

ment of Community Health at Leicester University.

As Syntex Trent Fellow, her main aim will be to support new and established general practitioners, whether College members or not. To fulfil this she will work closely with College tutors who have already been appointed, and so will contribute to continuing medical education at a local level. The appointment, which is for one year, will be evaluated to see if this is the most effective way of bringing practical support to general practitioners.

### The Alastair Donald Essay Prize

Dr Alastair Donald has sponsored a

prize for the best essay on the subject 'What I want from my College Faculty'. The first prize is £400 and the second £200.

The prize is open to any fellow, member or associate of the College. Entries should be entered under a pseudonym accompanied by the author's name and address in a sealed envelope. They should be approximately 1,500 words long and should be addressed to The Chairman, Awards and Ethical Committee, The Royal College of General Practitioners, 14 Princes Gate, Hyde Park, London SW7 1PU.

The closing date for entries has been extended to 30 August 1983.

### Reception at the House of Commons

A reception was held at the House of Commons on Wednesday 11 May 1983 for members of the College. Almost 60 members attended, and despite the impending General Election, were able to meet almost 40 members from all sections of the House. The occasion provided opportunities for discussion of a number of important issues with MPs who are interested in primary health care. Topics discussed included standards of patient care in general practice, problems of the inner cities, prescribing, computerization of medical records and patient participation groups.

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## MEDICAL NEWS

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### Zomax

Patients are still taking Zomax (zomepirac sodium) despite the company's recall of the product and warning to patients to return their tablets. On the advice of the Committee on Safety of Medicines, the DHSS therefore stresses the need for everyone who has Zomax tablets in their possession to return them to the supplying pharmacist immediately.

Severe allergic reactions have been reported in a few patients who have taken the drug after the company's withdrawal of it in the first week of March.

### Health Visitors' Association

Miss Shirley Goodwin has been appointed General Secretary of the Health Visitors' Association. Miss Goodwin has been a health visitor for twelve years and is employed by the Ealing Health Authority. She took up her new appointment in June and succeeds Mrs Jane Wyndham-Kaye.

### National Abortion Campaign—London Survey

The National Abortion Campaign is collecting information about facilities for family planning, well woman and charity abortion clinics in the Greater London area. Its aim is to publish a leaflet to help women make informed choices about their health care. Obvi-

ously it will not publish information about individual doctors, but it would like to contact as many London general practitioners as possible about the services that they offer.

For further information about the survey and copies of questionnaires, contact Joanna Mussen, National Abortion Campaign London Survey, 374 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8BB. (Tel: 01 833-1378)

### Rudolf Friedlaender Memorial Fund

This fund was founded in 1969 in memory of the late Dr Rudolf Friedlaender, a well-known and respected general practitioner for more than 40 years in the South Manchester area. Its aims are to assist general practitioners to prepare, complete and publish items of research in general practice, and also to present already completed work in general practice. This covers travelling expenses incurred in presenting findings at a local or an international conference.

Over the last 15 years the fund has distributed awards to doctors who have carried out research into very diverse problems. These have included hypertension, manipulation, psychosexual problems, the contraceptive pill and pulmonary emboli, child health services, asthma and the effect of breast feeding on asthma.

Application forms can be obtained from Dr F. H. Kroch, The Rudolf Friedlaender Memorial Fund, 8 Regent Street, Eccles, Manchester M30 0AP.

### JCPT Annual Report 1982

Over 2,000 Certificates of Prescribed Experience were issued by the Joint Committee on Postgraduate Training for General Practice during 1982. There were 665 applications for Equivalent Experience Certificates during the year of which 393 were granted. The Committee's Annual Report gives details of the requirements that must be fulfilled to obtain the Certificate. It decided that:

'It should be a normal requirement for applicants to undertake a trainee year in the UK—the rare exceptions (where the period might be reduced) would include those doctors who have participated in training overseas which is comparable to that in the UK or who have undertaken work in UK general practice before 15 February 1981.'

The Joint Committee has accepted a wide range of supervised experience for the 'middle' years. The Annual Report states that 'such experience would always be clinical but could be in hospital or the community and might occasionally be in practice other than in the NHS in the UK or overseas. The Joint Committee decided however that work not including direct responsibility for clinical care which includes most pathology and diagnostic radiology could not be regarded as equivalent.'

The Committee is satisfied that the system is working well. Only 40 appeals were lodged against the Committee's refusal to issue a Certificate—four of these were upheld, fourteen were dismissed and six withdrawn. The remainder were awaiting consideration

by the end of 1982.

The JCPT's responsibility for monitoring the quality of training programmes continues to be carried out mainly by visits paid every other year to regions to evaluate the overall organization and the effectiveness of training schemes. The Committee's Report states that a most important component of these visits is the inspection of teaching practices which includes

an interview with the appointed trainer. The Committee comments:

'The visitors have reported that the practices used for teaching are in general well organized and offer a comprehensive service to their communities, but defects in practice records remain frequent—the Joint Committee has set a deadline of January 1984 for minimum standards of records in teaching practices—and in

the assessment and progress of monitoring trainees. Many visitors have reported discrepancies between trainers' and trainees' perceptions of time given to teaching in the practices.'

Copies of the Committee's Annual Report can be obtained from The Joint Committee on Postgraduate Training for General Practice, 14 Princes Gate, Hyde Park, London SW7 1PU. (Tel: 01 581-3232)

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### International Teaching Course

A five day course for teachers of general medical practice was held in April at the Inter-University Centre Dubrovnik. Twenty course organizers from Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Yugoslavia, the UK and the USSR took part. The broad title *Organizing a teaching programme* provided a chance to retrace in this group the essential steps in the educational process, from objectives based on the needs of the learners to evaluation of the course. It was also an opportunity for international exchange of ideas, especially valuable because of the presence of members from the USSR.

The Inter-University Centre, in a particularly beautiful setting in Dubrov-

nik, is supported by 150 universities all over the world, including several in this country.

The course, among the first international ventures of its kind, will be repeated next April. Enquiries should be addressed to the Secretariat, The Inter-University Centre of Post-Graduate Studies, Frana Bulica 4. YU 50,0000 Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia. (Tel: (050) 28.666)

### Janssen Prize 1983

This prize, awarded by the Societas Internationalis Medicinae Generalis (SIMG), is open to any general practitioner or group of doctors working in primary care and living in Europe. Its aim is to support and promote research in general practice. Protocols of up to

1,000 words should be typed in English, German or French. They should state the potential significance of the research work as well as its aims and the methods to be employed.

The winner will receive 30,000 Belgian francs (equivalent to £388) when the prize is awarded, and another 20,000 Belgian francs (equivalent to £258) when the research work has been completed. The work should be completed within two years and the prizewinner should be prepared to present the results at a SIMG meeting.

The closing date is 30 November 1983; entries should be sent to Professor Dr R. De Smet, Secretary of the Jury, Centrum voor Huisartsopleiding, Rijksuniversiteit Gent, Academisch Ziekenhuis, De Pintelaan 185, B-9000 Gent, Belgium.

## FROM THE FACULTIES

### 'Faculty News'—the Newsletter of the North and West London Faculty

*Faculty News* is one of the most progressive faculty newsletters in the College. Its success owes much to the energy and enthusiasm of its Editor, Dr Bashir Qureshi. In this article he considers how *Faculty News* evolved and the difficulties he encountered in setting it up. He discusses its funding and distribution and the problems that other faculties might encounter in establishing similar newsletters in their own areas.

If you want to start something new don't ask: just get on and do it and see if anyone can stop you! The odds are that you will succeed. These were my feelings when I was asked to develop my faculty's newsletter at its Annual General Meeting in September 1980.

In producing *Faculty News*, my cen-

tral aim has been to publish a printed newsletter of good educational value to general practitioners and trainees whilst at the same time providing a vehicle for communication between faculty members and others in the College. I have endeavoured to produce a quarterly publication of worthwhile content and at the least expense to the

faculty. In order to do this I have needed three things—support from faculty members, money to print the newsletter and good writers to contribute to it.

### Support from faculty members

All members are keen to read a worthwhile publication; some are willing to write for it but in the event only a few are able to contribute. Nevertheless the wholehearted support of faculty members has always been a great asset and was essential to the conception of the newsletter.

### Money to print it

Initially I contacted the College printers who were willing to produce a four-