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PSYCHIATRISTS, PHYSIATRISTS!

To the Editor:

To draw attention to the oversight of a proofreader seems a little *infra dig.*, particularly after your valedictory editorial to Mr. William Underhill (*Canad. Med. Ass. J.*, 92: 1362 [June 26], 1965), but when it occurs in a paid advertisement and is repeated in the next issue, something should be said about it. According to your classified advertisements (*Canad. Med. Ass. J.*, 92: adv. p. 24, June 26, 1965 and *Canad. Med. Ass. J.*, 93: adv. p. 20, July 3, 1965), the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton is looking for a PSYCHIATRIST to direct its Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation! We PHYSIATRISTS are a modest group, but we take note of the tendency of administrators, proofreaders and editors to assume that PSYCHIATRISTS are trying to expand their empire. We feel sorry for the PSYCHIATRISTS, the innocent victims of this Freudian slip, who have a mission to treat people whether they have a physical disability or not, and who have no desire to direct Departments of Physical Medicine in Edmonton or anywhere else. We are, of course, also very sorry for ourselves at being confused with psychiatrists for reasons which I need not go into. "PHYSIATRIST" is not a particularly euphonic word, but at least it is preferable to "Physical Medicine Man", used by one of my friends who happens to be a psychiatrist.

Since the Royal Alexandra will probably wish to be certified as a suitable training ground for residents in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, or physiatry, if you like; and since the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons will take a dim view of a Department of Physical Medicine run by a psychiatrist, no matter how eminent, I trust that you will re-run the advertisement at the Journal's expense under the heading "Physical Medicine Specialist" or even "PHYSIATRIST". May I wish the Royal Alex "Good Hunting".

M. G. PETER CAMERON, M.D., F.R.C.P.[C],
Director, Department of Physical
Medicine and Rehabilitation.

Victoria Hospital, London, Ontario.

ASBESTOS AND CANCER

To the Editor:

I found the Special Report on the subject of Asbestos and Cancer, published in the Journal issue of May 8 (*Canad. Med. Ass. J.*, 92: 1020, 1965), most informative, and as a sincere admirer of the work done in the field of public health I beg to be allowed to bring to the attention of the Journal's readers an aspect of exposure to asbestos dust which was not mentioned in the report.

Only recently did I learn that when a vehicle is taken in for brake work, the mechanic cleans the drums and wheels by blowing the dust with a high-pressure air hose. The volume of dust raised is unbelievable, and it drifts about in the shop for a long time before it floats out or settles down in the shop. The mechanic inhales this during the blowing procedure and again when dusting. I understand that many mechanics are not aware that there is asbestos as well as metallic dust in the air.



Brake dust blown by air pressure.



Another example of brake dust blown by air pressure.

I trust that this bit of information will be received in the spirit in which it is intended.

MRS. ARTHUR G. MCLEOD
4756 Argyle Street,
Vancouver 12, B.C.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Subscribers should notify The Canadian Medical Association of their change of address one month before the date on which it becomes effective, in order that they may receive the Journal without interruption. The coupon on advertising page 38 is for your convenience.