Imperial Cancer Research Fund

The Imperial Cancer Research Fund established a cancer epidemiology unit, under Professor Sir Richard Doll, in the University of Oxford on 1 April. This unit, says its annual report for 1977, will provide a stable base for the group of cancer epidemiologists and statisticians working there, who have hitherto been supported largely by the DHSS. At today's prices it is expected to cost about £200 000 per year. Its investigations will cover, among other things, the importance of different components of cigarette smoke for lung cancer, the hazard of small amounts of asbestos, the effect of oral contraceptives on the incidence of breast cancer, and age effects in cancer susceptibilities. The ICRF is also expanding its tumour immunology unit at University College London so that it can include studies on man. A new unit in Edinburgh has already been announced (11 February, p 379).

The research expenditure rose from £3 036 000 in 1976 to £3 813 000 in 1977. The annual report and a scientific report for 1977 may be obtained from the ICRF, PO Box 123, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PX.

MENTAL HANDICAP: WAYS FORWARD

The incidence of new cases of mental handicap might be cut by up to half before the end of the century, estimates a report published by the Health Economics Unit of the Health Economics Group of the Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, Mental Handicap: Ways Forward. This could be achieved, by among other things, better antenatal services, more advanced techniques for early detection of Down's syndrome, and a safer vaccine against cytomegalovirus infection. Nevertheless, the report emphasises the difficulty of reducing the number of mentally handicapped people, and points out that educational and social support can enable even the severely mentally handicapped people to live a satisfactory life. The OHE is concerned, however, that the official target of satisfactory standards of care for severely mentally handicapped people by the early 1990s could be missed by the Government's efforts to develop the mental handicap services. Discussing community care and the problems of prejudice, the report hopes that 'as new patterns of care are established ... the mass media will switch away from the valuable role of exposing the horrors of the past to the more challenging and difficult one of discussing mental handicap in the context of normal day to day life.' Copies may be obtained from OHE (price 35p), 162 Regent Street, London W1 6DD.

Instructions to authors.

The following are the minimum requirements for manuscripts submitted for publication:

(1) Typing should be on one side of the paper, with double or triple spacing between the lines and 5-cm margins at the top and left-hand side of the sheet.

(2) Two copies (or preferably three) should be submitted.

(3) Spelling should conform to that of Chambers Twentieth Century Dictionary.

(4) References must be set out in the style used in the BMJ, and their accuracy verified before the manuscript is submitted.

(5) SI units are used for scientific measurements. In the text they should be followed by traditional units in parentheses. In tables and illustrations values are given only in SI units, but a conversion factor must be supplied. For general guidance on the International System of Units, and for useful conversion factors, see The SI for the Health Professions (WHO, 1977).

(6) Authors should give their names and initials in their current appointments, and not more than two degrees or diplomas. Each author must sign the covering letter as evidence of consent to publication.

(7) Acknowledgements will not be sent unless a stamped addressed envelope or an international reply coupon is enclosed.

(8) Detailed instructions are given in the BMJ dated 7 January (p 6).

COMING EVENTS

"Problems of amputations"—Study day organised by the Ashton Postgraduate Medical Centre and the Territorial and Army Volunteer Reserve 207 (Manchester), General Hospital, 16 May, Ashton-under-Lynn. Details from Mrs ML Styles, General Hospital, Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire. (Tel 062030 837 ext 442)

Royal College of Radiologists—Postgraduate weekend course in diagnostic radiology and radiotherapy and oncology, 20 May, London. Details from the meetings secretary, Royal College of Radiologists, 28 Portland Place, London W1N 4JS.


Details from the general secretary, British Institute of Radiology, 32 Welbeck Street, London W1M 7PG.

King's Fund Centre—Conference on "Mental handicap: services: the hospital contribution," organised jointly with the Association for Professions for the Mentally Handicapped, 26 June, London. Details from Miss Andrea Whitaker, King's Fund Centre, 126 Albert Street, London NW1 7NF.

"Counselling in setting"—Meeting organised by British Association of Counselling and the Department of Psychiatry, St Mary's Hospital, 17 June, London. Details from Dr T Pastor, Department of Postgraduate Medical Education, Wythenshawe Hospital Laboratories, Huntercombe Lane South, Taplow, Berks SL6 0BS (Tel Slough 28311).

SOCIETIES AND LECTURES

For attending lectures marked * a fee is charged or a ticket is required. Applications should be made first to the institutions concerned.

Tuesday, 25 April
Royal College of Surgeons of England—4.30 pm, Arnold demonstration by Dr B A Wood: Human origins.

St Mary's Hospital Medical School—5 pm, Dr Marc Lipps: Central developments in steroid receptor studies in human malignancy.

Wednesday, 26 April
Institute of Psychiatry—5.30 pm, Dr A D Leigh: Paralysis of the face.

Thursday, 27 April
St Mary's Hospital Medical School—5.15 pm, Alec Bourn lecture by Mr Gordon Bourn: The changing face of hysterectomy.

Friday, 28 April
Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh—At Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, 5 pm, Mr C U Webster: A cluster of gall stones.

BMA NOTICES

Central Meetings

APRIL

26 Wed BMA Council Executive, 10 am.
27 Thurs Negotiating Subcommittee (CCHMS), 10 am.
27 Thurs Accident and Emergency Subcommittee (CCHMS), 2 pm.

MAY

3 Wed Manpower Subcommittee (CCHMS), 2 pm.
4 Thurs Central Development for Hospital Services, 10 am.
4 Thurs RIDS Purposes Subcommittee (GMSC), 10.30 am.

Division Meetings

Members proposing to attend meetings marked * are asked to notify in advance the honorary secretary concerned.

Barking and Havering—At Haybridge Hotel, Monday, 25 April, 7.30 for 8 pm, dinner.
Blackburn—At Montague Health Centre, Wednesday, 24 April, 8.30 pm, film "Sexuality and communication."
Burton upon Trent and District—At Staunhope Arms Hotel, Tuesday, 25 April, 7.30 for 8 pm, agm.
Croydon—At Savoy and Warwickshire Postgraduate Centre, Tuesday, 25 April, 6.45 am, agm. followed by buffet lunch and Mrs Marion Handscomb: "Sight by wings in Kenya."
East Surrey—Tuesday, 25 April, 8.30 pm, agm.
East Yorkshire—At Hull Royal Infirmary, Tuesday, 25 April, 7.30 for 8 pm, Dr R Grey-Turner: "The BMA and its future." * (Followed by buffet supper.)
Exeter—At George Hotel, Cheltenham, Friday, 28 April, 7.30 for 8.15 pm, annual ball. *
Holland Lincs—At Pilgrim Hospital, Saturday, 29 April, 7.15 for 7.45 pm, annual dinner. *(Guests are invited.)
Lancaster—At County Hospital, Wednesday, 26 April, 8 pm, business meeting.
North Tyneside—At Lindley Club, Tyneside, Wednesday, 26 April, 7.30 pm, film on "The BMA at business meetings."
Redbridge and Stratford—At King George Hospital, Wednesday, 26 April, 8 pm, extraordinary general meeting.
Solihull—At St John's Hotel, Tuesday, 25 April, 7.30 pm, film on "Pain," followed by meal and discussion.*
South-East Essex—At Southend Hospital, Saturday, 29 April, 7 pm, Chairman's reception and buffet supper.*

Traford—At St Anne's Postgraduate Centre, Altrincham, Tuesday, 25 April, 7.45 for 8 pm, meeting.
Warrington—At Manor Hospital, Wednesday, 26 April, 12.30 pm, agm.
Waltham Forest—At Whips Cross Hospital, Thursday, 27 April, 8 pm, agm.
West Sussex—At Northfield Arms Hotel, Arundel, Tuesday, 25 April, 7.30 pm, dinner, followed by agm.*