

residential will be held at the Northern Counties Hotel, Portrush from 2-4 May 1974.

FIFTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON GENERAL PRACTICE

The proceedings of the fifth world conference on general practice held in Melbourne in 1972 have now been published.

The transcript of all the meetings, addresses, panel discussions is contained in 612 pages of printed matter plus articles and reports.

This publication can now be bought, price \$25.00 Australian including packing and post. Orders should be sent to Dr Monty Kent-Hughes, Fifth World Conference, 254 Albert Street, East Melbourne, Victoria, Australia 3002.

ANNALS OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

The *Annals of the Royal College of Surgeons of England* is being published in a new format from January 1974. The size of the *Annals* is now the same as that of this *Journal*. The binding has been changed and the title now appears on the spine.

HOSPITAL MEDICAL STAFF

During the past nine years the number of medical staff in England increased by nearly 34 per cent. The number of women doctors increased 54 per cent between 1962 and 1972.

General medical practitioners

In 1972 there were 21,029 doctors in general practice in England. Of these the number providing the whole range of medical services was 19,975. The average list size in 1972 was 2,421.

The proportion of unrestricted principals who were born outside the United Kingdom and the Irish Republic had increased to 16 per cent on 1 October 1973.

Pharmaceutical services

The number of prescriptions dispensed in England in 1972 exceeded 250 million, an increase of 3.6 per cent. The total net ingredient cost was £155.4 million, and the average ingredient cost per prescription was 82.2p, an increase of 8.7 per cent.

The proportion of prescriptions dispensed for proprietary preparations was 79 per cent for England in 1972. The national average ingredient cost per person on an NHS list was £3.44 for the year.

Personal social services

The number of elderly and disabled persons provided with residential accommodation by local authorities rose to three per cent by 31 March 1972. Of the 113,000 people in accommodation, 73 per cent were aged 75 or over.

Obstetric care

Ninety per cent of all births now take place in National Health Service hospitals, and the average stay after delivery is down to 6.2 days in 1971.

Psychiatric services

The levelling off in the increase in the numbers of admission to mental hospitals in 1970 was maintained in 1971.

Notified abortions

About 150,000 abortions were notified in 1972 in England. Of the 100,000 which took place in approved places nearly half were performed on women resident outside England and Wales. Those which took place in NHS hospitals were restricted almost entirely to residents.

CARDEW-STANNING FOUNDATION

The Cardew-Stanning Foundation has transferred its offices from 24 Nutford Place, London W.1 (Telephone No. 01-637-2744), to which address all communications should be sent.

CORRECTION

The general-practitioner member of the Mid-Glamorgan A.A. Board is Dr A. D. Mason, M.R.C.G.P., and not Dr A. D. Morgan as was printed in the December *Journal*.

POPULATION OF ENGLAND AND WALES

The Registrar-General estimates that the population of England and Wales rose by 0.3 per cent in the year ending 30 June 1973. The average growth rate for the decade 1962-72 was 0.5 per cent.

COURT COMMITTEE

The Government Committee under Professor Donald Court has been given its terms of reference to "Review the provision made for health services for children up to and through school life; to study the use made of these services by children and their parents; and to make recommendations."

This committee is now inviting evidence