

## *A letter from the president*

Dear doctor,

Many of you are already generously supporting the College by deed of covenant and gifts. In spite of the present economic conditions, we ask all those who are not already giving support to do so either by a deed of covenant, an annual subscription, or by an outright gift. The covenants of some members and associates are due to expire. These can be renewed, and with the rise in income tax will bring even more money to the College.

The more we contribute ourselves, the stronger our position will be when we make our fresh national approach to industry and private individuals. The continued work and continuing expansion of the College is of great importance in the application of modern medicine for the well-being of the men, women and children of this country.

A large amount of research into current problems is being undertaken and much of this is financed by the Research Foundation of the College, which is always ready to help members to work out any problems in which they are interested.

The Education Foundation has only recently been established. With its help we hope to explore the best ways of bringing vocational continuing education to the working doctor. Much experimenting will have to be done and many pilot courses will have to be organized. Learning is a continuing process and the art of teaching is always changing.

The benefits which these two Foundations are already bringing to the practising doctor are many and of importance to him, and must grow. Subscriptions and other income pay for the day-to-day work and the running of the College, but its continued growth and influence beyond this depend on the success of the appeal.

The Appeal Committee intends to launch the second phase of the appeal in the New Year for £500,000 and every effort is to be made to obtain this over the next seven years. Enclosed with this Journal is a deed of covenant and a banker's order form. A covenant is the best way of contributing because we recover tax at the rate of

8s. 3d. in the pound on your annual contribution; e.g. an annual contribution of £1 0s. 0d. plus tax becomes £11 18s. 7d. in seven years, and £5 0s. 0d. per annum becomes £59 11s. 9d. and *pro rata*.

Any further information you require can be obtained from your faculty appeal representative or direct from the appeal secretary at College headquarters. May I ask for your generous support now?

Yours sincerely,

ANNIS GILLIE

*President.*

### ON THE STATE OF GENERAL PRACTICE

In his annual report on *the State of the Public Health* the chief medical officer to the Ministry of Health has a few words to say about the future of general practice. He first gives a masterly summing up of the present difficulties. "1965 was a critical year for general practice. The population of England and Wales continued to rise. The numbers of general practitioners available to care for this increasing population, fell, yet the continuing process of sophistication of medicine progressively added to the time required. In face of a rising work-load, the discontent of the doctors—at least as much with their emoluments—seriously threatened the framework of the Health Service. Yet the conditions of practice are largely those dictated by professional tradition, rather than a structure imposed by the service itself."

General practice, says Sir George, "is and has been the distinctive feature of our health services—the means of providing much of the total medical care and the means of access to all the more specialized services. We happen to have evolved a form of family practice that is available in few other countries. It is conceivable that a future generation might not find it the final answer to both first line and continuing medical care—there are other methods and there can be no justification for asserting that our present method must remain, whatever the changes in medicine." We hope to publish in January a report of the second World Conference of Colleges, Academies and equivalent organizations which was held in Salzburg in September and was attended by delegates from 20 colleges and other organizations as well as by some 150 observers. It is clear from the statements of those who were present that general practice is still very much alive in many parts of the world, and that it provides the kind of medical care for which people everywhere are asking. The truth is that whilst health can be tidily administered, sickness and poverty cannot.