

POSTGRADUATE NEWS

COURSES ARRANGED BY UNIVERSITIES

The Queen's University of Belfast

Two-day course

November 12-13

Medical and surgical emergencies.
Belfast City Hospital.

26-27

The general practitioner and the pathological laboratory. Belfast City Hospital and Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast.

One-day courses

November 4

General. Erne Hospital, Enniskillen.

6

General practice teacher's conference. Postgraduate Centre, Belfast City Hospital.

19

General. Downe Hospital, Downpatrick.

Details available from *Director of Postgraduate Medical Education*, 87 Lisburn Road, Belfast, BT9 7AE.

The Southampton University

Courses arranged under section 63

Weekend courses

November 14-15

Refresher course. Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester.

21-22

Emergencies in medicine. St. Mary's General Hospital, Portsmouth.

December 5-6

Sociology in medicine. Bournemouth Adult Education Centre. Applications to *Dr G. Swift, St Clements, High Street, Winchester.*

One-day courses

November 1

Annual general meeting, R.C.G.P. Wessex Faculty, and symposium. Applications to *Dr C. G. Brill*, Station Road, Alresford, Hants.

3

Obstetric symposium. Southampton General Hospital.

6

Psychiatry. Royal Victoria Hospital, Bournemouth.

Applications to the clinical tutor unless otherwise stated.

Correspondence

Rubella

Sir,

I was very pleased to see your editorial on rubella in the June Journal¹ and the proposed Cendevac Vaccine as I am sure the whole concept of vaccination against rubella should be carefully thought out before embarking on it.

A few weeks ago I wrote a letter to the *British Medical Journal* putting a few points, and suggesting a review of the subject. It was ignored. The main points I made were:

1. The manufacturers of the vaccine, Smith, Kline and French, tell me that it is imperative to ensure that no girl 11-16 having the vaccine will become pregnant for at least three months, and preferably not for 9-12 months. How can this be assured except by giving the contraceptive pill? I understand that the schools are undertaking a mass immunization programme in the autumn.

How are they dealing with this problem? There is no mention of this in the circular from the Ministry. Parents might well object to this procedure.

2. We know that only about 10-20 per cent at most of pregnant women are lacking in anti-rubella antibodies when they become pregnant. I suggest that we might instead, and as you mentioned, test women at risk for anti-rubella antibodies and abort those who may produce affected infants.

I feel it is urgent that the matter be further considered before we run the risk of producing even more damaged babies.

Farnham Royal,
Bucks.

MARY HERFORD.

¹ *Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners* 1970, 19 315.