

## ASSOCIATION NOTES

## SINGAPORE COLLOQUIUM IN NEPHROLOGY

15th-17th NOVEMBER, 1974

## TOPICS

Glomerular Disease  
 Urinary Tract Infection  
 Renal Hypertension  
 Dialysis  
 Transplantation

## Invited Participants from: —

Australia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan,  
 Malaysia, Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand,  
 United Kingdom and Singapore.

## Sponsored by: —

National Kidney Foundation  
 Ministry of Health

University of Singapore  
 Singapore Society of Nephrology

## Venue: —

Regional English Language Centre  
 30 Orange Grove Road  
 Singapore 10.

ALL WELCOME

## Enquiries: —

Prof. O. T. Khoo, Tel. 72141  
 Dr. P. H. Feng, Tel. 50411

## CORRESPONDENCE

13th May, 1974.

The Editor,  
 Singapore Medical Journal,  
 Singapore.  
 Sir,

I refer to Dr. Donal R. O'Holohan's letter (S.M.J. 1974, page XXVI) commenting on my Leading Article, "The Implications of Fatal Penicillin Anaphylactic Reactions" (S.M.J. 1973, page 467). His letter reinforces many points I tried to make in the article. From among the hundreds of papers on the subject available for quotation, I specially included Dr. O'Holohan's because it highlighted what appeared to me to be the almost ludicrous situation which has arisen with regard to penicillin in this part of the world—here was a senior and respected doctor, with first-hand knowledge of the problem, advising doctors in an authoritative medical journal not to use penicillin injections in private practice!

I apologise unreservedly to Dr. O'Holohan for confusing his advice about the "waiting time" after giving an injection, when in fact he was referring to an injection of A.T.S.—though he was dealing with three drugs which can give similar fatal reactions (A.T.S., penicillin and thiamine) together in one section of his paper. As I pointed out in my article, the principal outstanding problem is (assuming one has the courage to give the injection!) "What is an adequate length of time to keep a patient under observation after an injection of penicillin"? Dr. O'Holohan would presumably agree that, in view of the apparently similar nature of the serious reactions to A.T.S. and penicillin, the "waiting time" (whatever it ought to be) should apply to both (though A.T.S. is seldom given nowadays).

Yours sincerely,

DR. G. O. HORNE,

A.M., Ph.D., F.R.C.P.E.  
 Drs. Horne, Chin & Partners, 1st Floor,  
 Bank of China Bldg., Battery Road,  
 Singapore 1.