

famous city where Mozart lived and where Paracelsus, the reformer, lived and was buried. The aim of this Conference is "to project a new image of the general practitioner and to assure the public of an ever better medical service" and the main themes are as follows:

1. Advanced training in general practice.
2. Family medicine.
3. Research in general practice.
4. General practitioners as teachers and general practice at the universities.
5. World organization of general practice.

The 2nd World Conference promises to become an important event in the history of general practice all over the world. May I have the honour of inviting all colleagues from all over the world to attend this conference in Salzburg as unofficial observers.

Further information can be obtained from: The Kongress-büro, Salzburg, Auersperstrasse 2, Austria, or from the Convenor, F. Geiger, M.D., LL.D., 6433 Oetz, Tirol/Austria.

Oetz, Tyrol,
Austria.

FRITZ GEIGER, M.D., LL.D.,
Convenor: International Liaison
Committee on Colleges and
Academies of General Practice
and equivalent Organizations,
Oetz, Tyrol, Austria.

The curious art of thumb gazing

Sir,

Dr Ryde's interesting article (*J. Coll. gen. Practit*, 1966, 12, 3) draws attention once again to the importance of hypnosis in the everyday work of the family doctor. It is a pity, however, that his studies have not enabled his report to go beyond the stage of anecdote; such reports are nothing new and are inadequate to satisfy the scientifically minded of the efficacy of hypnotic suggestion as a therapeutic procedure. Family doctors have unrivalled opportunities for making controlled studies of the value of hypnotherapy in everyday practice but reports of such studies are rare.

St Mary Cray.

E. TUCKMAN.

Sir,

I would like to make some comments on the article by Dr D. Ryde "The Curious Art of Thumb Gazing" which appeared in the *Journal* in July.

It does not show the true usefulness of hypnosis in general practice.