COLLEGE NEWS

PRACTICE ORGANISATION ROOM
The new display is concerned with the role of 'social workers'. It is a descriptive exhibit which outlines the main points in the history of the social worker and describes 'his' deployment in Camden Borough which has a particularly advanced Social Work Department. It will run from 1 February to 1 May 1973.

The following are also on display:
(1) A collection of aids used by the handicapped adult;
(2) A display by the Royal Army Medical Corps describing general practice in the Army;
(3) The Practice Organisation Study—A large study of the internal organisation of practices throughout the United Kingdom, with plans and photographs;
(4) A collection of information about organisation in general practice and research methods.

MEDICAL RECORDING SERVICE FOUNDATION
Problem Oriented Medical Records—Can it be done in general practice?—Cat. No. 73-10.

The Medical Recording Service now has a unique recording of Professor Larry Weed talking to Dr Ian Tait. The tape was made during his recent visit to London. In it he talks about the philosophy of POMR and how they can be kept in general practice. In his characteristic and forthright may he challenges the general practitioner over his traditional notekeeping and his reluctance to improve because of inadequate time, money and staff. This tape is intended for all general practitioners and their ancillary staff.

COURSE FOR TEACHERS
There will be a teachers' course held at the College from Monday 18 June until Friday 22 June 1973, inclusive. More details will follow in the next Journal.

COLLEGE COURSE
The course Early Years in General Practice will be held at the College from 30 April to 4 May 1973. Please apply to the Courses Secretary at the College.

M.R.C.G.P. EXAMINATION
The M.R.C.G.P. written examination will take place on Friday 1 June 1973, at the following centres: Belfast, Cardiff, Edinburgh, London, Manchester.

The oral examinations will be held in London in the week beginning Monday 2 July 1973.

The closing date for applications is 7 May 1973.

Details may be obtained from: The membership secretary, The Royal College of General Practitioners, 14 Princes Gate, London SW7 1PU.

In Memoriam
Catherine E. L. Lendrum, Greenford, Middlesex.
I. H. Pratt, Ilminster, Somerset.
Gordon St. John-Ives, Modbury, Devon.

MEDICAL NEWS

LOCAL AUTHORITY NURSING SERVICES
The Scottish Home and Health Department has recently issued a circular on local authority nursing services, No. 10/1972. This refers to the attachment of health visitors and home nurses to general medical practice and notes that such attachments have become more common in recent years and that there is evidence that they have worked well. Authorities are asked to identify places where these schemes can be introduced or extended in the reorganised National Health Service.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE EXPENDITURE
The annual amount per head of population currently spent by the National Health Service in England has been reported as £48.9

GENERAL PRACTICE FINANCE CORPORATION
The General Practice Finance Corporation began operations in May 1967. It has now made loans totalling over £8 million to over 3,000 doctors.

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**CHILDREN IN CARE**

The Department of Health and Social Security and the Welsh Office took over responsibility for the child care services in England and Wales from the Home Office on 1 January, 1971.

The figures for 1971 show an increase in the number of children in local authority care, mainly due to the widening of local authority responsibilities under the Children and Young Persons Act, 1969.

The number of children received into care in the year ending 31 March, 1970 was 51,542 and this increased in the year ending 31 March, 1971 to 52,217.

The average cost of keeping in care a child on whom expenditure was incurred rose from £8.90 in 1970 to £10-11 in 1971. The average cost to local authorities of a child in a local authority home was £21.10, in a voluntary home £11.04 and boarded out in a foster home £4.05.

The total gross expenditure of local authorities on their care functions rose to £55,402,751 in 1970-1971.

**NEW DENTAL CHARGES**

New dental charges came into force on 1st October 1972. Examples are as follows: Normal scaling, two x-rays and a simple filling with a total cost of treatment of £3.38, will result in a charge to a National Health Service patient of £1.32 an increase of 12p.

**SPECIAL DENTAL SURGERIES**

The British Dental Association is asking the Secretary of State for the Social Services, that special dental surgeries should be created to provide emergency treatment.

The proposals include centrally sited publicly-financed surgeries, staffed and equipped with dentists paid at rates to be agreed with the Department of Health. It has been suggested that some of the costs involved should be offset through fees payable by the patient.

**UPDATE PUBLICATIONS**

Update Publications is establishing a Postgraduate Centre Department headed by Mr Christian Benzing. This Department is to develop close relations with postgraduate medical centres and clinical tutors. It will assist in providing medical education.

**HEALTH EDUCATION COUNCIL**

The Health Education Council received over £300,000, from the Department of Health and Social Security, during the year 1971.

**B.U.P.A.**

The British United Provident Association is closing its general-practitioner scheme although this is reported to have over 25,000 subscribers.

**PSYCHIATRY IN GENERAL PRACTICE**

The South-west England Faculty of the Royal College of General Practitioners will hold its annual symposium at Torre Abbey, Torquay on the afternoon of 4 May and all day on Saturday, 5 May, 1973. The course is approved under Section 63 and application forms can be obtained from the Medical Postgraduate Dean, The University of Bristol, 21 Woodland Road, Bristol BS8 1TE.

The South-west England Faculty dinner will be held on the Saturday evening, and applications should be made to Dr J. F. Burdon, F.R.C.G.P., 99 Upper Manor Road, Paignton TQ3 2TQ.

**GENERAL-PRACTITIONER PAPERS**


Bischof, L. (1972). Results and experiences with computer documentation in preventive medicine in Vorarlberg. *International General Medicine, 1*, 144–146.


**Correspondence**

ROYAL CHARTER

Sir,

A copy of the Royal Charter has now been received. This now replaces our Memorandum and Articles of Association, which previously controlled our activities, as a company limited by guarantee. The assets of the previous limited liability company are being transferred to the new chartered body, on completion of which the company will be wound up.

The Charter confers on the College a legal status which is higher than that of a limited company and which exempts us from compliance with the Companies Act. This in itself is an important fact, more particularly since U.K. companies are now being required by law to conform to the practice of companies in the European Economic Community.

In addition, the controlling authority for any amendments we may require to make to the Charter or the Ordinances is now the Privy Council, as opposed to the Department of Trade