

policy. It is the oldest medical building in the country and, as would be expected, has a grace and sombre dignity all its own. Little did those who met there dream of the tremendous impact that the College they were founding would make on medical practice during their lifetime. Dr Copeman's brief history based on his 1967 Gideon De Laune lecture makes no mention of those early meetings, yet it is good to remember that the society which in the past had done so much to mould and establish the general practitioner of medicine was continuing, through its generosity, to further the work which it had started. Last year was the 350th anniversary of the granting of the Royal Charter to the Society by King James I. Last year, also, was the year in which Her Majesty The Queen granted the use of the prefix Royal by our College. For both the College and the Society 1967 was a memorable year.

#### REFERENCE

Copeman, W. S. C. 1967. *Apothecaries. A history of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London 1917-1967*. Oxford. Pergamon Press.

### THE TEAM

Disappointments, complaints, tough budgets, demanding bank managers, delayed plans, frustrating committee decisions are all in the air, and unfortunately far too realistic a problem for many of us. Is this adronergic state worth it all? Is there a silver lining? Is there progress? Without doubt there is, but much of it has got lost in the general day-to-day work and the rumbustious noise of politics and the queaks about Review Bodies. All around us medical teaching schools are investing in general practice. Undergraduate, vocational and postgraduate teaching is growing; too slowly perhaps, but nevertheless it is happening.

Whilst some are still cautious about subscribing to these new declarations of faith in general practice, others are forging ahead with planning and implementing: Manchester, Cardiff, Newcastle, Nottingham, St Thomas's, Aberdeen, Glasgow, to name a few only. Postgraduate medical centres are being started, completed and put to good purpose, with results astonishing to the cynics who prophesied this as 'a flash in the pan'.

In general practice itself, there is planning and scheming, mainly to see what can be achieved in order to give the practitioner time for his clinical work, his real medical occupation. Attachment schemes, employment of ancillaries, nurses, secretaries, all this is giving the cottage industry of the forties and fifties a new look. Clinical investigations, as expressed by more laboratory specimens, from general practice are increasing all round.

The timely publication of the proceedings of the symposium on *The Team\** (The General Practice Team) gives plenty of encouragement and know-how from those who have succeeded. This volume is a fund of ideas for the believers and the unbelievers.

\*Obtainable from the Royal College of General Practitioners, 14 Princes Gate, London, S.W.7, for 8/- post free in United Kingdom.