

COMMUNITY PHARMACY

Loss of pharmacies

There was a net loss of 97 pharmacies from the Register of Pharmacies in 1978, compared with 138 in 1977.

Prescriptions

The Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee has issued the following prescription statistics:

In August 1978 in England 23,833,636 Health Service prescriptions were issued at a total cost of £53,096,025. The average net ingredient cost was 176·84p, the container allowance was 2·80p, and the average total cost was 221·76p.

The total number of prescriptions in England and their total cost both continue to rise.

HEALTH SERVICE COMMISSIONER

In the most recent report of the Health Service Commissioner for the period August to November 1978, a case is

described in which Sir Idwal Pugh investigated a complaint by a parent that an abnormality in his daughter's eye detected by school nurses in a school had not been reported either to the parents or to the family doctor. This complaint was upheld by Sir Idwal.

Reference

Health Service Commissioner (1978). Report August to November 1978. pp. 192-195. London: HMSO.

GRAVES MEDICAL AUDIOVISUAL LIBRARY

The following new recordings are now available from the library. Each talk is available on compact cassette with 35 mm slides. A price list and further details will be sent on request.

Epistaxis (Cat. No. 78-81). Mr R. F. McNab Jones. 26 slides. 22 minutes.

Napkin area eruptions (Cat. No. 78-90). Dr J. Verbov. 42 slides. 22 minutes.

Examination of the lower back and limbs in patients with back, hip, and

sciatic pain (Cat. No. 78-82). Mr J. D. G. Troup. 79 slides. 38 minutes.

Electrocardiography in ten steps (Cat. No. 78-91). Dr F. Gleeson. 20 slides. 10 minutes.

Prevention and control of congenital rubella (Cat. No. 78-94). Dr R. Pilsworth. 19 slides. 30 minutes.

A new edition of the catalogue is also available and can be obtained free of charge on application to the Graves Medical Audiovisual Library, PO Box 99, Chelmsford CM2 9BJ.

CORRECTION

In the editorial, "Journal of Audiovisual Media in Medicine", Dr W. D. Clarke was described as "A Director for the Black Centre for Health and Medical Education". He should, of course, have been described as "The Director of the BLAT Centre for Health and Medical Education (British Life Assurance Trust for Health and Medical Education)".

This error is very much regretted.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

JAMES MACKENZIE LECTURE

Sir,

I found Dr Yellowlee's Mackenzie Lecture (January *Journal*, p. 7) alternately delightful and impossible. There are many statements and assumptions which I would like to challenge, but I have chosen to write about only one. I have chosen this because it is a reference to Mackenzie's own experience and work.

Dr Yellowlee states that "The failure of Mackenzie and his contemporaries to recognize acute infarction was simply because it was not there". This statement is simply not true. Mackenzie (1913) quotes a number of illustrative cases. In many instances, the cases are supported by careful postmortem evidence. These careful case histories coupled with a meticulous postmortem examination can leave no-one in any doubt that he saw a large number of myocardial infarctions. In his book entitled *Angina Pectoris* published in 1923, he was able to show the age at which 284 people had died who suffered from angina pectoris where the death was due directly to the condition which caused the angina.

It may be true to say that Mackenzie did not fully appreciate the relationship between coronary atherosclerosis, myocardial ischaemia, and myocardial death, but it is certainly untrue to say that myocardial infarction was an uncommon disease in his experience.

J. S. McCORMICK
Dean

Faculty of Medical and Dental Sciences
University of Dublin
Trinity College
Dublin 2.

References

Mackenzie, J. (1913). *Diseases of the Heart*. 3rd edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Mackenzie, J. (1923). *Angina Pectoris*. London: Frowde & Hodder & Stoughton.

MEDICAL CARE IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Sir,

The Royal College of Physicians has instituted a working party to enquire into the provisions of medical care for students in higher education and to report with recommendations. This report will bring up to date the original of the Royal College's Social and

Preventive Medicine Committee recommendations published in 1966.

Amongst the many changes that have occurred in student care in the last decade has been the increase in the number of general practitioners who are involved in the part-time care of students at universities, colleges, and polytechnics. Members of the working party are anxious to ensure that the views of as many general practitioners as possible are represented in the final memorandum, in particular those of the part-time college doctor.

Will those who are interested please send us their comments, suggestions, and recommendations on this matter.

E. V. KUENSSBERG
President

Royal College of General Practitioners

A. D. G. GUNN
Chairman

British Student Health Association
14 Princes Gate
London SW7 1PU.

Reference

Royal College of Physicians (1966). *Report of the Sub-Committee on the Student Health Service*. London: RCP.