

# MEDICAL NEWS

## SCOTTISH HOME AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Dr J. J. A. Reid, CB, TD, has been appointed Chief Medical Officer in succession to Sir John Brotherston, who is retiring in the summer to take up an appointment as Professor of Community Medicine at the University of Edinburgh.

## ASSESSING THE EFFICIENCY OF HEALTH SERVICES

The Regional Office for Europe of the WHO was reviewed by a working group convened in Poland in March 1977.

Further details can be obtained from the Public Information Unit, 8 Scherfigsvej, DK-2100, Copenhagen, Denmark.

## PRESCRIPTION COSTS

In the year ending 31 March 1976 the lowest average cost per prescription was in the area of St Helens and Knowsley (117.81p), and the next lowest were in Liverpool (118.37p) and in Walsall (120.97p). The highest cost per prescription was in the area of Oxfordshire (152.26p) and the next highest were in North Tyneside (148.46p) and the Isle of Wight (146.97p).

## MEDICO-PHARMACEUTICAL FORUM

The Medico-Pharmaceutical Forum will be holding a meeting at the Royal Society of Medicine on 1 June 1977, at 15.30 hours. The topic will be "The Survival of Medical Journals" and the speakers will include Dr Stephen Lock, Editor of the *British Medical Journal*, and Dr Michael O'Donnell, Editor of *World Medicine*.

## DENTAL AND OPTICAL CHARGES

The Secretary of State for Social Services has announced that the maximum charges for most courses of dental and optical treatment will be increased from £3.50 to £5.

## THE BRITISH MIGRAINE ASSOCIATION

The British Migraine Association is offering £300 in prize money for a

poetry competition. Information can be obtained from: The British Migraine Association, 31 Abbey Parade, Merton High Street, London SW19.

## NHS BUDGET

Mr David Ennals, Secretary of State for the Social Services, announced in March 1977 that the financial allocation for the year 1978 for the NHS will be a total of 4,138 million pounds and will be distributed among the 14 regions along the lines advocated in the report of the Resources Allocation Working Party.

## SCOTTISH GENERAL PRACTITIONER RESEARCH SUPPORT UNIT

The Scottish Home and Health Department has agreed to continue to finance the Scottish General Practitioner Research Support Unit until 31 October 1980.

## JOINT COMMITTEE ON POSTGRADUATE TRAINING FOR GENERAL PRACTICE

The Joint Committee on Postgraduate Training for General Practice and the Royal College of General Practitioners have now approved the vocational training schemes at Worksop and Worthing for a period of two years. The Roehampton vocational training scheme has been reappraised for a period of five years. All these schemes are recognized by the Royal College of General Practitioners for the purpose of the MRCGP examination.

## WORLD MEDICAL ASSEMBLY

The 31st World Medical Assembly of the World Medical Association will be held in Dublin from 4 to 10 September 1977.

Further information can be obtained from Dr N. Reilly, Secretary General, Irish Medical Association, 10 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2, Ireland.

## PATIENTS' VIEWS ABOUT PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SERVICES

The Department of Health and Social Security and the Social Survey Division of the Office of Population Censuses

and Surveys are carrying out a household survey to examine people's experiences and views about primary health care services. It is thought this survey will take place in May and June 1977.

## THE TRELOAR TRUST

The Treloar Trust for the education and training of physically handicapped boys and girls has produced a film, *Dream Come True*, which is available from the Public Relations Officer, Treloar Trust, Froyle, Alton, Hampshire GU34 4JX.

## OUTPATIENT ATTENDANCES

Recent figures issued by the Department of Health and Social Security show that new outpatient attendances in England are steady at a little over three and a half million a year, compared with figures of nearer four million in 1971/72.

## CORRECTION

In the list of new Fellows published in the February *Journal* Dr B. K. Lim's name was incorrectly printed as Dr Lim B. Keng. This error is much regretted.

## COST OF DRUGS PRESCRIBED BY FAMILY DOCTORS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

Year ending 31 March	Cost to the NHS of drugs prescribed by family doctors* £ million	Percentage of total cost of the Service* Per cent
1968	142	11.1
1969	137	10.1
1970	145	10.1
1971	160	9.4
1972	177	9.3
1973	201	9.2
1974	223	9.0
1975	273	8.4
1976 (provisional)	362	8.1
1977 (estimated)	415	9.0

\*Excluding charges to recipients; including fees paid to pharmacists and dispensing doctors.

## Reference

*The Family Practitioner Services* (1977). 4, 34.