

personality. It concerns not only with the bodily structure, but with every fibre of the mind and even with character. The responsibility in promoting these wider aims, fuller conceptions and increased values is mainly to be shared by the medical profession, governments and the individuals. The Jubilee Lecture emphasises the immediate medical responsibility arising from the results of recent research in medicine, surgery and the allied sciences, the possibilities of which have been realised in immunisation against epidemics or infective diseases, the functioning and control of the neuro-endocrine system, the new psychological approach to the study of the human mind, and the treatment of civilisation disorders, the analysis of food-stuffs and the fundamental importance of vitamins and the new science of genetics, disclosing the nature and mechanism of human heredity. Do the politicians who control the destiny of large populations, have the necessary acquaintance with the contributions which the human sciences are making to the social

problems, which they have to study and solve. It seems to us that viewed from the wider standpoint the responsibility of maintaining and improving the health of a population has passed from the medical profession to government action. Yet the paramount responsibility of the individual for his own health and for his own local environment remains. The efforts of the medical profession and of governments are easily nullified by individual ignorance and unwisdom. We consider that more than "Wardhaising" our schools, a definite curriculum for the inculcation of health habits in the elementary schools, the instruction in biology, hygiene and health knowledge in the higher stages, and the encouragement and training in health wisdom in the later years of education would seem to be urgently called for, and such a policy might undoubtedly prove more significant to the interests of the community, than the futile efforts to solve the "Babeldom" of India.

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

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### POTASSIUM CHANNEL MODULATORS

The conference on "Potassium Channel Modulators: New Drugs with Novel Mechanisms of Action" will be held on 15th December 1988 at Royal College of Physicians, London.

Membrane associated potassium channels play, among other roles, a major part in the control of membrane potential and in the threshold, frequency and duration of action potentials. Research into the properties of such channels has been hampered until recently by the diversity of potassium channels and by the lack of specific channel modulating drugs. Recent advances in molecular biology and electrophysiology, and the discovery of a range of compounds which block e.g. apamin, or open e.g. cromakalim (BRL 34915) and RP 49356, potassium channels have stimulated new interest. Cromakalim and other potassium channel activators in develop-

ment, such as pinacidil or nicorandil, hyperpolarise (and thus inhibit the activity of) smooth muscle, leading to antihypertensive, antiasthmatic or antispasmodic effects.

The international experts presenting this conference will describe the effects of the new modulators with reference to the latest findings on potassium channels, and will describe the potential therapeutic applications of these new drugs. The combination of latest findings, basic science and clinical relevance will make this conference indispensable for biologists, pharmacologists and clinicians in academia or industry.

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