

Editorial

MONEY

IT IS never pleasant for any organization to have to recommend an increase in its subscription. The Council of the College spent many hours in debate before deciding that this must be done and that half measures would be futile. The Annual General Meeting accepted the inevitable with good grace, and by an overwhelming majority. The truth is that the College is a victim of its own success. Council, ever mindful of the aims of its founders, has always been ready to support any endeavour which might improve the status of general practice, the standards of general practitioners, and the services which they give to their patients.

The home of the College, acquired with the help of so many generous donors, has a quiet dignity all its own. It is the right place to receive our friends and colleagues; it is eminently suitable for postgraduate courses of many kinds; above all the dignified atmosphere aids clear and cool debating, for there is no doubt that committees work better and more successfully in congenial surroundings. The home of the College is also the home of its administrative staff. It is no inconsiderable feat to house the staff which is required to run the College, provide the rooms for debates and committees, and at the same time retain several floors for the benefit of our members in the form of residential and club accommodation. All this has been done and the cost has to be met.

The College, however, is not just a unit administered from London. Far more than our sister colleges much of our activity takes place in the faculties throughout the country. They are the life blood of the College. To them we look for guidance and for the initiation of policy. A faculty cannot work without money and many faculties are asking for more than the meagre imprest allowance based on a capitation fee which they at present receive.

Out of the monies received from donations to the College appeal the College has set up two independent foundations, the research foundation to aid general-practitioner research and the educational

foundation to provide the kind of education that general practitioners need. The research foundation has been operating now for several years. Members who have research projects and require financial help are reminded that they may apply to the foundation. The educational foundation is still in embryo but some idea of the calls which will be made on it in the near future may be gathered from the report on *Special Vocational Training for General Practice*.

The line of demarcation between the products of the appeal fund and the general management of the College may appear blurred at times, but Council relies upon income from members' and associates' subscriptions, from its publications, and from a few annual grants donated for special purposes for the day-to-day administration of all its departments. Council is determined that the College shall pay its way.

Over the last few years the College has grown not only in the number of its members but also in influence amongst its peers. A little thought will convince us all that if the College is to retain its place in the conclaves of medical polity it must have the money to do so. Only so can it speak with effect on the many problems which beset general practice today.

COLLEGE APPEAL

The appeal continues to make slow and steady progress. A great deal of hard and good work continues to be done within the faculties. It helps and strengthens the position of appeal secretaries in their approaches to industry and private individuals, if as much as possible can be raised within the faculties by members and associates.

Your help is urgently needed and the Appeal Committee would remind you that a donation however small is of the greatest value if given by deed of covenant. This makes your contribution go much farther as the appeal receives two-thirds more. Here are some examples:

<i>If your annual contribution under 7 year covenant is:</i>	<i>Each year your donation becomes:</i>	<i>In 7 years your donation becomes:</i>
£1 0 0	£1 14 1	£11 18 7
£2 0 0	£3 8 1	£23 16 7
£3 0 0	£5 2 2	£35 15 2
£5 0 0	£8 10 3	£59 11 9 <i>Pro rata</i>

You can make your covenanted payments if you wish in one sum by advance arrangements. Full details can be obtained from your faculty appeal secretary or from the Appeal Secretary, College of General Practitioners, 14 Princes Gate, London, S.W.7.