

### **Toxaemia of Pregnancy**

Sir,

Toxaemia of pregnancy has many similarities to malignant hypertensi where the ischaemic kidney attempts to remedy its blood lack by producing a heart stimulating hormone. Disorders such as diabetes, hypertension, multiple or large pregnancies which might be expected to produce some degree of intra-uterine ischaemia are frequent causes of toxaemia of pregnancy, so that the initial explanation could be ischaemia of foetal kidneys produces a hormone which passes into the maternal circulation producing an illness in her resembling malignant hypertension. The relief of the complaint produced by evacuation of the uterus is in accord with this hypothesis; however, the frequent incidence of toxaemia in hydatidiform mole and chorion epithelioma suggests that the factor is not ischaemia of the foetal kidneys at all, but ischaemia of the placenta itself. The obvious experiment of partially clamping the uterine arteries as in the classical experiments on renal ischaemia, has not, to my knowledge been performed, probably because toxaemia of pregnancy does not occur in any laboratory animals.

It will be seen that there is a connection between foetal size and diet in that a large foetus might stimulate maternal hunger and an over nourished mother might produce a faster growing foetus.

Marlow Common.

BRENNING JAMES.

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### **Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration**

The Prime Minister has appointed Lord Kindersley to be chairman of the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration, which is being set up by the Government in accordance with the recommendations of the Royal Commission, under Sir Harry Pilkington, on the remuneration of doctors and dentists. The names of the other members are to be announced later.