

she could from information gathered piecemeal, or through questionnaires circulated by the registrars. This was its final form. It had begun as a simple list and metamorphosed to some degree of automation but as it grew in sophistication so the need for it diminished.

In the early days there was little published work and no *Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners*. Now there is plenty—and the bibliography so comprehensively prepared, maintained and amended by the college Librarian is a better index to the work practitioners have done. Then there were no meetings, no symposia where practitioners could meet, there were no postgraduate centres, no college courses, and university departments of general practice were far below the horizon.

The register was created by amateurs, for amateurs, and in its time it served them well. So far as is known no other research organisation or academic body works in this way. Perhaps it was only appropriate to the stumblings of an amateur organisation towards a more professional and conventional maturity.

There may, one day, be some small ceremony at the College when the Chairman of the research committee of Council will present twin looseleaf ledgers, bound in green, to the college archivist. These will be laid up as a regiment lays up its colours, and a chapter in the history of research in medicine and in general practice in particular, will finally be closed.

INTERNATIONAL GENERAL MEDICINE

THE first issue of a new international journal of general practice called *International General Medicine* has appeared. This is the official organ of the Societas Medicinæ Generalis (I.G.A.M.) and has been designed to assist the exchange of information between general practitioners in different parts of the world and to link the achievements of the academic centres of general practice in many different countries. Its first editorial states that it intends to provoke and criticise and calls on all general practitioners to assist by providing information and material.

The first issue contains translations of papers in German, English and French and includes reports of general practitioners' work including one summary from *The Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners*.

The editorial board contains 16 members from 16 different countries. These include Drs J. McKnight from Northern Ireland and D. J. Pereira Gray from Great Britain.

The Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners was one of the first academic journals of general practice, so we particularly welcome this new international development and send our good wishes to the editor, Dr Eckart Sturm, of Germany.

Although there are striking differences in the organisation of general practice in many different countries of the world, many of the underlying principles and problems are common. Much can be learned from the interchange of ideas. A new international journal may well help to break down communication barriers between countries.

The first issue contains greetings from the President of the Royal College of General Practitioners, Dr G. I. Watson, who writes "The Royal College of General Practitioners greets the first appearance of *International General Medicine* and wishes this new publication every success".
