

widely and meet Americans in various walks of life. In these ways they should get to know something about the country's traditions, customs and thought so that they can view these in relation to their own work and community, and put the practical experience gained during the visit to the best advantage on their return to the United Kingdom.

The closing date for applications for doctors in general practice is May 25th, 1959.

Further details and application forms are obtainable from—
The Secretary, The English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth, Dartmouth House, 37 Charles Street, Berkeley Square, London, W.1.

Correspondence

Film Survey

From the Director—Medical Illustration, Department of Photography and Illustration, Westminster Medical Hospital School, London.

Sir,

I have read with some dismay the announcement of a proposed "Film Survey" in No. 22 of your journal. While admitting the importance of this subject, the approach seems to be a negative one. Several bodies already appraise existing films in a much more comprehensive manner than is suggested by your questionnaire.

Current films will continue to be shown or not shown according to their popularity and no organizer should be guilty of inflicting on an unsuspecting audience any film which has not been authoritatively "previewed" for suitability.

The statement "Yet only a few of them (films) are of real value to general practitioners from the point of view of postgraduate education" cannot be allowed to pass unchallenged. Some films may talk "above the heads" or "below the boots" of general practitioners, but the fact remains that the chief sponsors of expensive medical film productions are pharmaceutical houses which have the general practitioner audience very much in mind. Whether or not they fail in their mission is largely a personal opinion, for film appreciation is very much like book reading—we do not all agree with the critics and individual taste is the ultimate criterion.

I would submit that a more constructive task is to be found in putting forward considered suggestions—in detail—for the subject and content of films which are really needed. This presupposes, of course, that existing films have been analysed and found wanting, for there are many hundreds from which to choose.

PETER HANSELL.