

have a crushing effect on our part of the profession.

It would appear that our only hope is to seek recognition as a separate profession, just as solicitors are separated from barristers.

This is not a demarcation manoeuvre to make our political situation more secure but rather an affirmation of our belief in the value of our professional abilities and our desire to prevent their extinction in an increasingly centralized future.

Marlow.

BRENNIG JAMES.

Eleventh International Congress of General Practice

Sir,

The International Society of General Practice and the Austrian Society of General Practice invite the general practitioners from all over the world who are artistically active to participate in a *public exhibition* on the occasion of the 11th International Congress of General Practice from 14–21 September 1969 in *Innsbruck/IGLS* (Austria).

All general practitioners who are active as painters, sculptors, poets, writers, composers, singers, actors, choreographers, musicians, band-leaders, photographers or who engage actively in other artistic fields will, upon early application, be able to exhibit their works of art or to demonstrate their artistic talents in public.

The two above mentioned societies of general practice will not accept any responsibility or costs. They will, however, help to find exhibition premises, demonstration rooms, private theatres, music halls, orchestras, and so on but the costs must be borne by the participating artists themselves. Some compensation is possible through the sale of tickets.

The International Society of General Practice had, on the occasion of its 10th International Congress 1968, members from 26 countries and from all five continents.

Those who are interested in this international doctor-artist-exhibition, should write to the Office of the Secretary General of the International Society of General Practice, Lange Str., 21a, D-4740 OELDE/Westph., West Germany.

FRITZ GEIGER, M.D., LL.D.

President, the International Society of General Practice and the Austrian Society of General Practice.

International Society of General Practice

Sir,

The International Society of General Practice is a scientific association of general practitioners on an international basis. At present, this association has members in 36 countries and in all five continents.

In order to offer a joint home for amicable contacts to the great number of general practitioners all over the world, who are, apart from their professional work, active as journalists, artists and organizers, the International Society of General Practice has, within their members, founded an *International Order of General Practitioners, active as journalists, artists and/or organizers*.

All those colleagues, who are interested and active in one of the above-mentioned sectors, are cordially invited to join. There will be no enrolment or membership fees. Applications for membership are to be directed to the Office of the Secretary General of the International Society of General Practice, 21a Lange Str., D-4740 OELDE/Westph., West Germany.

FRITZ GEIGER, M.D., LL.D.

Hypertension—a study in general practice

Sir,

Dr Robert G. Sinclair is to be congratulated on the excellent report of his detailed investigation, proving his point that the family doctor is well placed to study this interesting condition (*J. roy. Coll. gen. Practit.* 1969, 17, 17.)

I agree with most of his conclusions but must point out that by describing hypertension as a *disease*, he is denying Pickering's now generally accepted view that hypertension is *not* a disease entity but a physical sign—which may or may not be indicative of underlying pathological processes (1955).

Of course Dr Sinclair is right to emphasize the need to discover possible aetiological factors when a significant degree of hypertension is found on clinical examination, and it is very interesting that out of 651 patients studied, he was only able to find three of them with some renal abnormality. A success rate only slightly higher than my own in a similar study of 100 consecutive hypertensive patients seen in my practice—I found none with underlying physical causative factors (1958).

Dr Sinclair states that none of the other possible though rare causes of hypertension were discovered in his series of 651 hyperten