

25 January 1967.

CLINICAL SERVICES LETTER NO. 67
TO MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS
(Copy for information to chemists)

Dear Doctor,

CONTROL OF ANTI-COAGULANT THERAPY

We have been asked by the New Zealand Society of Pathologists to draw attention to the following:

Members of the Society have from time to time had to consider the question of responsibility for the control of anti-coagulant therapy.

Anti-coagulants are dangerous drugs. Their administration requires rigid control. Laboratory tests are an integral part of this control. The tests do not however provide the complete clinical information which is the basis for adequate supervision.

The Society considers that dosage prescription is the responsibility of the clinician in charge of the patient and his alone. It is he who has decided on the indications for treatment, and only he is in possession of all the necessary clinical and therapeutic facts including complete and constant observation.

The Society assures clinicians of the earnest desire of its members to co-operate in every way possible. Difficulties often arise in the control of individual patients. Our members value and appreciate the opportunities to assist in resolving these in consultation.

MATERNITY BENEFITS: EPIDURAL ANAESTHESIA

A special scale of fees for prolonged epidural block anaesthesia in obstetrics has been fixed by agreement between the Minister of Health and representatives of the New Zealand Branch of the British Medical Association:

- (a) For establishment of anaesthesia: Fees in accordance with the existing scale.
- (b) For subsequent attendances: £1 1s. for each half hour or part thereof.

The total anaesthetic fee in any one case not to exceed £10 10s.

P.T.O

1. "The Executive's Weight Reduction Diet."
2. "A Do-It-Yourself Slimming Diet for Intelligent Women."
3. "Calorie Values of Commonly Used Foods. A Calorie Guide for Weight Watchers."

Doctors who wish to obtain supplies for distribution to patients should write direct to the Nutrition Section, P.O. Box 5013, Wellington.

CORRECTION—CLINICAL SERVICES LETTER NO. 66

Under "Antibiotics", *Hostacycline P* was described as "tetracycline phosphate complex". This should have read, "Tetracycline, phosphate buffered".

Yours faithfully,



(A. W. S. Thompson)
Director,



(T. L. Hayes)
Assistant Director,

Division of Clinical Services.

VACANCIES AT REEFTON

The notice about general practice at Reefton, West Coast, South Island, issued on 15 November* may not have made it clear that a doctor taking up either of these vacancies is assured of a good income.

In addition to the salaries for the part-time hospital positions (£1,625 or £990/£1,135 per annum) the Department of Health is prepared to guarantee a minimum return from General Medical Services of £2,625 per annum, in addition to private fees, milage, maternity fees, worker's compensation, etc. A new residence and surgery is available to rent or lease.

Inquiries: Secretary, Inangahua Hospital Board, P.O. Box 68, Reefton.

*Clinical Services Letter No. 66.

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