Acute Lithium Intoxication
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Thus it appears that sufficiently rapid lithium excretion may be achieved by inducing a diuresis either with normal saline alone or with sodium bicarbonate and mannitol in addition. If however renal failure ensues as a result of lithium toxicity, or if the serum lithium level fails to fall, dialysis should be started.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank DR. GILLIAN C. HANSON for her help and encouragement with this report, and DR. R. S. WINWOOD for permission to study this patient who was under his care.

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Thyroglossal Cyst Carcinoma

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NEWS

New bedwasher reduces infection risks

An automatic bedwasher for decentralised cleaning of hospital beds, trolleys and tables, which can deal with approximately 40-50 beds a day, and can be operated by one person, has been developed by the Norwegian firm Labtek A/S of Oslo. The saving in personnel costs means that the bedwasher can pay for itself in a year.

The machine can wash children’s beds, transport and stretcher trolleys, as well as standard hospital beds, all of which previously had to be washed by hand.

The bedwasher, called “GOFA”, functions automatically by push buttons using neutral detergents (no special chemicals) at an 85°C decontaminating temperature. The machine takes up only 4 square metres of floor space and is reasonably priced and easy to install.

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New look at the elderly

A recent discussion document on the elderly attempts to provoke a new look at society’s attitudes towards the older generation, their role in the community, and the different kinds of help they need.

Mr. David Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, launched the document, entitled “A Happier Old Age”, at a conference organised by the Open University to publicise their new course, “An Ageing Population”, which has been produced with the help of a grant from the DHSS. It is hoped that the elderly themselves will be encouraged to make a valuable contribution towards the debates which are bound to follow.

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