

Our new offices look out onto two well areas, and we have grandiose ideas for changing these into garden areas. The North and West London Faculty have given us a donation of £50 to buy some containers and plants. This will be a wonderful start for us, but if any member or associate can help us further we would be delighted to receive any contributions.

### MRCGP Examinations

The dates for the next MRCGP examinations are as follows:

#### 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.

#### October/December 1982

Written papers: Tuesday, 26 October 1982.

Orals: In Edinburgh and London during the week ending 11 December 1982.  
Closing date: 2 September 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:

Application fee	£125.00
Re-application fee	£93.75

Candidates withdrawing from the examination after the closing date for application forfeit 40 per cent of the full fee.

Application forms may be obtained from the Examination Administrator at the College.

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## MEDICAL NEWS

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### US Supports Primary Care

The United States Congress surprised and relieved supporters of family medicine by refusing to reduce this year's federal support of family practice programmes. The Reagan administration's recommended \$16 million reduction in fiscal support of family practice residences would have reduced funding to \$20.5 million. Some feared that such a move could have wiped out a quarter of the nation's family practice residences. The House was only half as severe, proposing an \$8 million cut, but the Senate argued for—and won—full funding.

Source: *Family Practice News*, 15 August 1981.

### Home Deliveries

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta, Canada, has issued a ruling that doctors in the Province may not attend home deliveries. The ruling followed a partial ban announced in 1980 which restricted the right to attend home deliveries to those doctors who had admitting privileges at active treatment hospitals. The College's registrar said that the ruling followed a review of about 50 articles in the international literature and a report that one baby in the Province had died following a home birth. The College has set up a sub-committee to look at the question, and the registrar stated that it might be possible that the ban

will be lifted to allow doctors with certain qualifications to attend home deliveries.

Source: *Canadian Family Physician* (1981), 27, 909-910.

### Fall in Perinatal Deaths

The fall in the perinatal mortality rate from 14.6 per 1,000 total births in 1979 to 13.3 in 1980 is the largest percentage decrease since 1928, and the reduction in the infant mortality rate from 12.8 per 1,000 live births in 1979 to 12.0 in 1980 is the largest percentage decrease since the mid-1970s.

Source: Speech by Dr G. Vaughan, Minister for Health, Blackpool, 14 October 1981.

### Should we Take Teddy to Hospital?

The National Association for the Welfare of Children in Hospital has produced a new leaflet for the parents of children being admitted to hospital. The leaflet brings up to date the one which the NAWCH have been issuing to hospitals for the past 14 years. The Association reports that many more hospitals welcome parents into the ward than was formerly the case, but they say that many parents are still not aware of changes that have taken place, nor indeed that there are still some hospitals which do not offer parents a place with their child, or may even restrict visiting to as little as an

hour a day. Copies can be ordered from 7 Exton Street, London SE1 8UE.

### Bureau for Overseas Medical Service

This non-profit making organization has been formed by a group of doctors to act as a co-ordinating agency for doctors involved in work overseas. Its two main functions are to provide information concerning medical posts overseas and to help with the problem of re-establishment in the United Kingdom for the British doctor who has worked overseas. A register has been established and includes:

1. A list of medical posts available in developing countries, or in small disadvantaged countries with specific needs.
2. A list of organizations who already administer such posts.
3. Overseas posts already linked to establishments in this country.
4. A current list of doctors who wish to fill such posts. These may be doctors in training who wish to widen their experience; specialists who can undertake locum or advisory appointments; and United Kingdom doctors who are prepared to act as sponsors for doctors in training who work overseas.

The bureau will not act as a recruiting agency as such, and contractual details will be outside its responsibility.

The Bureau has a secretary and office at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, London WC1 (tel. 01-636 8638 or, evenings and weekends, Ansaphone service 01-455 6332). The organization is run by a small group of doctors interested in these problems, and will be registered as a charity. There will therefore be no direct charge for its services.