APRIL,s Second Conference
Adverse psychiatric effects of medicines and anaesthetics ... preventing avoidable harm
4th November 2004

- Up to 30% of adverse drug reactions (ADRs) are neuropsychiatric
- Depression, self-harm, aggression, psychosis, suicide, and dementia may be ADRs and prevention is possible for these and other iatrogenic diseases
- ADRs after anaesthetics are not researched or analysed
- Adverse events and ADRs in NHS hospitals cost and estimated £2 billion a year and contribute to thousands of deaths

The conference will provide a forum for sharing knowledge and will facilitate debate about ADR prevention, reporting, analysis and risk management. A rare opportunity for open communication between the industry, research analysts, healthcare professionals, pharmacists, regulators, policy makers and the public.

Speakers
Andrew Herxheimer
Charles Medawar
Saad Shakir
Keith Altman
Leonard Gorodkin
Pipasha Biswas
Dorothy Rowe
John Halliday
Steve Mott
Anita Holdcrof

Panel/Chairs
Angela Clow
Martin Seager
Diane Samways
Walter Loebl

Venue
Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1

9.30 am to 5.00 pm (registration and refreshments from 9 am)

To register telephone EYAS Ltd: +44 (0)1243 775 561 or email: april@eyas.co.uk

For further information about **APRIL** visit www.april.org.uk

diary

5 October
Minor Surgery Course
Foresight Centre, Liverpool
Contact: Anna Reid
E-mail: mersey@rcgp.org.uk
Tel: 0151 708 0865

6 October
Getting a Grip on Drugs and Alcohol in Primary Care
UBHT Education Centre, Bristol
Contact: Janet Fletcher
E-mail: severn@dial.pipex.com
Tel: 0117 959 6030

7 October
Running a Practice — Improving Partnership Skills
Village Hotel, Whiston, Merseyside
Contact: Anna Reid
E-mail: mersey@rcgp.org.uk
Tel: 0151 708 0865

13 October
Helping Patients with a Sight Problem (with RNIB)
14 Princes Gate, London
Contact: Nikki Whitelock
E-mail: nwhitelock@rcgp.org.uk
Tel: 020 7344 3124

19 October
Research & Development in Primary Care
14 Princes Gate, London
Contact: Beverley Russell
E-mail: nwlondon@rcgp.org.uk
Tel: 0207 7173 6072

19 October
Joint Injections Workshop
Liverpool Medical Institution
Contact: Anna Reid
E-mail: mersey@rcgp.org.uk
Tel: 0151 708 0865

21 October
Ophthalmology in Clinical Practice Course — Module 1
The Woodlands Conference Centre, Chorley
Contact: Jackie Dartnell
E-mail: jdartnell@rcgp.org.uk
Tel: 01925 662351

26 October
MRCGP Exam Preparation Course — Orals Module
Hanover International Hotel, Stretton, Warrington
Contact:Anna Reid
E-mail: mersey@rcgp.org.uk
Tel: 0151 708 0865

28 October
Membership by Assessment of Performance (MAP) Introductory Study Afternoon
Liverpool Medical Institution
Contact: Anna Reid
E-mail: mersey@rcgp.org.uk
Tel: 0151 708 0865

neville goodman

Public words and political correctness

WHO owns one's conversation? I'd take a dim view if someone listened at my door and then broadcast what I'd said. Not that I am likely to say anything that anyone would want to know about. But I was on a train when the woman directly behind me started a loud conversation with her literary agent about a book proposal. To begin with it was merely a nuisance. Then it became interesting when she announced that it would be a follow-on to her book on Highgrove, that George had redone the house, and the angle would be to match the music to the house, not that she liked the music herself. My suspicions about George were confirmed when she said that Olivia had rung her yesterday.

So I'm sitting on a train in front of someone who is going to write a book about the house that Beatle, George Harrison, bought and renovated. Does this woman not know that I and probably everyone else in the carriage can hear every word?

Tonight, it seems, she was to be presenting a prize to a Jonathan Bates — although she was third choice for it, Rory Bremner and David Attenborough having pulled out — but now Tom Paulden was going to do it, although she doesn't know who he is. She's written her *Country Life* piece. She was hoping to make a bid for Harry Griffin's 'Country Diary' column in the *Guardian*, now that he's died; she sent editor, Alan Rusbridger, a list of her work, but got an immediate rejection and never has anything been so disappointing. A little detective work at my computer soon revealed the woman's identity, and should serve as a warning to anyone who thinks that mobile phone conversations are private. What's not private is public, and broadcasting it is some compensation for a disturbed journey.

An end-piece. Mark Thatcher wasn't the only one accused in South Africa of a coup attempt in Equatorial Guinea. Nor was he the only Briton. On television news we saw a number of men on their way into custody. Helpfully, we were told that the Briton was the one wearing spectacles. Michael Howard has pinned the Tories' colours to the mask by deploring political correctness, which, whatever you think of its dafter leanings, on the whole is a force for good. But it does make you wonder, when a news channel can't draw attention to the only white man in a crowd by saying that he is the white man.