

2 December 1963.

Clinical Services Letter No. 38

TO MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS:

Dear Doctor,

DR STUART BAIN MACKAY

Dr Stuart MacKay's many friends in all parts of New Zealand must have been shocked to learn of his death in Auckland on 12 November. He continued cheerfully with his duties for a considerable time after becoming aware of the fatal nature of his malady. Few even of his closest associates suspected the truth. He was anxious not to find himself, as he put it, looking at a lot of long faces.

Stuart MacKay was the first "visiting practitioner" in the Dominion. His four years' service proved the value of this appointment, and in a recent issue of the *Lancet* it was suggested that the Ministry of Health in Britain might well take a lead from "this notable advance". The project was a success because he made it so. He was a wonderful colleague. He enjoyed his work and threw himself into it with zest. Everywhere he went he was well received, his views were respected and his advice appreciated. It pleased him to feel that he was helping to build up good relations between private practice and the Department. He looked on this work as a fitting sequel to his own 31 years as a general practitioner and consultant.

Not many doctors have enjoyed to such a degree the universal respect and affection of their medical colleagues. "He was a good man, and did good things." He will be sadly missed.

METRIC SYSTEM

It has been gratifying to find that so many prescribers have changed over completely to the metric system.

We would ask those who continue to write prescriptions in the old way to change to metric without delay. Chemists are required to convert any apothecaries prescriptions to metric before they can be accepted for payment, and a conversion fee is payable. This adds to the cost of the service, and causes considerable inconvenience to chemists.

P.T.O.

With liquid medicines, the dose volume should be 5, 10, or 20 ml, and bottle sizes should correspond with those given in the Metric Charts - 5, 10, 25, 50 or multiples of 100 up to 500 ml.

GAMMA-GLOBULIN

Gamma-globulin is available free of charge (through the local Medical Officer of Health) ONLY for non-immune pregnant women known to have been exposed to rubella before the middle of the fourth month.

It cannot be supplied at the cost of the Fund in other conditions.

EXTENDED SUPPLIES

Prescriptions may order supplies for up to 7 days (plus a repeat) or from one to three months. If an extended supply is ordered the period specified must therefore be not less than 1 month. The quantity ordered in such a prescription may only suffice for, say, 15 or 21 days, and this quantity will be dispensed. The total quantity to be supplied should be stated in all prescriptions.

SECTION 101, PRESCRIPTIONS

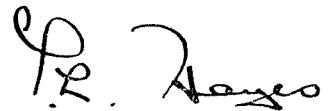
If a patient requires a drug which is not normally a charge on the Fund, and cannot reasonably be expected to pay for it, application may be made direct to this office, enclosing a prescription for endorsement.

Specially approved supplies are normally issued only through hospital dispensaries.

Yours faithfully,



(A. W. S. THOMPSON)
Director



(T. L. HAYES)
Assistant Director

Division of Clinical Services.