

The Society

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Society issues guidance on ADR reporting

A new information sheet from the Royal Pharmaceutical Society gives guidance to pharmacists on reporting adverse drug reactions (ADRs). The fact sheet is the seventh produced as part of the Society's "Scientist in the high street" campaign, which is designed to raise the public profile of pharmacy as the embodiment of science in the community setting.

The fact sheet points out that the Society's Code of Ethics requires pharmacists to be alert to potential ADRs and respond

accordingly. It says that pharmacists should use the yellow card scheme to report all suspected ADRs for new "black triangle" products and all serious suspected ADRs for established products. It adds that special attention should be given to suspected ADRs in vulnerable groups such as children, older people, pregnant women, nursing mothers and those with a history of allergy. It also points out that suspected ADRs associated with herbal medicines should be reported.

Copies of the fact sheet, printed on A4-size card, were sent out with last week's

Pharmaceutical Journal to pharmacists who are listed with the Society as being in community or hospital practice.

Pharmacists who have not received a copy of the card can obtain one by sending a stamped, self-addressed C4 envelope to Judy Callanan, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN.

As with the earlier fact sheets, a version can also be downloaded as a PDF file from the science section of the Society's website (www.rpsgb.org.uk/science).

Museum's replica jars are all now available by mail order

The three replica jars commissioned by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's museum can all now be purchased by mail order. Following the success of mail order sales of leech jars, the service has been extended to the drug storage jars and syrup jars. All three jars are copies of original objects held in the museum's collections. They are hand-finished and marked on the base with the Society's name. Each jar is supplied with an information sheet providing details of the original jar and its contents.

The museum says that the original leech jar is a fine example of a 19th century glazed earthenware show jar for leeches. Blood letting was a universal practice among the ancient Greeks and Romans, and it continued through the centuries. By the 1700s, leeches were used by physicians and apothecaries instead of opening a vein. The replica leech jars are 15cm high and cost £50.

The original English dry drug jar was made in tin glazed earthenware and is of the type often described as "London" or even "Lambeth Delftware". Many of the small potteries that made such jars were established along the south bank of the River Thames, close to where the Society's headquarters stands. The original jar is rare in that its fine decoration is worked in a number of colours beside the basic blue. The inscription on the jar, "C: CORT: AUR", is an abbreviation of the Latin "Conditus Cortex Aurantiorum", meaning "candied orange



The original leech jar (right) and a replica



Replica dry drug jar



Replica syrup jar

peel". This was used for flavour and as a mild stomachic, to warm and strengthen the stomach. The replica dry drug jars are 16cm high and cost £56, which is a significant saving on the previous price.

The original syrup jar is also "Lambeth Delftware". It is in the more traditional blue and white style of pots, directly influenced by Dutch designs. The jar is a fine, dated "wet" or "syrup" jar with a spout for pouring out its liquid contents. The inscription on the jar, "S: ROSAR: CU: AG", is an abbrevia-

tion of the Latin "Syrupus Rosaceus Solutivus cum Agarico", meaning "solutive syrup of rose with agaric". The preparation was used to treat a variety of conditions, including scurvy, and as an astringent. The replica syrup jars are 18cm high and cost £86. This also represents a significant saving on their previous price.

The jars are available by mail order direct from the museum. Full details and an order form can be accessed in the museum section of the Society's website (www.rpsgb.org.uk/museum). Alternatively, orders can be placed by contacting the museum office (tel 020 7572 2210; e-mail museum@rpsgb.org.uk). The additional mail order postal charge within the United Kingdom is £22, which covers up to five leech or drug jars or two syrup jars. Further details of postage for Europe and the rest of the world is given on the order form or is available by contacting the

museum.

The jars and other merchandise, including cards and books, can also be bought in person from the Library at the Society's headquarters during normal working hours.

Reprimand for pharmacist who dispensed a prescribed overdose without checking

A pharmacist who knowingly dispensed an overdose without checking with the doctor who prescribed it has been reprimanded by the Statutory Committee. The Chairman (Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, QC) said the case highlighted a "lack of symmetry" between the duties of a dispensing pharmacist and those of a prescriber. His reasoned decision is set out below.

At its meeting on 24 July 2002, the committee inquired into the case of Elaine Hutton, of 37 Badgers Wood, Park Lane, Cottingham, North Humberside. A complaint had been received from the Council of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society alleging that on 28 August 2001, as pharmacist on duty at a pharmacy at 42-44 King Street, Cottingham. It was alleged that Ms Hutton had supplied on a prescription five packs of 28 bisoprolol 10mg tablets labelled with the dose "take EIGHT daily" without contacting the prescriber when she knew, or should have known, that dose to be outside the normal prescribing limits. It was further alleged that the supply on the following day of three packs of 28 bisoprolol 10mg tablets, also labelled "take EIGHT daily", knowing that the patient had been hospitalised the previous day after taking one dose of eight 10mg tablets, might demonstrate misconduct such as to render Ms Hutton unfit to have her name on the register.

David Bradley, of counsel, instructed by Penningtons (solicitors) was present in order to place the facts of the case before the committee.

Ms Hutton was present at the hearing, and was represented by Jon Merrills, of counsel, instructed by French & Co (solicitors).

NO ADVICE

The committee heard that when the patient's wife had presented a prescription calling for 224 bisoprolol 10mg tablets, eight to be taken daily, five boxes of 28 were dispensed and handed out to her without advice or instructions other than to return for the remainder. Ms Hutton had not contacted the prescriber.

The patient took eight tablets, the dose on the label. He became ill and was admitted to hospital later the same day.

Next day, the hospital pharmacist telephoned Ms Hutton, explaining that the patient had become ill after taking a large dose of bisoprolol. Ms Hutton had responded by saying she assumed the prescription had initially been written by a hospital consultant before being rewritten by the patient's general practitioner. She had said she knew "strange doses" were used in hospital, adding that the doctors in Cottingham

were "not interested" in her interfering in prescribing.

Ms Hutton told her dispensing assistant that the dose had been wrong and the hospital had asked why she had not queried it. She said she wished she had queried the dose, but "her hands were tied".

DANGEROUS OVERDOSE

Later the same day the patient's wife returned to the pharmacy with the owing slip for the balance of the bisoprolol tablets, Ms Hutton had told her that the drugs dispensed "could have been a dangerous overdose in certain circumstances". She handed over the remainder of the tablets, labelled, as before, "take EIGHT daily". When the patient's wife had asked her "Do you realise what you are giving me, this is three months' supply of an overdosed drug?" Ms Hutton had shrugged her shoulders and told her they would be needed.

During an interview by one of the Society's inspectors on 13 September 2001 Ms Hutton had accepted that the dose of 80mg bisoprolol daily was high and that she had never known a general practitioner or hospital doctor prescribe that dose. She said the medicine had been labelled "take EIGHT daily" because that was what the prescription had said. It had never occurred to her that there had been an error in transcription. The prescription had been computer generated and was legally correct. There were no indications on the prescription that an error had taken place. Ms Hutton told the inspector that she did not think that, knowing the patient had been readmitted to hospital, it had been professionally unacceptable to make a further supply.

However, the committee had decided that Ms Hutton should be reprimanded.

The chairman added that the reasons for the decision would be given at a later date, after an adjournment.

REASONED DECISION

The case was resumed on 12 December. Lord Fraser said that the delay in giving his reasoned decision arose from his concern that there was a "lack of symmetry" between the duties of the dispenser and those of the prescriber.

The Code of Ethics stated, under the heading "Personal Responsibilities", that: "A pharmacist's concern, irrespective of their sphere of work, must be for the well-being and safety of the patients and public." That was further explained under "Supply of Prescribed Medicines": "(b) Every prescription must be professionally assessed by

the pharmacist to determine its suitability for the patient. Pharmacists must ensure that the patient receives sufficient information and advice to enable the safe and effective use of the medicine."

The chairman continued: "it has repeatedly been regarded as commonplace that in the event of an unusually large or apparently erroneous or unclear prescription it is incumbent on the pharmacist to query that prescription with the prescriber, under the pain of disciplinary penalty in the event of a failure to do so and a mishap occurring."

DUTY TO QUERY

Lord Fraser said he had no difficulty where the prescription was unclear or patently erroneous. However, he said, he would at some time have liked to explore the limits of the duty to query in the circumstances where there was no patent error but the dosage nevertheless appeared to be unusually large. He said it had been hinted to him that if the answer secured by the dispenser from the prescriber was not satisfactory the pharmacist might be in a position to refuse to dispense.

"I have my doubts whether that can be true in law," he said. The General Medical Council had traditionally been less stern on doctors who had erroneously prescribed than the Royal Pharmaceutical Society had on pharmacists who erroneously dispensed or failed to question the prescription, with the result that "pharmacists are regularly disciplined in cases where the original error lies with the doctor, who escapes any form of disciplinary sanction."

Nevertheless, the chairman continued, he would anticipate the medical profession would consider it a fallacious understanding of the respective duties incumbent upon prescriber and dispenser if the dispenser could, as a result of his or her professional assessment, to quote the Code, refuse to dispense at all.

The present case had nearly, but not quite, brought those issues into sharp focus, as Ms Hutton did not contact the prescriber. Despite having her own misgivings about the prescription, she had simply dispensed as prescribed. If she had made contact with the prescriber and had been told to mind her own business, or words to that effect, Lord Fraser said it was not entirely clear to him what would follow next. However, as she had made no query at all, the problem need not be pursued in the present case.

Lord Fraser said he expected to return to the issue if a similar case arose.

Fraudulent prescription claims lead to striking off

A Leeds pharmacist who had been imprisoned after he consistently falsified prescription endorsements, resulting in almost £50,000 overpayment, has been ordered to be struck off the register by the Statutory Committee.

At its meeting on 11 December 2002 the committee inquired into the case of Bhupinder S. Bharj and Vemtech Ltd. Mr Bharj was the superintendent pharmacist and sole shareholder of the company, which operated a pharmacy at of 227 Dewsbury Road, Leeds, West Yorkshire.

Information had been received that on 14 June 2002 at Leeds crown court Mr Bharj had pleaded guilty to and been convicted on three counts of obtaining property by deception, for which he had been sentenced to six months imprisonment.

Mr Bharj was alleged to have obtained £8,894.47 overpayment in respect of claims made between October 1998 to September 2001. A further sum estimated to be almost £40,000 was alleged to have been obtained in respect of claims made between 1985 and 1998.

Geoff Hudson, of Penningtons (solicitors) presented the facts of the case to the committee.

David Reissner, of Charles Russell (solicitors), represented Mr Bharj and the

company. Mr Bharj did not attend the hearing.

The committee heard that in June 2001 the NHS Counter Fraud Service examined the prescription account for Mr Bharj's pharmacy. It had been found that prescriptions for medicines supplied to a number of patients had been endorsed as if small packs had been supplied whereas larger packs had been issued. It was also found that, over the period October 1998 to September 2001, smaller quantities of the dispensed medicines had been ordered from wholesalers than had been claimed for. For example, 4389 bottles of Gaviscon Liquid 100ml had been claimed for but only 95 purchased; Mr Bharj would supply a 500ml bottle on a prescription but endorse it as if he had dispensed 5 x 100 ml. Over that period, it was calculated that £8,894.47 had been overpaid to Mr Bharj. However, Mr Bharj had admitted that he had been overclaiming since 1985; the fraud team had estimated that the total amount claimed and over paid amounted to an additional £39,778.27.

At his trial, the judge, passing sentence, had said, in relation to the £8,894.47 overpayment, that "This course of conduct over three years to deprive the pricing authority of almost £9,000 is such a serious thing for a pharmacist to have done that it calls for a

custodial sentence. . . . I cannot think of a higher level of trust than that which is vested in a pharmacist in his dealing with the NHS fund. . . . I reject your [Mr Bharj's] protestation that you did not realise this was dishonest until it was all explained to you. You must have known you were depriving the fund dishonestly by cheating."

Mr Bharj had repaid the smaller amount; a sum of £25,201 was being sought from him in settlement of the balance. The business is in the process of being sold.

Mr Bharj had previously had his name removed from the register in September 1994 following a conviction for unsupervised sale and allegations of professional misconduct including dispensing of a medicine other than that called for on a prescription. His name had been restored some 12 months later.

Giving the committee's decision, the chairman (Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, QC) said that, even without the previous removal of his name, the matter which had been brought before them that day was so serious that the committee directed that Mr Bharj be struck off.

He was given three months in which to appeal.

No further action was taken against the company.

Reprimand for pharmacist who supplied patient with date-expired tablets after removing expiry date

A Hull pharmacist who cut off the expiry date from dispensed tablets to conceal the fact that they had expired has been reprimanded by the Statutory Committee.

At its meeting on 11 December 2002 the committee inquired into the case of John B. Sugarman, of 22 Nunburnholme Avenue, North Ferriby, North Humberside, and Regal Pharmacy Ltd. Mr Sugarman is the superintendent pharmacist and majority shareholder in the company, which operates a pharmacy at 475 Anlaby Road, Hull.

A complaint had been received from the Council of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society alleging that Mr Sugarman had supplied a patient with medicines from which the expiry dates had been removed with the intention of obscuring the fact that the dates had passed. It was also alleged that Mr Sugarman had failed to ensure that all the medicines on the dispensary shelves in his pharmacy complied with the labelling regulations.

Geoff Hudson, of Penningtons (solicitors) attended the meeting in order to present the facts of the case.

Denis Keegan, of Turner & Debenhams (solicitors) represented the company and Mr Sugarman, who was present at the hearing.

In respect of the first allegation, the committee heard that following a tele-

phoned request, a patient's prescription for zafirlukast 20mg tablets was delivered to him at home on 25 October 2001. On opening the container, the patient found nine foil strips of tablets, six of which had been cut so as to remove the expiry date from the strips.

The patient complained to the Society and an inspector visited the pharmacy on 6 December to discuss the matter. While at the pharmacy, the inspector discovered a large number of medicines in white boxes without adequate labelling, a number of containers of medicines bearing patients' names and a carton of co-tenidone 50/12 tablets containing three strips of tablets, two of which were APS brand and one of Generics UK manufacture.

INTERVIEWED

When interviewed by the inspector, Mr Sugarman had admitted that the supply of a patient's medicines with the expiry date removed did not represent a high standard of practice. He accepted that the expiry dates had been removed and admitted that that was an attempt deceitfully to obscure the fact that they had expired. He had said he regretted that he had not unequivocally admitted that he had cut off the dates.

He had also accepted that the failures in complying with the labelling regulations in regard to medicines on the dispensary

shelves amounted to an appalling breach of standards in his pharmacy.

Giving the committee's decision, the chairman (Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, QC) said that the failures in labelling of medicines on the dispensary shelves, taken on their own, would have been unlikely to have amounted to such serious misconduct as to render Mr Sugarman unfit to be on the register. Taken with the removal of the expiry date and the supply of date-expired tablets, however, that certainly did amount to such misconduct.

Further, it was not impressive that on repeated occasions over nearly seven years the inspector had had cause to complain about the organisation of Mr Sugarman's dispensary. While there had been some improvement in the past year, the organisation was not yet beyond all criticism. The committee appreciated that Mr Sugarman had a busy pharmacy but he had to ensure that he accorded a proper priority to safe and orderly arrangements in it.

It was, however, to his credit, continued the chairman, that Mr Sugarman had made a full and open admission of his failures and had expressed his remorse. He had also had compelling references and made a useful contribution to his local community.

The committee reprimanded Mr Sugarman but took no further action against the company.

Striking-off after failings arising from alcohol problem

Repeated failure to fulfil his professional duties because of alcohol dependency led to a pharmacist being struck off the register by the Statutory Committee.

At its meeting on 10 December 2002 the committee resumed an inquiry into the case of Vinaykant Jayantilal Bhatt, of 8 Bernays Close, Stanmore, Middlesex.

The committee had considered at its meeting on 19 June 2001 complaints alleging that Mr Bhatt had been unfit to fulfil his professional duties as locum in charge of a pharmacy on 30 June and 4 July 2000 and that he had failed to honour locum bookings on 1 and 15 July 2000.

Geoff Hudson, of Penningtons (solicitors) attended the hearings to present the facts of the case to the committee.

Mr Bhatt was present and was represented by Ms Elaine Banton, of counsel, instructed by Gupta & Partners (solicitors).

At that June 2001 meeting, the committee ruled that Mr Bhatt had committed misconduct such as to render him unfit to be on the register. He had been shown to exhibit a pattern of increasingly erratic conduct against a background of alcohol abuse. The chairman (Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, QC) said that the committee had decided to adjourn its decision on the course of action to be taken until January 2002. Mr Bhatt had undertaken not to practise as a pharmacist without giving not less than 14 days written notice to the Pharmaceutical Society, to abstain from alcohol and to have his condition monitored. He had admitted that he had relapsed from abstinence in the past. The committee would want to see evidence from appropriate individuals so that the risk

of any future relapse could be better assessed.

On resumption on 15 January 2002, the committee learned that Mr Bhatt had previously been removed from the register in 1996 for drink-related incidents, having been restored in 1999.

Lord Fraser said the committee had decided to postpone further its decision until the end of the year, conditional upon additional undertakings by Mr Bhatt. He would have to provide to the Society monthly reports of his medical and psychiatric condition, he should undergo blood tests every two months, and he should be allocated a care worker.

A fourth condition, said the chairman, was that Mr Bhatt should not undertake locum work but should find permanent employment with an employer willing to provide a regular report on his conduct.

If any relapse into alcohol dependency occurred, Mr Bhatt must inform the Society at once. Lord Fraser warned that if he withheld such information and it came to the Society's notice, the resumed hearing would be held forthwith and there was every likelihood the committee would remove his name from the register without further ado.

FAILED TO HONOUR COMMITMENTS

At the resumed inquiry on 10 December 2002, the committee also considered a complaint from the Council of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society alleging that Mr Bhatt, as a locum pharmacist, had failed to honour contractual commitments to a pharmacy company by failing to attend for work, as

arranged, on a number of dates in June 2002, that while working alongside another pharmacist on 5 and 7 June 2002, he had smelled of alcohol and been slurred in his speech, and that he had failed to honour contractual requirements to another pharmacy company by not attending for work on 16 and 17 September 2002 and that his condition on 16 September had given the company's superintendent pharmacist cause to express concern about Mr Bhatt's fitness to practise.

Mr Bhatt attended the meeting and was represented by Jeffrey Skidmore, of Stuart Cohen & Mae (solicitors).

Giving the committee's decision, the chairman said the events complained of in June and September 2002 almost precisely replicated the misconduct which had caused his earlier appearance before the committee. He had repeatedly failed to honour contractual commitments without warning and had been drinking on pharmacy premises.

Such conduct was wholly unacceptable in a professional man. Mr Bhatt had repeatedly been given opportunities to put his alcohol problems behind him but, regrettably, he had failed to take those opportunities. He had said he would be prepared to give an undertaking not to practise as a pharmacist until he had put his alcohol problems behind him and would make every effort to achieve that. However, the committee could not, in the public interest, allow him to determine the time of his recovery.

The committee directed that his name should be removed from the register.

Mr Bhatt had three months in which to appeal against the decision.

Drink-related incidents lead to pharmacist's striking-off

A Northumberland pharmacist who had been convicted of drink-driving offences and had been found unable to discharge her professional duties has been removed from the register by the Statutory Committee.

At its meeting on 12 December 2002 the committee inquired into the case of Lesley C. Davison, of Earsdon Moor House, Earsdon, Morpeth, Northumberland. Information had been received that on 19 December 2001, at South East Northumberland magistrates' court, Miss Davison had been convicted on four counts, all relating to an incident on 6 September 2001. She had been found guilty of driving a motor vehicle while over the prescribed limit of alcohol, driving without due care and attention, failing to stop after an accident and not giving her name and address. For those offences she had received a Community Rehabilitation Order for 12 months, ordered to pay compensation of £200 and costs of £50, and disqualified from driving for three years.

The committee had also received a complaint from the Council of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society alleging that, while

engaged as a locum pharmacist in charge of a pharmacy in Peterlee, County Durham, Miss Davison's condition had been such that she was incapable of discharging her professional duties.

Geoff Hudson, of Penningtons (solicitors) appeared in order to place the facts of the case before the committee.

Miss Davison did not appear in answer to the notice of inquiry and was not represented. It was confirmed that the notice had been delivered to her address.

The committee heard, in relation to the Society's allegation, that on 21 August 2001, at 9am, Miss Davison arrived at the pharmacy at which she had been engaged as a locum and introduced herself. It was noticed at 9.10am by a dispensing assistant that she seemed incoherent and when bagging prescriptions, items were being omitted.

The assistant formed the impression that Miss Davison was intoxicated and contacted the area manager for the pharmacy company. When he arrived shortly afterwards he found Miss Davison to be speaking slowly but coherently. He did not smell alcohol on her breath and she denied being

on any medication or having been drinking.

He sought permission to search her belongings and found a plastic bottle labelled "Alive Orange" containing a small amount of colourless liquid. He opened it and found it smelled of alcohol. After claiming the liquid was lemonade, Miss Davison eventually admitted it was indeed alcohol and that she had a problem.

The area manager then relieved her of her duties; he persuaded her not to drive home until later in the day. He also discussed the possibility of Miss Davison receiving counselling, and gave her telephone numbers for the Listening Friends Scheme and the Pharmacists Health Support Scheme.

Giving the committee's decision, the chairman (Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, QC) said the convictions and the incident at the pharmacy had been proved. They amounted to misconduct that rendered Miss Davison unfit to be on the register.

The committee ordered that Miss Davison's name should be removed.

She had three months in which to appeal.

DEATHS

Button On 28 August, Evelyn Plummer Button, MRPharmS, of Hillbrook Grange, Ack Lane East, Bramhall, Stockport, Cheshire SK7 2BY. Miss Button registered in 1930. She was a former president of the Guild of Public Pharmacists (now the Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists). She was only the second first woman in the history of the guild to become president, and served from 1956 to 1958. She began her career at Eccles and Patricroft hospital, Manchester, where she remained for five years before moving to Ancoats Hospital, Manchester, where she later became chief pharmacist. She remained there until her retirement in 1966.

Chambers On 28 August, Arthur Medley Chambers, MRPharmS, of 37 Greenways, Highcliffe-on-Sea, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 5BB. Mr Chambers registered in 1939.

Chapman On 9 August, Helen Mary Chapman, of Rowan House, 4 Lower Port View, Saltash, Cornwall. Mrs Chapman registered in 1943 and retired from the register in 1984.

Cummins On 24 August, Frank Cummins, MRPharmS, of 9 Mainway, Alkington, Middleton, Manchester M24 1LE. Mr Cummins registered in 1949.

Dale On 5 August, Theo Dale, of 5 Queens Drive, Whickham, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE16 4PX. Mr Dale registered in 1942 and retired from the register in 2001.

Dearden On 17 July, Edith Margaret Dearden, née Rowan, MRPharmS, of 82 Miles Sharp Street, Rynfield, Benoni 1501, Transvaal, South Africa. Mrs Dearden registered in 1970.

Durning On 21 May, Francis Durning, of 86 Rydal Avenue, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 3RY. Mr Durning registered in 1957 and retired from the register in 1997.

Hardwick On 14 August, James Edward Hardwick, of 2 Burton Road, Amble, Northumberland. Mr Hardwick registered in 1957 and retired from the register in 1975.

Jarrett On 25 July, Wilfred Davis Jarrett, of 13 The Headlands, Cliff Road, Livermead, Torquay, Devon. Mr Jarrett registered in 1939 and retired from the register in 2001. He was a former area director for Boots The Chemists in the West and South-West territories.

Lindley On 1 August, Peter Lawrence Lindley, of 26 Palace Road, Llandaff, Cardiff CF5 2AF. Dr Lindley registered in 1940 and retired from the register in 1999 (see Tribute, Column 3).

Magee On 6 August, Philip James Magee, MRPharmS, of 85 Sparth Gardens, Clayton

le Moors, Accrington, Lancashire BB5 5QA. Mr Magee registered in 1957.

Mapstone On 29 June, Thomas John Mapstone, of 2 Millfield Close, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 3PW. Mr Mapstone registered in 1935 and retired from the register in 1999. Mr Mapstone was chief pharmacist at Harefield Hospital, Middlesex, from 1939 to 1973. He served on the Middlesex executive council of the National Health Service and its committees for 24 years.

Newell On 9 August, Susan Newell, MRPharmS, of 2 Woodkirk Grove, Wyke, Bradford BD12 9JY. Mrs Newell registered in 1977.

Noble On 20 August, Alexander Noble, MRPharmS, of 14 Redfield Road, Monrosey, Angus DD10 8TW. Mr Noble registered in 1958.

Ogden On 13 July, John Bradley Ogden, of 21 Torentum Court, Lawsons Road, Thornton-Cleveleys, Lancashire FY5 4BE. Mr Ogden registered in 1946 and retired from the register in 2001.

Richardson On 12 July, Rene James Richardson, MRPharmS, of Buses Mill, Kilkhampton, Bude, Cornwall EX23 9RW. Mr Richardson registered in 1956 (see Tribute, Column 3).

Rodwell On 28 August, Joseph Rodwell, MRPharmS, of 34 Starlight Farm Close, Verwood, Dorset BH31 7BS. Mr Rodwell registered in 1944.

Rook On 18 August, Norman Charles Rook, MRPharmS, of "Hillside", 3 Maes Tyddyn To, Menai Bridge, Gwynedd LL59 5BF. Mr Rook registered in 1943.

Scragg On 3 September, Pamela Mary Scragg, née Cooper, MRPharmS, of 30 Rumsam Gardens, Barnstaple, Devon EX32 9EY. Mrs Scragg registered in 1950.

Shepherd On 18 August, Bridget Mary Shepherd, MRPharmS, of 12 Goulton Close, Yarm, Stockton-on-Tees TS15 9RY. Mrs Shepherd registered in 1966.

Stead On 21 August, Brian Carter Stead, MRPharmS, of "Birch Cottage", 14 The Banks, Lyneham, Chippenham, Wiltshire SN15 4NS. Mr Stead registered in 1950.

Thorne On 22 July, Kenneth Edwin Thorne, of 9 Clevedon Road, Nailsea, Bristol BS19 1EH. Mr Thorne registered in 1942 and retired from the register in 1999.

Varley On 4 August, John William Varley, MRPharmS, of "The Heugh", 17 Hillcrest Grove, Elwick, Hartlepool, Cleveland TS27 3EH. Mr Varley registered in 1931.

Whittaker On 10 August, Raymond Whittaker, FRPharmS, of 40 Noel Gate, Aughton, Ormskirk, Lancashire L39 5EG. Mr Whittaker registered in 1950.

TRIBUTES

Flint In a tribute to the late Charles Leslie Flint (*PJ*, 19 July, p99), SULTAN DAJANI writes: I was lucky enough to work with Les as chairman of the Society's North Hampshire branch when he was secretary. His enthusiasm was infectious, as was his dry humour and commitment. He was a man of great passion for his profession, and his boundless energy and strongly voiced beliefs made him well-known wherever he went. He was tireless and proactive in his many duties on behalf of the branch and he befriended many by his charm, personality and wit. His vociferous, inimitable cheeky nature also helped turn many opponents into quivering, dribbling messes!

I know the branch is missing his character and quick-fire banter and I will miss the bonhomie. One thing is for sure: he has left an impression that will never be forgotten.

Lindley In a tribute to the late Peter Lawrence Lindley (see Column 1), STANLEY OWEN writes: Peter and I were contemporaneous as apprentices and students, played rugby together and stayed in touch throughout our lives.

After qualifying in 1940 he served six years in the Royal Army Medical Corps, latterly in India where he was commissioned, ending his service in the rank of captain. After the war he opened a pharmacy in Cardiff, but in 1960 followed a long held ambition and became a medical student. After qualifying as a medical practitioner, he set up in practice as a family doctor and continued successfully until retiring in 1982. He then returned to pharmacy, first as a proprietor and then as a locum.

He will be remembered by all who knew him for his commitment and caring attitude to patients, both as a pharmacist and as a doctor.

I offer sympathy and condolences to his extended family, and to his wife Joanne, who supported him actively in both professions.

Richardson In a tribute to the late Rene James Richardson (see Column 2), DAVID CARR writes: Rene Richardson studied at Chelsea where he also acquired a diploma in biochemical analysis before joining St George's Hospital (then still at Hyde Park Corner, London). After a few years as a medical representative for May & Baker, he opened the Belsyre Court Pharmacy in Oxford. In the mid-1960s he moved to Cornwall and became a full-time farmer, but the call of pharmacy was not dormant and he started doing the occasional locum in North Devon and Cornwall. This culminated in his running the pharmaceutical services for Stratton Medical Surgery and hospital.

He made many friends in the area, often delivering medicines after work to rural homes. When he eventually retired, the practice called him back for another couple of years before declining health forced him to call it a day. He died suddenly, and not unexpectedly, in his sleep on 12 July.

My thoughts are with Jo his wife, his children and grandchildren at this sad time.

SOCIETY MEETINGS

Unless otherwise stated, further details of meetings organised by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society can be obtained from the Society at 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN (tel 020 7735 9141; fax 020 7735 7629).

Cancer therapy

A one-day meeting on "Overcoming the challenges for cancer treatment" is to be held at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's London headquarters on Wednesday 18 February 2004, organised jointly by the Society's Industrial Pharmacists Group and the British Oncology Pharmacy Association.

The meeting will examine the context in which new anticancer drugs are introduced and funded, rational prescribing in the context of local formularies, drug safety issues in prescribing and dispensing cytotoxic drugs in primary care, the effects of the Clinical Trials Directive and the functioning of ethics committees. It will also provide updates on current drug therapy, novel targets, signal transduction, toxicity minimisation, antiangiogenesis drugs and radioimmune therapy.

The registration fee, which includes morning coffee, buffet lunch and afternoon tea, is £100 for members of the Society, BOPA, the European Industrial Pharmacists Group and the European Association of Hospital Pharmacists. The fee for others is £150.

Registration forms and further information are available from Angela Canning at the Society's headquarters (tel 020 7572 2412; e-mail acanning@rpsgb.org.uk).

DIARY

LOCAL MEETINGS

Events listed below are meetings of branches or regions of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society. Details of all future meetings notified to *The Journal* appear in the Diary section of *PJ Online* (www.pjonline.com/diary)

Tuesday 23 September

Slough "Pain management in rehabilitation" by Dr A. Reece (rehabilitation department, Wexham Park Hospital). John Lister Postgraduate Centre, Wexham Park Hospital, Slough. Buffet 7.15pm, meeting 8pm.

LOCAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

The local meetings section of *The Journal's* weekly Diary column is intended for brief reminders of Royal Pharmaceutical Society branch and regional meetings.

Branch secretaries are asked to submit details of meetings as early as possible. Branch programme cards are welcome at the beginning of the season, provided that *The Journal* is notified promptly of any subsequent amendments.

The Diary column covers the eight days from the Monday after the date of publication to the following Monday, inclusive. *The Journal* cannot guarantee the inclusion of announcements or amendments received later than the Tuesday morning preceding the date of publication. Late information can, however, be added to the Diary section of *PJ Online* (www.pjonline.com/noticeboard), which gives regularly updated details of all future meetings notified to *The Journal*.

Warrington "AIDS in Africa: a pharmacist's experience in Uganda" by Angela Fell. Fir Grove Hotel, Knutsford Old Road, Grappenhall, Warrington. 8pm.

Worthing and West Sussex "Pharmacy, ethics and law update: local issues and national developments" by Tim Snewin (inspector, Royal Pharmaceutical Society). Guildhall Room, Ship Hotel, North Street, Chichester. Buffet refreshments 7.30pm for 8pm.

Thursday 25 September

Hertford "Hidden dangers of tap water: a prescribing dilemma" by Dr Sarah Fluck. Postgraduate Medical Centre, Queen Elizabeth II Hospital, Welwyn Garden City. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Nottingham "A vision for pharmacy in the new NHS". Room G05, Postgraduate Medical Centre, Queen's Medical Centre. Light refreshments 7pm, meeting 8pm.

Monday 29 September

Cardiff National Association of Women Pharmacists "Use of nutritional supplements in the community". Forest Room 4, Village Hotel, Coryton, Cardiff. Tea and coffee 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

PERSONAL

This column is intended for announcements of births, engagements, marriages, anniversaries, etc. The charge for an insertion is £18 for up to 25 words, and £7 for every additional 10 or fewer words. Personal cheques only (payable to The Pharmaceutical Journal) should be sent with the notice to the Editor, The Pharmaceutical Journal, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN. The sender's address and membership number, if applicable, should be on the reverse of the cheque.

BIRTHS

Rudd Celine (née Cheng, ex-Bradford 1983–86, 1987–90) and John (pharmacology, ex-Sunderland 1984–88, ex-Bradford 1988–91) are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Laura Jane on 10 July 2003, weighing 3.7kg, a sister for Julia Anne. E-mail chkcheng@hotmail.com and jar@cuhk.edu.hk.

Sajjan Miukhtiar and Rajvir (ex-London, Brunswick Square, 1989–1992) are delighted to announce the birth of their son Zoravar Singh on 20 July 2003.

MARRIAGES

Farrow-Batey Jason (ex-Manchester 1992–95) is delighted to announce his marriage to Rachel Batey (ex-Manchester, Drama, 1995–98) on 15 August 2003. E-mail jasonfarrow@tiscali.co.uk.

DEATHS

Woolfson Sidney (registered 1953) passed away peacefully in his sleep on 14 August. Already sorely missed by wife Doreen, brother Tony, children David, Francine (ex-Square 1979–82) and Brian, and grandchildren Jared and Hallum.