

experienced by each person each year diminished and yet reference to Table I, shows that, in fact, the incidence was greater in the over-16 age group than it was in the 6 to 15 age group. In relation to the same table they comment that the numbers are less and there is little difference between the age groups in relation to febrile respiratory illnesses and sore throats. However, they do not give the numbers and, in fact, there is a greater percentage difference between the highest and lowest figures given in relation to sore throat and febrile respiratory illness compared with the differences under the heading of respiratory illness.

The comment that the periodicity of investigated illnesses tallies fairly well with that of respiratory illness in the survey families and with the claims to sickness benefit, as represented in figure 1, is surely a matter of opinion and by no means clear-cut. The two peaks of incidence of investigated illnesses do not correspond with peaks in the other two graphs.

They later comment that the information given in tables II and III show that most of the illnesses diagnosed as sore throats were associated with infections with beta-haemolytic streptococci. This is not in fact so; what the figures do show is that most of the illnesses associated with the isolation of beta-haemolytic streptococci were sore throats. There is a significant difference between the two statements which needs to be recognized.

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Sir,

The *International Society of General Practice* (ISGP) would like to invite all doctors interested in promoting general practice to become members. As the problems of general practice are similar and solutions are urgently needed in most countries, international co-operation would show the best results.

The society with its annual international congress on general practice in Salzburg (Austria) and its membership in already 24 countries serves as a medium for ideas, personal contacts, mutual help, and international good will.

A new concept of general practice is necessary in the interest of our patients and medicine.

It would be appreciated if you too would join and help general practice through your personal contributions.

Join by writing to the General Secretariat, The International Society of General Practice, Lange Strasse 21 a, D-4740 Oelde/Western Germany.

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