

News Items

Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)

Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD), of which there are up to 20 new cases a year in the United Kingdom, is now felt to be caused by a transmissible agent or 'slow virus'. The possible risk of cross-infection from patients with the disease forms the subject of a recent report from the Advisory Group set up by the DHSS in which certain recommendations are put forward.*

There is no evidence of case to case transmission nor of spread of the disease to staff who have been in contact with these patients. However, the report advises that CJD patients should not be accepted as blood donors and that their tissues should not be used for transplant purposes. It is also recommended that corneas should not be taken from demented patients or from those who die in psychiatric hospitals or from patients who die from obscure neurological diseases. As regards the investigation of CJD patients, strict sterile precautions are outlined which need to be observed when there is a risk of contamination with blood or CSF, and the specimens should be placed in containers enclosed in plastic bags and labelled 'Danger of Infection'.

*Advisory Group on the Management of Patients with Spongiform Encephalopathy (Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)). Report to the Chief Medical Officers of the DHSS, the Scottish Home and Health Department and Welsh Office. November 1981. London: HMSO. £1.00.

Course in Behavioural Psychotherapy

The Association of University Teachers of Psychiatry recognizes the recommendation of the Royal College of Psychiatrists (1971) that experience in behavioural psychotherapy should be an integral part of the training of psychiatrists. To help reduce the shortage of trainers in this field the AUTP, with the Institute of Psychiatry, is repeating a course to increase available training resources. This course is mainly intended for consultants and senior registrars and those of equivalent status, but a limited number of other places may be available.

The third course will begin with a two-day workshop on 22 and 23 September 1982. This will include the following components: theoretical background, demonstration of treatments and participant practice in small groups. (Experience in this workshop will be reported to the Annual Conference of the AUTP the next day.) After the workshop participants will be asked to undertake behavioural treatment of patients in their own centres, and later also to supervise other trainees. Participants will be supervised in small groups at

monthly intervals in half-day sessions over the following academic year. The course is organized on lines which qualify for local funding assistance to applicants under the CPME Advanced Postgraduate Training Scheme to help senior medical staff develop special expertise in new areas. The cost of the combined workshop and monthly supervision over the following academic year will be £155.

Applicants should write, including a brief curriculum vitae, to Professor Isaac Marks, c/o Dr D. Samarasinghe, 99 Denmark Hill, Maudsley Hospital, London SE5 8AZ. The course will be held at the Institute of Psychiatry, De Crespigny Park, Denmark Hill, London SE5.

Ethnic Minorities Health Studies Centre

A Centre for Ethnic Minorities Health Studies has been established in Bradford as the result of a grant of up to £30,000 from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust and assistance from the University of Bradford and the Bradford Area Health Authority. The Centre will be a self-governing, non-profit-making organization, based in the Bradford Royal Infirmary. It will act as a resource and reference centre for researchers and practitioners concerned with the health care problems of ethnic minorities in Britain. It will facilitate research and enable new findings to be made known promptly, and will provide academic and practical backing for new and existing research projects. New research will be initiated, and the Centre will provide training courses, seminars and conferences.

Further details are available from the Information Office, University of Bradford, Bradford BD7 1DP.

BMA Research Awards

Those interested in research may like to know that the British Medical Association makes a number of research awards available each year. Of particular interest are the following: two awards (£1000 and £250) for research in general practice; one award (£500) for research in pregnancy and childbearing; one award (£500) for research in medical jurisprudence and/or forensic medicine; and one award (£500) for research in mental health. The closing date for applications is 31 March 1982.

Further details on these and other awards offered are available from R. L. Weston, Secretary, Board of Science and Education, British Medical Association, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP.