

biased towards the elderly or the young will not find it a satisfactory basis for comparison. It should be noted that recorders may quite reasonably find themselves in Group A in one table and Group E in the next. The grouping arrangement is made to aid comparison.

#### **Choice of antibiotics**

The natural or simple penicillins were the most frequently prescribed antibiotics, though they were not often used in the over-65 age group. Broad spectrum penicillins were prescribed more often than tetracyclines. Trimethoprim-containing drugs were prescribed more often than erythromycins and sulphonamides.

More detailed examination of the results involves separate consideration of choice in the respective age groups. For this purpose the results for the 0 to 4 years and 5 to 14 years age groups may be consolidated. When considering choice it is sensible to look at the actual numbers of prescriptions rather than the rates.

Just under half of all antibiotic courses in children

were simple penicillins (i.e. 789 out of a total of 1,666). Only 33 prescriptions for tetracyclines were issued and sulphonamides (28 prescriptions) are also seldom prescribed. The substantial use of broad spectrum or semisynthetic penicillins (451 out of 1,666 antibiotic prescriptions) suggested that some doctors had ceased prescribing the simple penicillins and were prescribing newer forms instead. The figures did not support this hypothesis.

In the age group 15 to 64 years, the simple penicillins, broad spectrum penicillins, and tetracyclines were prescribed with equal frequency. In the 65-plus age group broad spectrum penicillins and tetracyclines were most commonly prescribed and simple penicillins (32 out of 423) were used relatively rarely.

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## **OBITUARY**

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### **Dr Timothy Liok Yew Hee, FRCCP**

Unlike most of the doctors in Singapore, Timothy Liok was not born there. He was born in China in 1928 and came to settle in Singapore with his parents and family at the age of nine. His father, Faithful Luke, was a strong and dedicated missionary and it was in this spartan home that the young Timothy grew up.

From his early years it was soon clear that there was much talent in Timothy Liok. Despite a late start in local English schools, he soon outshone the other boys in his class. He was a born linguist and there was hardly a Chinese dialect that he was not fluent in. Soon he mastered English and Malay as well. During the Japanese occupation in the Second World War he learnt enough Japanese to be able to find employment to help the family.

After the war he resumed his studies and graduated from the University of Malaya, Singapore, in 1955. He worked for some years in the Kandang Kerbau Maternity hospital, made famous in the *Guinness Book of Records* as the largest maternity hospital in the world. He was so well liked and respected by his colleagues that even when he later went into general practice he served as Vice-President of the Obstetrics and Gynaecological Society of Singapore for a number of years.

It was in general practice, however, that Timothy Liok found his niche in life. It did not come easily to

him, however, and he worked in two rural practices in Malaysia before finally establishing his practice in Singapore.

He was made a member of the Royal College of General Practitioners in 1968 and elected a fellow in 1975. As one of the forward-looking general practitioners in Singapore he served on the Singapore Medical Association's Committee on the formation of a higher academic body for general practitioners, which paved the way for the formation of the Singapore College of General Practitioners in 1971. He was on the College Council for many years and was Vice-President in 1976. In recognition of his services to the College he was made a fellow in 1977.

He is remembered by many overseas doctors attending medical conventions in Singapore as the charming driving force behind the social occasions. He could always be counted on when it came to organizing such functions and he discharged his responsibilities not only with efficiency but with tact and a smile.

Timothy Liok was a man of many parts. He had a rich baritone voice and played the flute superbly. A gifted musician, he could improvise on the organ without effort.

He loved golf and played well but it was billiards in which he was nonpareil. He was easily the best among the Singapore doctors and it will be a long time before another master like Timothy appears.

His patients both loved and respected him. He never

had a harsh word for anyone and always had a sunny outlook on life. He led a team of obstetricians and gynaecologists to China in November 1975, a visit marked by the goodwill and respect he generated from his Chinese hosts.

When Timothy passed away on 29 August 1977, after a short illness bravely borne, something went out of the lives of the friends and colleagues who knew him well. He leaves behind his wife, Janet, his daughters, Angeline and Belinda, and sons, Calvin and Gavin. He was always fresh, frank, and friendly and this is how many will remember him.

E. K. KOH

### **Professor Ante Vučetić, MD**

A number of British general practitioners have visited the Abdrija Stampar Institute of Public Health at Zagreb. We went to learn.

It was Professor Vučetić who devised and promoted the three-year training course for general practice which started in Zagreb in 1961. This preceded all earliest vocational training schemes and courses in this country, except for the one at Inverness. The background was similar—diminishing recruitment to general practice, low standards, status, morale, and remuneration among general practitioners—and, in addition, there was a flight of doctors to towns and cities, a particularly serious problem in Yugoslavia, which has a large inaccessible countryside and relatively few cities compared with the UK.

The Zagreb course now has its offshoots in other parts of Yugoslavia; it has trained 400 doctors and has done much to reverse a dangerous trend in medical care. Its influence in the UK was chiefly felt in the 1960s before our own plans matured. The Canterbury day-release course (the earliest one) was particularly indebted to ideas from Zagreb.

Professor Vučetić died on 14 May this year and his loss is felt deeply in Zagreb.

He qualified in Prague in 1926 and spent a period at the London School of Hygiene in 1931. At that time he was training as a specialist in dermatovenereology, but he always combined this with epidemiology and ended this phase of his work immediately after the Second World War as head of the department of venereal diseases at the Ministry of Health. By 1952 his interests had moved towards primary health care and he set up the first health centre in Zagreb which proved to be a model. He spent the next few years as adviser to the World Health Organization in South East Asia, engaged in local community development and the development of primary health care.

He became Professor of the School of Public Health in Zagreb in 1960 and from then devoted himself completely to work on the special role and training of general practitioners. His course was essentially an in-service one with the doctors remaining in their practices,

but they would do full-time work on the course at intervals. Professor Vučetić also introduced general-practice teaching into the undergraduate curriculum.

By the end of his active life in 1970 Professor Vučetić had secured the recognition of general practice in Yugoslavia as a special role. A quarter of all the general practitioners in Croatia had become specialists in this branch after his training. He would have approved of our plans and actions in vocational training and perhaps now looked with envy at the speed of our development. We owe some of our beginnings to him.

JOHN HORDER

### **Dr Michael Sweetnam, FRCPGP**

Michael Sweetnam died from sudden coronary occlusion during his surgery on 2 August 1977, aged 55.

He qualified in London in the late 1940s and came to Stoke-on-Trent 25 years ago from a training post in the Isle of Wight. He was initially in partnership, and during that period he was a trainer himself. For the past ten years, after his partner's retirement, he had run the practice single-handedly. He was a most able and conscientious clinician and a great individualist; his patients were devoted to him.

He found time to pursue many medical, medico-political, and non-medical interests. For many years he was absorbed by his work on migraine. He held a Clinical Assistantship in the Department of Neurology in the North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary, he contributed articles to various journals, was a member of the British Migraine Association and lectured on migraine.

He was an active and enthusiastic member of the North Staffordshire Medical Society and often presented cases. When this venerable scientific society was superseded by the North Staffordshire Medical Institute, Michael became one of the founder members and retained his active interest until his death. He was its first Chairman of the Section of General Practice.

He was a long-standing member of the local medical committee, and was a very active member of the British Medical Association.

He was interested in history, and his fascinating lecture on kings and queens of England delighted many medical and non-medical audiences.

Michael was a North-West Faculty Board member for many years. He was Chairman from 1968 to 1970 and Provost from 1970 to 1972.

I have good personal reasons to be grateful to him—as indeed has the whole faculty—for as my predecessor in office he was always ready to share his wisdom and experience.

His latter years were dogged by recurrent ill health and beset by difficulties.

He was a devoted husband and father. To his wife and family we extend our profound sympathy.

GRETTEL BURGHEIMER