

Correspondence

A new look at general practice

Sir,

In your editorial (*J. Coll. gen. Practit.* 1965, 10, 1) you write :“ The Dutch College of general practitioners has started a school for doctors’ secretaries.” This is not true. In Holland there are several schools for doctors’ secretaries (“ doctors’ assistants ”) and some of them are under supervision of the Royal Dutch Medical Association. The College itself has no connection with any of these schools, but several general practitioners in Holland have a doctor’s assistant from one of these schools.

REITZE S. TEN CATE.

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Editor’s Note:—

We regret the error which was due to a misreading of an article on the subject.

The place of the family doctor in obstetrics in the future

Sir,

I have only just had an opportunity to read Dr G. N. Marsh’s excellent essay (*J. Coll. gen. Practit.* 1965, 9, 117) but I must take issue with him on his proposed paediatric flying squad for the emergency resuscitation of the new-born: no squad could possibly arrive in time. To quote from my letter on this subject to the *British Medical Journal* last October¹, “ Today this means that proper resuscitation equipment should be set up before the baby is born and that a doctor should be present who knows how to use it. Ideally the midwives should also be trained in its use. This should become part of the ‘ bones of the business ’, just as the flying squad has become, only this time we, the attendants, must do the job ourselves, as the baby would be dead before any neonatal resuscitation squad could arrive.”

My letter mentioned the equipment developed for this purpose by Dr H. Barrie and his colleagues.² The total cost is around £30 but £18 of this is the cost of a Draegar-Normalair 120 litre oxygen cylinder and reducing valve, which should in any case be part of every general practitioner’s general emergency equipment.

The more recent entrants to general practice will have learnt the technique of intubation during obstetric or paediatric house appointments, but all general-practitioner obstetricians not conversant with the technique