

CHAIR OF GENERAL PRACTICE AT GLASGOW

Glasgow University is creating a new Chair of General Practice. This is to be named after Sir Stanley Norie-Miller, past governor of the General Accident, Fire and Life Assurance Corporation Ltd., which is endowing the chair. It is expected that the new Department will be concerned with teaching general practice at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. The Chair at Glasgow will be the fourth in Scotland.

FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION

Mr John Geffen has been appointed Director of the Family Planning Association with a salary of £7,500 a year.

Sir John Peel is resigning from the post of President of the Association, which he has held since 1971.

MEDICAL PRACTICES COMMITTEE SCOTLAND

Dr P. A. P. Mackenzie, general practitioner, Forgandenny, Perthshire, has been appointed to the Scottish Medical Practices Committee for a period of three years from 1 April 1974.

OFFICE OF HEALTH ECONOMICS

The Office of Health Economics reports that total expenditure on medical research in the United Kingdom exceeded £100 million for the first time in the financial year 1972/73.

REHABILITATION

The British Council for Rehabilitation of the Disabled is holding an international seminar from 1-5 July 1974. Applications should be made to the Conference Secretary, REHAB, Tavistock House (South), Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9LB.

CORRECTION

Dr Patrick J. Porteous M.R.C.G.P. has been appointed Medical Officer to the General

Medical Services Payments Board in Dublin, and not in Northern Ireland as printed in the March issue.

Obituary

ROBERT JAMES MINNITT
M.D., M.Sc., F.F.A.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G.,
F.R.C.G.P., D.A.

The College and in particular the Merseyside and North Wales Faculty has lost a distinguished practitioner in the death of Dr R. J. Minnitt.

Dr Minnitt was born on 25 October 1889. He graduated M.B., Ch.B. from Liverpool Medical School in 1915. In 1919 he entered general practice. At the same time he held honorary appointments in anaesthesia in Liverpool Royal Infirmary, David Lewis Northern Hospital, Liverpool Maternity Hospital and the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital among others.

He was responsible for the development of a machine by which nitrous oxide and air could be administered by mothers during childbirth. This was a major advance of enormous importance in the relief of pain in childbirth. He also had the further task of persuading the Central Midwives Board in 1934 to accept this advance as being safe for midwives to supervise after training.

After the advent of the National Health Service in 1948 he resigned his hospital and university appointments and returned to general practice.

He was a firm supporter of the College from its inception and was a member of the Merseyside and North Wales Faculty Board from 1954 until 1961. In 1955 he received the first College Foundation Council Award.

For the last 25 years he devoted himself to general practice which he always regarded as the highest priority in his medical life.

He is survived by a wife, son and three daughters.

Austen Elliott