-17 December, Chelsea College, London S.W.3. Details from Institute of Acoustics, 47 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QX. (Tel. 01-235 6111.)

Biochemical Society.—Meeting, 18-19 December, Charing Cross Hospital Medical School, London W6. The programme includes colloquium on "Biochemical Aspects of Ageing." Fee £5 per day. Details from the society's meetings officer, 7 Warwick Court, Holborn, London WC1R 5DP. (Tel. 01-242 1076.)

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.*

Monday, 18 November

B.B.C.2 TELEVISION.—7.05 p.m., The National Health: Screening—Who Wants It?
INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—4.30 p.m., Dr. R. H. Meara: Atopic Syndrome.

Tuesday, 19 November

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—4.30 p.m., Dr. T. J. Delaney: Principles of Treatment.
INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGY.—5.30 p.m., Dr. Irving Cooper: Dystonia Musculorum Deformans—Diagnosis, Prognosis, and Treatment—a 20 Year Study of 250 Cases.
LONDON UNIVERSITY.—At London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 5.30 p.m., Dr. R. G. Whitehead: Development of Nutritional Research in Uganda.
NATIONAL HEART HOSPITAL.—At Royal College of Physicians of London, 5.30 p.m., St. Cyres lecture by Mr. Donald Ross: Biological Heart Valves.
ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—4.30 p.m., Arnott demonstration by Dr. D. R. E. Reeve: Experiments on Acute and Chronic Ulceration.
ST. CHARLES'S HOSPITAL, LONDON.—8.45 p.m., Dr. D. Geraint James: Chemotherapy of Bacterial and Viral Infections.

Wednesday, 20 November

INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGY.—6 p.m., Dr. B. S. Meldrum: Physiological Changes during Seizures and their Relationship to Epileptic Brain Damage; 7 p.m., Dr. A. N. Bowden: Close Study of Patients with Epilepsy.
INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY.—5.30 p.m., Professor C. D. Marsden: Neurologist's View of Dementia.
ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.—6 p.m., Lilly lecture by Dr. C. G. W. Björck: What to tell our Statesmen about Ischaemic Heart Disease.
OXFORD UNIVERSITY.—At Radcliffe Infirmary, 5 p.m., Clayton memorial lecture by Dr. R. J. W. Rees: Science and Leprosy—Progress and Problems in "Applied" Research.
PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN.—7 p.m., Professor E. E. Rich: The Pharmacopoeia of the Canadian Fur Trade.
ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL.—5.15 p.m., Dr. F. P. Brooks (U.S.A.): The Response of the Gut to a Meal.
ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL.—2 p.m., Professor Barbara Clayton: Problems Associated with Synthetic Diets.

Thursday, 21 November

ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY.—5 p.m., Professor Lynne Reid: Cor Pulmonale.
ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL.—4 p.m., Dr. P. B. Catton: Gastrointestinal Endoscopy—Progress and Problems.
ROYAL SOCIETY OF TROPICAL MEDICINE AND HYGIENE.—At Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, 7.30 p.m., laboratory meeting, various demonstrations.
ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.—5.15 p.m., Mr. S. C. Simmons: Assessment of Fetus by Antenatal Cardiotocography.

Friday, 22 November

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH.—4.30 p.m., Liston Victoria prize lecture by Sir Michael Woodruff, F.R.S.: Organ Transplantation—Retrospect and Prospect.
ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL.—11 a.m., Symposium: Sutures and Wound Healing.

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

LONDON

M.D.—J. V. Collins, Elizabeth A. Hudson, D. L. Julier.
PH.D.—*In the Faculty of Medicine*: H. T. Al-Sammarrat, E. E. Essien, R. B. Franklin, Shirley G. Jarman, Lindsay A. MacDonnell, N. Sugai, A. T. Sullivan.
M.PHIL.—*In the Faculty of Medicine*: S. Balasuriya, B. S. Baker, W. C. Lettington, C. H. R. Thirumalai.

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY OF BELFAST

The following have been appointed to lectureships: Dr. M. D. O'Hara, Dr. H. Bharucha (pathology); Dr. H. A. Crookard (neurosurgery); Mr. C. J. F. Maguire (ophthalmology); Mr. G. A. Murnaghan (midwifery and gynaecology); Dr. A. E. Evans (social and preventive medicine); Dr. D. C. Geddis (child health, temporary); Dr. J. B. White (general practice, part-time).

APPOINTMENTS

NORTH-WEST THAMES R.H.A.—The following consultants have been appointed: Dr. C. P. Gore (psychiatry); Dr. K. E. Gray (physician, with experience in cardiology).

WESSEX R.H.A.(T.).—The following consultants have been appointed: Mr. J. A. S. Carruth (E.N.T. surgery); Dr. R. W. D. Clunie (anaesthetics); Dr. E. M. Sedgwick (clinical neurophysiology).

H.M. FORCES

Air Commodore J. J. McNair has been appointed principal medical officer, R.A.F. Support Command, in the rank of Air Vice-Marshal. He has also been appointed honorary physician to the Queen.

ARMY

Lieutenant-Colonels P. K. Coakley and D. Russell, from R.A.M.C., to be colonels.

Corrections

Anastomotic Leakage

The leading article on "Anastomotic Leakage" in the *B.M.J.* of 2 November, p. 251 described polypropylene as an absorbable suture. It is of course a non-absorbable suture and we regret this error.

Traumatic Hindquarter Amputation

We regret that a printing error occurred in the letter from Mr. G. Parker (2 November, p. 290). The last sentence should have read "This injury is perhaps not so uncommon as we had previously thought," not "common" as printed.—Ed., *B.M.J.*

Notice to Authors

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

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