

COLOUR CODING OF N.H.S. MEDICAL CARDS

Cards giving details and instruction for the College's system of colour tagging of eight important disease groups, are again available at 2s. 6d. (12½p) for six, from the Librarian, 14 Princes Gate, London, S.W.7.

In Memoriam

- N. B. FARMAN, London, N.W.3.
- R. T. R. FRESHWATER, Elwood, Victoria, Australia.
- A. M. GOLDTHORPE, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex.
- L. C. LYON, Ealing, W.5.

REPORTS

RESEARCH METHOD—FROM THE RESEARCH UNIT

A family record card

General practitioners are uniquely placed to study disease in its family context. Watson has shown how the spread of infectious diseases can be observed in families and Kuenssberg (1964) has described a recording method (The F. Book) which shows up patterns of inherited susceptibility or resistance to disease.

A number of research workers have found it to be convenient to group the medical records of one family together. A gusseted envelope has been obtained, unprinted, from the Department of Health which will accommodate a number of the standard 7" x 5" envelopes and used

FAMILY RECORD CARD

FAMILY NAME														NUMBER														ADDRESS														DR. CODE			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38								
ALLPORT														00425														74 Garden Rd.														0160867			

Member	Sex	FIRST FORENAME														Date of Birth				MS	Member	Sex	FIRST FORENAME														Date of Birth				MS
39-40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53-4	55-6	57-8	59	39-40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53-4	55-6	57-8	59								
01	M	ERIC														18 04 30				M	02	F	MARY														15 03 32				M
Ep. No.	Date	1st. Diag. Code	1st. %	Final Diag.	Att.	1st. Ref.	2nd. Ref.	80	DIAGNOSIS	Ep. No.	Date	1st. Diag. Code	1st. %	Final Diag.	Att.	1st. Ref.	2nd. Ref.	80	DIAGNOSIS																						
1	08 11 65	407							Lumbago	1	12 10 65	483							Cervicitis																						
2	22 11 65	134							Depression	2	14 10 66	326	352						Pregnancy																						
3	31 05 67	301							Chc	3	23 03 68	101							Stomach																						
4	21 07 67	240							Coryza	4	26 08 68	480							Cervicitis																						
5	30 11 67	483							Inoculation	5	06 11 68	377							Stomach																						
6	04 04 68	185							Chc. Stomach + Spg	6	28 01 69	101							Stomach																						
7	11 12 68	245							Stomach	7	11 08 69	304							D.V.																						
8	23 06 69	480							Stomach	8	18 09 69	242							Stomach																						
9										9	20 10 69	427							Stomach																						
10										10																															
Member	Sex	FIRST FORENAME														Date of Birth				MS	Member	Sex	FIRST FORENAME														Date of Birth				MS
39-40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53-4	55-6	57-8	59	39-40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53-4	55-6	57-8	59								
03	M	HILIP														12 06 62				S	04	F	JANE														65 05 65				S
Ep. No.	Date	1st. Diag. Code	1st. %	Final Diag.	Att.	1st. Ref.	2nd. Ref.	80	DIAGNOSIS	Ep. No.	Date	1st. Diag. Code	1st. %	Final Diag.	Att.	1st. Ref.	2nd. Ref.	80	DIAGNOSIS																						
1	11 04 67	464							Undiscovered	1	08 09 65	247							Bancho																						
2	20 04 67	013							Chc	2	12 11 65	303							D.V.																						
3	20 05 68	183							Other	3	27 07 66	240							Coryza																						
4	25 07 68	242							Stomach	4	09 10 68	242							Stomach																						
5	26 08 68	022							Stomach	5	18 10 68	240							Coryza																						
6	27 09 68	240							Coryza	6	16 04 69	240							Coryza																						
7	27 08 69	483							Cervicitis	7	19 05 69	183							Other																						
8	11 10 69	381							Inoculation	8	25 08 69	242							Stomach																						
9										9	30 10 69	240							Coryza																						
10										10																															

experimentally. Data relating to the family as a whole may be recorded on the outside of this envelope.

Other workers have devised family folders of quarto or foolscap manilla and when using these have discarded the traditional medical record envelopes—the size to which so much in general practice has been cut down. Such folders were used by Backett and Mabin (1956) in Belfast, Scott in Edinburgh and others also. More recently Laidlaw (1969) has suggested such a folder conforming with the recently agreed international standard sizes.

While a summary of the family's sickness experience can be recorded on the folder itself, for reference in use and for abstraction for research purposes this might be less convenient than a summary card prepared for the purpose and which can be conveniently accommodated in the folder. Such a card is described below.

A family record card devised by the Research Unit is an addition to the 'S' card series. The card, which measures 10" x 8" has space for recording data exclusive to the family, which may be varied, within limits, at the discretion of the recorder. The most easily standardized is the 'nuclear family', mother, father and children. Space permits the allocation of a family serial number if desired. Each card can carry the summarized sickness experience of up to eight persons, four on each side. Thus data on both parents and six offspring can be carried on one card. Where a family is larger than this a second card can be used.

The eight sections of the card are structured so as to permit easy transfer of the recorded information to punch cards for mechanical analysis by counter-sorter or computer. Up to ten episodes of illness can be recorded per person. The diagnosis is inserted both in the numerical code introduced by the College in 1963 and in clear so that it can be seen at a glance.

Supplies of these cards may be obtained from the Research Unit, c/o Birmingham Regional Hospital Board, Arthur Thomson House, 146 Hagley Road, Birmingham 16.

REFERENCES

- Backett, E. M. and Mabin, R. P. (1956). *British Medical Journal*. **1**, 87 (Suppl).
 Kuenssberg, E. V. (1968). *British Medical Journal*. **2**, 420 (description of wallet record).
 Kuenssberg, E. V. (1964). *Journal of the College of General Practitioners*, **7**, 410.
 Laidlaw, A. J. (1969). Personal communication.

POSTGRADUATE NEWS**COURSES ARRANGED BY UNIVERSITIES****The Queen's University of Belfast**

Intensive postgraduate courses of one week's duration

April 27– May 1. *General*. Altnagelvin Hospital, Londonderry.

May 4–8. *General*. Waveney Hospital, Ballymena.

May 11–15. *General*. Belfast City Hospital.

May 18–22. *General*. Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast.

Applications to *The Director, Department of Postgraduate Medical Education, 87 Lisburn Road, Belfast.*

University of Birmingham

Refresher course for general practitioners

June 29–July 3. Postgraduate Medical Centre, Coventry.

Applications to *Dr R. E. Smith, Warwickshire Postgraduate Medical Centre, Stoney Stanton Road, Coventry.*

University of Bristol

One week courses:

April 13–17. *General*. Truro.

April 20–24. Residential course. Rodney Lodge, Bristol.

Weekend courses:

April 25–26. *Psychiatry*. Plymouth.

May 1–2. Torquay.

May 29–31. *Occupational health*. Bristol.

May 30–31. *Keeping up to date*. Taunton.

Obstetric courses:

May 4–8. Plymouth.

October 12–16. Exeter.

November 2–6. Bristol.

Further information from the *Medical Postgraduate Department, Senate House, Tyndall Avenue, Bristol, BS8 1TH*. Telephone Bristol 24161 Ext. 189.