

urity and ageing.

- (f) The range of the 'normal'.

#### AREA III—Human behaviour

- (a) Social relationships—between individuals, within families, in school, at work, in other groups, and in the wider community.  
 (b) The individual or family vulnerable because of medical or social situations, acute or chronic.  
 (c) The meaning to the patient of his relationship and consultations with his general practitioner.  
 (d) The general practitioner's rôle in accepting, understanding and advising on deviant behaviour patterns.

#### AREA IV—Society and medicine

- (a) The meaning of 'health' and 'illness'.  
 (b) The relationship of medical services to other institutions of society.  
 (c) The application of sociological and epidemiological principles to individuals and the practice community.  
 (d) Interprofessional relationships in teamwork and consultation, delegation and referral.  
 (e) The organization of medical services in the United Kingdom, and comparison with those of other countries.

#### AREA V—The practice

- (a) Organization.  
 (b) Premises, staffing and equipment.  
 (c) Recording and communications.  
 (d) Practice management.  
 (e) Research methods.

These five areas also serve to indicate the needs of the individual for continuing education, and the opportunities for research either individual or co-operative.

JOHN HORDER,  
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#### Rubella and pregnancy

Sir,

A Public Health Laboratory Service Working Party has recently completed a study of the effect of human normal immunoglobulin given to rubella contacts who were in the early stage of pregnancy. This entailed the examination of sera from over 6,000 women who were in contact with cases of rubella. The results which have now been published in the *British Medical Journal*, 1970, 2, 497 unfortunately showed the immunoglobulin to have little if any protective value.

We would, however, like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation of the help given by those general practitioners from many parts of the United Kingdom who undertook to send the

samples and to provide the requests for epidemiological information including details of any babies born subsequently.

We are additionally indebted to the undernoted doctors who provided throat and nasal swabs from index cases of rubella in households and serum samples from women who though in contact were not pregnant at the time and therefore not given immunoglobulin. This group of women provided a valuable control group which could not have been obtained without the co-operation of the doctors concerned.

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