

MEDICAL NEWS

New president, Royal College of Surgeons of England

At a meeting of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons held on 14 July, Mr Reginald Murley, of the Royal Northern and St Alban's hospitals, was elected president for the ensuing year. Mr Selwyn Taylor and Professor J Gordon Robson were elected vice-presidents for the ensuing year. Mr Murley, who qualified from St Bartholomew's Hospital in 1939, was a surgical specialist in the RAMC in the second world war. He was Cattlin research fellow and surgical chief assistant at St Bartholomew's, and was Hunterian professor at the Royal College of Surgeons in 1950. He has served on the BMA Council and the Joint Consultants Committee and has been a council member of the Royal College of Surgeons since 1970.

At the same meeting of the council on 14 July the Sir Arthur Keith medal was presented to Dr D I Crowther. A member of the editorial staff of the *BMJ* and its associated journals since 1949, Dr Crowther has acted for the past 5½ years as executive editor of the *Annals of the Royal College of Surgeons of England* and the award was made in particular recognition of his services to the college in this capacity.

Perhexiline maleate

On 15 July the Committee on Safety of Medicines issued a warning about the use of perhexiline maleate (Pexid) in the treatment of angina. The committee has received reports that patients treated with perhexiline maleate have developed peripheral neuropathy. Abnormalities of liver function, hypoglycaemia and considerable weight loss have also been reported. The patients usually recover if the drug is promptly withdrawn at the onset of symptoms or signs. The Committee has recently been informed of a considerable number of adverse reactions outside Britain, largely in France, where the drug has been more widely prescribed and where it has been on sale for four years. Doctors are asked to report to the committee any suspected adverse reactions occurring in patients treated with this preparation.

BMA joint clinical meeting in Holland

There are still some vacancies for the joint clinical meeting at the Leeuwenhorst Congress Centre from 29 September to 1 October 1977. The programme includes sessions on "Medicine in the Netherlands," "Aspects of Diving Medicine," "What's New in Medicine," and "Preventive Medicine" and, if alternatives are preferred, visits to hospitals, group practices, and the Royal Netherlands

Diving Centre. Tours have been arranged for people accompanying members to visit Sassenheim, Leiden, The Hague, and Delft. A full social programme includes a cheese and wine reception, and, after the conference, visits to the Katwijk dunes, where an ancient steam train will travel through the nature reserves; a stay in Amsterdam, including a visit to Arnhem; and other optional tours. Registration is £25 for BMA members and members of affiliated medical associations; £20 for accompanying members (inclusive of all tours during the conference); and £40 for medical non-BMA members. Powell Duffryn Travel have arranged group travel at "package" rates. Full details are given in the *BMJ* of 7 May, and applications should be sent to Miss Barbara Middlemiss, British Medical Association, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP.

People in the news

Professor Ian MacGillivray has been re-appointed dean of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Aberdeen for the 1977-8 session.

Dr James S Ross of Welwyn Garden City has been awarded the Queen's Silver Jubilee medal.

Dr W S Feldberg has had the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws conferred on him by the University of Aberdeen.

COMING EVENTS

Biochemical Society—571st meeting, 1-2 September, Dublin. Details from the Society, 7 Warwick Court, High Holborn, London WC1R 5DP. (Tel 01-242 1076-8.)

XXXI World Medical Assembly—4-10 September, Dublin. Details from Dr Noel Reilly, Secretary General IMA, Irish Medical Association International Conference Centre, 10 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2, Ireland. (Tel Dublin 762087/762550.)

11th World Congress of Neurology—11-16 September, Amsterdam. Details from the Secretariat, c/o Holland Organising Centre, 16 Lange Voorhout, The Hague, Netherlands.

BMA NOTICES

Medical Assistants Subcommittee (CCHMS)

Nominations are invited from medical assistants holding permanent posts in the National Health Service for the following vacancies on the Medical Assistants Subcommittee for the session 1977-8:

One representative each for (i) Yorkshire, (ii) East Anglia, (iii) South-east Thames, and (iv) Wessex health regions.

Nomination forms are obtainable from the undersigned and must be returned not later than Friday, 19 August 1977. In the event of a contest arising for any seat, voting papers will be issued at a later date.

E GREY-TURNER
Secretary

Diary of Central Meetings

JULY
28 Thurs General Medical Services Committee,
10 am.

Division Meetings to be Held

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

Plymouth—At Plymouth Medical Centre, Thursday, 28 July, 8 pm, meeting to hear report of ARM from representative.

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

ABERDEEN

MD—A W Hutcheon.
MS—J G Page.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

Appointment—Mr G M Teasdale (William Leech readership in neurosurgery).

APPOINTMENTS

BIRMINGHAM AREA HEALTH AUTHORITY (TEACHING)—The following consultants have been appointed: Mr R J Cherry (trauma and orthopaedic surgeon); Dr Elsie D May (community medicine, child health). Dr M D Joshi (consultant radiologist).

CITY AND EAST LONDON AREA HEALTH AUTHORITY (TEACHING)—Mr T M Bucknill (consultant orthopaedic surgeon).

GREATER GLASGOW HEALTH BOARD—The following consultants have been appointed: Dr D Ballantyne (physician); Mr M J Carty (obstetrics and gynaecology); Dr G R Sutherland (radiologist in administrative charge).

HAMPSHIRE AREA HEALTH AUTHORITY (TEACHING)—Dr P M Woolridge (consultant psychiatrist).

NORTHERN RHA—The following consultants have been appointed: Mr T J Fernandes, Mr J M Buchanan, Mr I H Emery (orthopaedic surgery); Mr P R Samuel (otolaryngology); Mr A L G Peel, Mr R Y Wilson (general surgery); Dr Gwenda N Elliott (anaesthetics); Dr W F Kinnear (ophthalmology).

NORTH-WESTERN RHA—The following consultants have been appointed: Dr L I Agladios, Dr M H P Green (psychiatrists); Dr K Jones (obstetrician and gynaecologist); Dr D W Gorst (haematologist); Dr M J Goodman (physician with an interest in gastroenterology); Dr V Mani (physician in general medicine); Mr M Duari (general surgeon); Dr M Davenport (child psychiatrist); Dr I M Stewart (rheumatology and rehabilitation).

Corrections

Mortality among doctors in different occupations

We regret that an error occurred in the paper by Sir Richard Doll and Mr Richard Peto (4 June, p 1433). In the eighth line of the right-hand column on p 1436 the figure 10.8 should read 0.8.

Role of occupational health adviser

We regret that an error occurred in the letter from Dr A R Broadbent (2 July, p 47). In the last sentence the word "clinically" should read "chronically."

Notice to authors

When original articles and letters for publication are not submitted exclusively to the *British Medical Journal* this must be stated. For detailed instructions to authors see page 6 of the issue dated 1 January 1977.

Correspondence on editorial business should be addressed to the Editor, *British Medical Journal*, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR. Telephone: 01-387 4499. Telegrams: *Aitiology, London WC1*. Communications will not be acknowledged unless a stamped addressed postcard or an international reply coupon is enclosed.

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