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publish the report of the Cairncross Committee on the Channel Tunnel.

Mr. Crosland : The report is not yet ready. A decision as to publication will be taken when it is received and after discussions with Sir Alec Cairncross and his colleagues.

House Renovation Grants (Disabled Persons)

Mr. Carter-Jones asked the Secretary of State for the Environment what steps he has taken to ensure that disabled people are aware of the help available to them in adapting their homes under Sections 56 and 65 of the Housing Act 1974; if he will ask local authorities to give maximum publicity to this new form of assistance; and if he will make a further statement.

Mr. Kaufman : I hope that local authorities will lose no opportunity to publicise these provisions. Copies of a general booklet on the new house renovation grants will shortly be available for distribution through a variety of agencies, including local authorities, which have already been provided with advance copies. I am urgently considering with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Social Services what further measures are needed to alert disabled people to the existence of this new form of help.

Mr. Carter-Jones asked the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will publish annual statistics of the number and value of grants paid to registered disabled persons by each local authority for which they would not have been eligible if they had not been registered disabled.

Mr. Kaufman : I am arranging for this information to be obtained from local authorities periodically under general arrangements for monitoring the system of house renovation grants and will gladly make the results available annually.

Airports (Extensions)

Mr. Cryer asked the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will introduce legislation to make it necessary for local authorities to obtain his permission before embarking on airport extensions.

Mr. John Silkin : No. There are adequate powers in existence.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Unemployment Benefit (Scotland)

62. Mr. Crawford asked the Secretary of State for Social Services what is her estimate of the amount of unemployment benefit payable in a situation in Scotland of (a) 100,000 unemployed, (b) 110,000 unemployed, (c) 120,000 unemployed, (d) 130,000 unemployed, and (e) 140,000 unemployed.

Mr. Alec Jones : The estimated amounts, at the rate of benefit due to come into force in April 1975, are £47 million, £53 million, £60 million, £67 million and £74 million respectively.

Hospital (Pay Beds)

Mr. Bryan Davies asked the Secretary of State for Social Services when the last review of Section 5 hospital pay beds was completed; what was the percentage of under-occupancy which was revealed at that time, the present number of beds to designated, and the under-occupancy by paying patients in the last year; and if she will make a statement.

Dr. Owen : The last major review of hospital pay beds began in 1966, when average daily occupancy by paying patients of the 5,670 authorised pay beds was 2,830—50 per cent. There are now 4,570 pay beds, and this figure has not changed since the end of 1973. Average daily occupancy of pay beds by paying patients in 1973, the latest period for which figures are available, was 2,380—52 per cent.

Haemophilia

Mr. Madden asked the Secretary of State for Social Services how many United Kingdom residents suffer from haemophilia; if she will give the number, on an annual basis, over the last three years and the number estimated to undergo regular home treatment.

Dr. Owen : The number of patients suffering from haemophilia in Great Britain is estimated to be approximately 3,000. A small proportion undergo regular home treatment.

Mr. Madden asked the Secretary of State for Social Services (1) what arrangements, including the provision of money,

are being made by regional health authorities to secure supplies of the Factor VIII concentrate, used to supplement supplies made available by the blood transfusion service, in the treatment of haemophilia;

(2) what financial resources has each regional health authority for securing supplies of Factor VIII concentrate which are privately produced.

Dr. Owen: My Department has negotiated arrangements under which Factor VIII may be bought from certain commercial firms in the normal way by health authorities. They will decide on the proportion of their financial allocation to be devoted to this purpose, having regard to the other claims on their resources.

Mr. Madden asked the Secretary of State for Social Services what contact there has been between the Department and private manufacturers on the amount of Factor VIII concentrate to be bought by regional health authorities.

Dr. Owen: There are at present two suppliers which have received product licences for Factor VIII. The Department has arranged annual running contracts with these firms, and it is from them that haemophilia centres order their requirements. One contractor obtains supplies from America and the other from Austria.

Two other firms have applied or are applying for product licences.

Mr. Madden asked the Secretary of State for Social Services what is being done to increase the amount of the Factor VIII drug produced by the blood transfusion service known as cryoprecipitate.

Dr. Owen: As I told my hon. Friend the Member for Islington, South and Finsbury (Mr. Cunningham) on 22nd January, I have authorised the allocation of special finance of up to £500,000, about half of which would be recurring, to increase the existing production of Factor VIII within the National Health Service. The first effect of this will, I hope, be felt by the end of the year.

At present, part of the demand for AHG concentrate is being met by imported material, but this is very expensive and, for reasons which I well understand, health authorities feel that they cannot afford to buy as much as they

would wish to, given the various claims on their resources.

I believe that it is vitally important that the National Health Service should be come self-sufficient as soon as practicable in the production of Factor VIII, including AHG concentrate. This will stop our being dependent on imports and make the best known treatment more readily available to people suffering from haemophilia. —[Vol. 884, c. 392-3.]

Mr. Madden asked the Secretary of State for Social Services what representations have been made to her Department about the availability of Factor VIII, produced by the Blood Transfusion Service and private manufacturers.

Dr. Owen: Representations have been received from hon. Members on behalf of their constituents, and from several directors of haemophilia centres.

Hormone Replacement Therapy

Mrs. Colquhoun asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if she will set up a working party into hormone replacement therapy and the general practitioner's rôle in providing this.

Dr. Owen: No, I do not at present see justification for so doing, but I should be happy to consider any arguments for further study which my hon. Friend may wish to send me.

Hospital Kitchens

Mrs. Colquhoun asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if she will introduce legislation to give public health authorities the power to inspect hospital kitchens and prosecute under the same terms as they can prosecute commercial establishments.

Dr. Owen: Not unless statutory power was shown to be necessary, and I gather that the present arrangements are generally satisfactory. As I told my hon. Friend the Member for Leyton (Mr. Magee) in my reply to him on 19th February, health authorities were told some time ago to encourage environmental health officers to inspect their catering arrangements in all their premises, to allow access when this is requested, and to take prompt action where this is recommended. The Association of Environmental Health Officers has been asked to