

News and Notices

United Religions Initiative

The mission of the United Religions Initiative is to create the United Religions - a permanent assembly where the world's religions and spiritual communities will gather on a daily basis, in prayer and meditation, dialogue, and co-operative action, to make peace among religions so they might be a force for peace among nations, to address urgent human need, and for healing the earth. The URI has groups on every continent planning its strategic development. People are organizing regional conferences on all continents. Twenty international, interfaith task groups are carrying out research and development work on a draft charter and to build world-wide commitment. The URI is preparing to launch a world-wide invitation for communities of faith to declare themselves Interfaith Peace Zones and to create new models of interfaith co-operation in communities all over the world.

The URI will call the world's religions and spiritual communities to commit to 24 hours of non-violence on December 31, 1999. People of faith will be called to a time of reflection, repentance, reconciliation and resolution to offer the deepest values of their faith as a gift for a better world.. A world-wide charter signing will begin in June 2000, supported by walking pilgrimages all over the world. Signing the charter will mark the beginning of the United Religions, a new global organization with the potential to change the course of human history.

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Park Attwood Clinic Integrated Conventional and Complementary Medicine

Since 1979 Park Attwood Clinic has been offering residential care to people from all over the country and beyond. Our work is based on Anthroposophical Medicine which attempts to embrace the bodily, soul and spiritual aspects of the human being in as exact a way as is common in conventional science. Our patients have had a wide range of medical problems both physiological and psychiatric. They receive a full range of therapies including artistic therapies, massage, hydrotherapy and eurythmy, in addition to 24 hour nursing, regular consultations with the doctor and prescribed medication. The average stay is about three weeks with follow-up services available.

From the very early days, Park Attwood has attempted to give every person who has come through our doors, the sense of being treated as a unique individual. Through the challenge of illness, we have attempted to restore to the individual the sense of and responsibility for themselves which our modern civilization seems to strip away. We have attempted to offer this to all we felt we could help, irrespective of their social and financial status or religious beliefs. A patient plan contribution scheme is in place which anyone can join. Members are eligible for in-patient care at no fixed cost within the conditions of the plan.

In addition to residential treatment, the Clinic offers out-patient services including doctors consultations and/or therapy sessions. Many people with cancer have come to be introduced to viscum (mistletoe) therapy in addition to treatment which they are already receiving. We also have direct links with six NHS practices based on Anthroposophical

Medicine and regularly treats patients funded by West Kent and Gloucestershire Health Authorities. An information pack is available from Park Attwood Clinic, Trimpey, Bewdley, Worcestershire, DY12 1RE. Tel: 01299 861444, fax: 01299 861375.

Nutritional Influences on Illness CD-ROM

Members in the complementary health field are likely to have run across Melvyn Werbach's magisterial volumes *Nutritional Influences on Illness* and *Nutritional Influences on Mental Illness*. The entire master database from which these were derived is on this CD-ROM, which took twelve years to develop. It is equivalent to 4,000 pages of text and covers more than 100 diseases. There is an easy basic searching facility with hypertext links from the table of contents directly to the major sections of each chapter. Files are in Adobe Acrobat, which is included in the package; other technical requirements are set out in the leaflet. A sample chapter can be found on the following site: <http://www.healthy.net/library/books/werbach/part1/alcohol.htm> Price for single user is \$395. Details: Third Line Press, 4751 Viviana Drive, Suite 500, Tarzana, CA 91356, USA. Fax: +1 (818) 774 1575. E-mail: tlp@third-line.com

Element Books Club

Readers of *Network* will know that Element Books publish a wide range of mind, body, spirit titles. They have now started a book club and publish a magazine, *New Perspectives*, featuring their books at discounted prices. Orders can be placed by phone or fax. Details: Laura Jennings, *New Perspectives*, Element Books, Longmead, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 8PL. Tel 01392 455051.

Intermediate Technology

Set up by Network Member Dr. Fritz Schumacher in 1966, Intermediate Technology (IT) is a UK charity working with poor rural communities. IT puts people first, encouraging the use of tools, machinery and methods that make best use of local knowledge, skills and resources rather than increasing people's dependence on expensive, imported, often inappropriate machinery. IT is involved in training and transferring technical knowledge. It endeavours to discover the root cause of problems and works out solutions with the people themselves. Details: Myson House, Railway Terrace, Rugby CV21 3HT. E-mail: fundraising@itdg.org.uk Web site: www.oneworld.org/itdg

Wellness from Within: the First Step - AHHA

This excellent booklet has been produced by the American Holistic Health Association and is sub-titled 'A guide to how you can use your everyday choices to enhance your health and well-being'. It begins with a broad definition of health and our responsibility for our own health. It introduces the 'wellness team', comprising the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual aspects of ourselves before setting a 'wellness quiz'. It then makes sensible recommendations for taking care of all these levels and becoming a participator instead of a spectator, suggesting a number of first steps that can be taken. Ideal for people coming to the ideas of holistic health for the first time. The booklet should be made available in every clinic and the AHHA is to be congratulated on its achievement. Details: AHHA, PO Box 17400, Anaheim, CA 92817, USA. Web site: www.ahha.org

UNESCO Courier - Medicine and Tradition

The February issue of the UNESCO Courier is devoted to medicine and tradition. It contains a lead article by Member Claudine Brelet on culture and health (6 pp., available as a Member's Article), reminding us that the sick are not machines but people rooted in their natural and cultural environment. Other articles and interviews feature Buddhism, Ayurveda, the healing power of faith, Senegal, Zimbabwe and China. Further details from Claudine - 18 rue Louis Blanc, F-45500 Bren, France.

Amnesty Medical Group Newsletter

Supporters of Amnesty International can also subscribe to its Medical Group Newsletter. Recent features have highlighted the effects of landmines, hidden concerns over the use of CS spray, an lethal injections. Campaigns highlight cases of doctors and health workers imprisoned in places such as Myanmar, Zaire and Egypt. In some instances, recommended actions and addresses are given so that readers can follow the matter up themselves. Details: Amnesty International UK Section, Medical Network, 99-119 Rosebery Avenue, London EC1R 4RE.

Physician's Committee for Responsible Medicine

This group of some 3,400 physicians and 60,000 non-medical members promotes nutrition, preventive medicine, ethical research policy and compassionate medical policy. It advocates a vegan diet as the most effective way of reducing cancer risk and defines the ideal diet as one made up of adequate servings from four food groups: vegetables, whole grains, fruit and legumes. Address: 5100 Wisconsin Avenue, NW Suite 404, Washington DC 20016, USA.

Independent Holistic Medical Services - Web Site

IHMS aims to provide a platform for the dissemination of accurate information on complementary therapies and associated services such as training organizations. The site comprises an IHMS front page with links to clinics, practitioners, details of therapies offered and a general discussion forum. Individual clinics and practitioners can have their own web pages with direct links to their e-mail addresses. There is a registration fee of £50 for clinics and £25 for practitioners, plus a monthly fee of £15 (£7.50). In addition, it is possible to pay for a site to be designed. Details: Susan Dunkley, IHMS, 4 Chatsworth Road, London NW2 4BN. E-mail: susan@ihms.co.uk

The Ecologist - Special Issue on Cancer

The most recent issue of The Ecologist is devoted to cancer, arguing that the main causes of the disease are exposure to carcinogenic chemicals and ionizing radiation. Feature articles analyse the medical-industrial complex, the pronouncements of Sir Richard Doll, the relationship between industrialization and cancer, the effect of pesticides on children and pesticide use on farm animals. Member Dr Peter Mansfield looks at the reductionist and holistic approaches, and Walter Last discusses the diversity and effectiveness of natural cancer cures. Articles are fully referenced and a few topical books are thoroughly reviewed. Available from The Ecologist, c/o Cissbury House, Furze View, Five Oaks Road, Slinfold, W Sussex RH13 7RH. Tel/fax: +44 1403 782644.

Doctors and Lawyers for Responsible Medicine (DLRM)

DLRM has published proceedings from its July 1997 International Conference on 'Animal-to-Human Organ Transplants: A Medical and Legal Perspective'. The association takes the view

that medicine based on animal experiments is unscientific because of the insuperable barriers of species differences. It originated from 'Doctors in Britain against Animal Experiments', and was joined by lawyers in 1995. The Proceedings contain articles on the politics of xenotransplantation, risks and alternatives in the US, a perspective on genetic engineering, and issues around transplanting morals into law. Also included are extracts from the conference discussions and the conference resolution. Details: DLRM, 104b Weston Park, London N8 9PP. Tel: +44 181 340 9813.

Environmental Medicine Foundation

Campaigner against organophosphates the Countess of Mar has been elected Chair of the Environmental Medicine Foundation, directed by Dr Jean Monro. The January 1998 edition of their newsletter contains pieces by member Doris Jones on chemical sensitivity, ME and vaccinations. Also of interest are copies of correspondence surrounding the threat to Vitamin B6 from government legislation. Details: EMF, 345 New Road, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth, Herts WD3 3TU.

Science and Spirit - New Expanded Format

This periodical, edited by Member Dr Kevin Sharpe, has recently expanded its scope and coverage beyond its excellent listings of books, periodicals and forthcoming events. It now contains articles on a theme such as information technology and spirituality. One report logs the progress of the 'Science and the Spiritual Quest' Templeton project. It is the most informative read in the field and worth a subscription simply for the resources listed. Details: Science and Spirit, 171 Rumford Street, Concord, NH 03301-6579, USA. Fax: +1 (603) 226 3328. E-mail: editor@science-spirit.com Web site: www.science-spirit.com

International Minds

An interesting quarterly journal devoted to psychological insight into international affairs. A recent issue contains commentaries on five key questions about the future of China. These include the issue of democracy and human rights, understanding the Chinese psyche and comments on the affinities between China and its Asian neighbours. Another article contains a draft revision of the Hippocratic Oath and there is a good book review section. The IM Forum arranges seminars and lectures in association with Coventry University and Business School. Details: Hugo Publications, 19 Hugh Street, London SW1V 1QJ.