

University of Cambridge**School of Clinical Research and Postgraduate Medical Teaching**

April 18 *Neurology*.
 May 2 *Eye diseases*.
 May 16 *Surgery*. } Postgraduate Lecture
 Theatre

Two one-week refresher courses for general practitioners will be held from 6-11 and 13-18 July; board and accommodation for doctors attending will be available in Downing College. Further information available from *The Secretary of the Medical School, Hills Road, Cambridge*.

University of London

To be held at The Royal College of General Practitioners, 14 Princes Gate, London, S.W.7.

April 27-May 1. Course. *Early years in general practice*. Designed for trainees, assistants and young principals who have recently started a career in general practice.

June 15-19. Course. *Teaching for general practitioner trainers*. To help trainers to provide vocational training for general practice.

Applications for these courses to *The British Postgraduate Medical Federation, 14 Millman Mews, London, W.C.1*.

Correspondence

The Green Paper

Sir,

The Green Paper and the whole general attitude of the present trend of medical thought seems to me to be drifting further and further from the ethical concept of medical practice. Surely the prime ethic of medicine is the service of one individual to another individual in confidence, absolute trust and integrity of opinion. It would seem to me that we are being pushed into a system in which confidence is lacking, because the integrity of records is absent, and that we shall be forced to share our opinions with people who have a purely economic and social attitude towards the individual. If State medicine is drifting towards expediency, and the concept of medicine for any other reason than service, e.g. medicine in the interest of the majority, then the Hippocratic structure is doomed and I, for one, want no part of it. We shall be little better than the Aztecs, ripping out hearts to mollify the new Sun God of scientific medicine.

Sleaford.

T. SMALLHORN.

Peripatetic counselling service for pre-school visually handicapped children

Sir,

Recently a peripatetic teacher has been appointed for the counselling of parents of visually handicapped children in the Midlands area.

She was previously headmistress of a

Nursery School for Blind Children and is now based at Lickey Grange School, Old Birmingham Road, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, telephone no. 021-445-1066.

She will be able to visit the parents and children in their home, and give advice about the day-to-day care and development of the children, and is well acquainted with the differing provision that can be made for such children as they grow older.

The appointment has the full approval of the Department of Education & Science, and there is no charge for the service. Those who are faced with the problem of such children may find this new service of great help.

Shrewsbury.

JOHN B. LONGMORE.

Drill for sub-ungual haematoma

Sir,

The electrical drill described by Mr M. E. Glanville (*Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners*, 1969, 18, 367) and the heated safety pin by Dr H. W. K. Acheson (*Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners*, 1970, 19, 107) are mutilating operations. Surely the technique described by Mr Gwynne Williams in *Minor surgery and bandaging*, 1924 is less destructive. "With a needle the cuticle overlapping the base of the nail may be gently lifted until the blood is reached, when it can be expressed."

Leiston, Suffolk.

A. BURLINGHAM.