

concerned with developing ideas about the content and nature of the general practitioner's work and what he or she can teach. Arrangements were put in hand for the third European conference on teaching general practice, to be held in Belgium in September 1982. The Leeuwenhorst Group record their indebtedness to the College and the Scientific Foundation Board for their support of this work.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHEMES

The Joint Committee on Postgraduate Training for General Practice has approved the following schemes: North West Essex (Harlow); Aberystwyth; Withybush; Inverclyde District.

The Committee has reapproved the following schemes: Greenwich and Bexley; East Glamorgan; Hereford; Chichester and Graylingwell.

MRCGP EXAMINATION

The dates for the next MRCGP examinations are as follows:

October/December 1981

Written papers: Tuesday, 27 October 1981.

Orals: In Edinburgh and London during the week ending 12 December 1981.

Closing date: 3 September 1981.

May/July 1982

Written papers: Tuesday, 11 May 1982.

Orals: In Edinburgh during the week ending 26 June and in London during the week ending 3 July 1982.

Closing date: Thursday, 11 March 1982.

The written papers will be held in

London, Birmingham, Leeds, Manchester, Exeter, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Cardiff, Belfast and Dublin. These and other centres may be used as required, subject to a minimum (and in some centres maximum) number of candidates.

It may be necessary to limit the total numbers, and candidates are therefore advised to apply well in advance of the closing dates. The application fee is as follows:

	1981	1982
Application fee	£100.00	£125.00
Reapplication fee	£75.00	£93.75

Candidates withdrawing from the examination after the closing date for applications forfeit 40 per cent of the full fee. Application forms may be obtained from the Examination Administrator at the College.

UNDERGRADUATE ESSAY COMPETITION 1981

The Royal College of General Practitioners awards three prizes of £70, £50 and £40, with an additional £10 in book tokens for an outstanding essay, to successful candidates in a competition which is open to all undergraduates of medical schools in the UK and Eire who have not yet passed their final examination.

Candidates are asked to submit an essay on a subject relevant to the practice of medicine in the community. This may take the form of an account of a clinical, epidemiological or practice organization study associated with general practice, or a case report of patients seen in general practice.

Particulars of entry and application forms can be obtained from the Secretary, Royal College of General Prac-

tioners, 14 Princes Gate, London SW7 1PU.

The closing date is 31 May 1981.

ANNE HAMILTON PRIZE

Applications are invited for the Anne Hamilton Prize, which has been instituted as an award for the best essay on 'caritas' from anyone involved in the care of a patient. The competition is open to all who have had such experience, whether in the caring professions or not. The amount to be awarded will be £150.

Particulars of entry and application forms can be obtained from the Secretary, the Royal College of General Practitioners, 14 Princes Gate, London SW7 1PU.

The closing date is 31 May 1981.

JAMES MACKENZIE PRIZE

This prize of £1,500 is awarded every five years to a general practitioner in the British Commonwealth who has published or undertaken valuable work during the previous five years. The intention is to reward good clinical, and particularly good research work done in general practice. The trustees are now willing to consider the names of suitable candidates for this prize. They should submit the following to the Chairman of the Awards and Ethical Committee, Royal College of General Practitioners, 14 Princes Gate, London SW7 1PU, not later than 30 June 1981:

1. A copy of their published work, or
2. A clear and concise account of the work on which they wish to be judged, submitted in a form that is suitable and ready for publication.

MEDICAL NEWS

PREVENTION

The West Glamorgan Area Health Authority has set up a working party to organize implementation of the recommendations of the College on prevention of arterial disease, on a pilot basis. A full-time nurse is to be appointed attached to three practices in Port Talbot, Blaengwynfi and Glyncoerrwg, with a total population of 15,000. She will organize clinics for known hypertensives and diabetics,

organize screening for hypertension and for cigarette smoking and initiate learning programmes for all health workers and patient groups. Full implementation of the programme is expected to take three years, and funding is guaranteed for this period.

The group will be interested to hear of any similar initiatives elsewhere. It can be contacted through Miss Marion Bull, Chief Nursing Officer, West Glamorgan Area Health Authority, Orchard Street,

Swansea SA1 1PN, or Dr J. T. Hart, Glyncoerrwg Health Centre, West Glamorgan SA13 3BL.

CHILD-RESISTANT CONTAINERS

Agreement has been reached between the medical and pharmaceutical pro-

fessions and approved by ministers to extend the voluntary scheme for dispensing medicines in child-resistant containers. With effect from 2 March 1981, the professions expect all solid-dose oral medicines to be dispensed in either a reclosable child-resistant container which complies with the British Standard or in unit packaging of the strip or blister types unless:

1. The medicine is already packed in such a way that it would be a retrograde or unnecessary step to transfer it; or
2. The patient requests a conventional container; or
3. The patient would clearly have difficulty in manipulating either a unit pack or a reclosable child-resistant container.

HANDBOOK FOR THE NEW DISTRICT HEALTH AUTHORITIES IN ENGLAND

The DHSS has published 'Care in Action'—a handbook of policies and priorities for the health and personal social services.

The handbook is intended to be a practical document, dealing with national policies but emphasizing that decisions affecting a particular locality are best made locally.

Its priorities in general follow those of successive governments in recent years. As well as prevention, they include services for the elderly, the mentally handicapped, the mentally ill and the physically and sensorily handicapped; other priority services are those for maternity care, neonatal care, primary care and services related to the care of young children at risk and to the care and treatment of juvenile offenders.

A NEW COUNCIL

The United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting, together with four National Boards, was established at the end of 1980 as the new statutory structure for nursing, midwifery and health visiting. The new Council and Boards will replace the nine existing organizations for the three professions by the end of 1983. The Chief Executive Officer will be Miss M. Storey, SRN, SCM.

APPOINTMENT SYSTEMS

The Department of Health and Social Security has announced (FPN 268) that, "Agreement has been reached between representatives of the profession and representatives of Family Practitioner Committees that the facility announced in paragraph 7 of ECN 570 whereby FPCs offered all reasonable assistance in printing and distributing a circular letter and meeting the postal costs involved when a doctor wished to introduce an appointments system has been withdrawn."

THE HEALTH EDUCATION COUNCIL—NEW APPOINTMENTS

Dr Keith Taylor has been appointed Director General designate of the Health Education Council. He was born in London and has worked in America since 1963. A Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, he is expert in nutrition and gastroenterology.

Dr S. A. Smail, Senior Lecturer in General Practice at the Welsh National School of Medicine, is among the 20 people appointed by the Secretary of State for Social Services to serve on the Council for the next three years.

The Council was established in 1968 as the body responsible for the promotion and development of health education at national level. Its functions include the promotion and co-ordination of health education activities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland by advising and assisting government departments, local authorities, voluntary organizations and other bodies concerned with health education.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

National trainee conference

The 1981 conference is to be held at Ranmoor House, Shore Lane, Sheffield 10 on 8, 9 and 10 July. For further details, write to Dr D. White, 66 Priestley Avenue, Kexborough, Barnsley, South Yorkshire.

Community medicine

The following symposia have been arranged by the Society of Community Medicine and will be held at The Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London W1.

1 June: Hearing Impairment in the Young and Old

28 September: Retire and Live

For further details contact Miss W. A. Webb, Administrative Secretary, the Society of Community Medicine, 20 Portland Place, London W1N 3DE.

Cancer and health education

The International Union against Cancer, the Cancer Relief Campaign and the Manchester Regional Committee for Cancer Education is holding a workshop on involving doctors in health education about cancer. It will be in Manchester on 20 to 22 September. For further details contact the Executive Director, Manchester Regional Committee for Cancer Education, Kinnaird Road, Manchester M20 9QL.

British Nutrition Foundation. Third Annual Conference

The Third Annual Conference of the Foundation is to be held on 23 and 24 June 1981 at the Royal College of Physicians, St Andrews Place, London NW1.

The subject of this year's conference is 'Food and Health—A Perspective for the 80s'.

Application forms for the Conference are available from The Secretary, The British Nutrition Foundation, 15 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PS.

Association of Professions for the Mentally Handicapped

Eighth Annual Conference, 29 July to 1 August 1981, Christ Church College, Canterbury. Applications should be sent to James Ross, (APMH Congress), 19 Page Heath Lane, Bickley, Kent BR1 2EB.

DR E. V. KUENSSBERG

As a medical practitioner who is not a member of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, but who by his work in obstetrics and related fields has "contributed to the advancement of the science or practice of obstetrics and gynaecology", Dr Kuenssberg is to be awarded a Fellowship of the RCOG *ad eundem*. Dr Kuenssberg was instrumental in setting up the Joint Certificate in Contraception offered by the Royal College of General Practitioners and Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.