

years and now includes instruction in sociology, psychology, psychotherapy and positive mental health. Apart from this it is part of the doctor's task to acquire, early in his career, knowledge concerning the hygienic and sociological milieu of his future area of responsibility. No other person is in as good a position as the general practitioner to influence the microstructure of his community, to the probable exclusion of disease associated with faulty living conditions, inter-family relationships and occupational diseases.

Two chairs have been established at the German Academy for Postgraduate Medical Training, Berlin, to offer specialist training to general practitioners. They work in close co-operation with the Department for Domiciliary Health among whose staff many general practitioners undertake research work. Association with doctors in the field is assured by the fact that the doctor responsible for the administration of individual areas is at the same time connected with the committee responsible for clinical medicine.

The exchange of scientific experience takes place in special commissions whose chairmen belong to the managing committee of the department.

The responsibility of the department can be summarized as follows:

1. Promotion of the academic quality of professional standards, including that of the general practitioner
2. Assistance with research work
3. Improvement in the co-operation between the specialists in general practice and the other specialities
4. Improvement in co-operation between the domiciliary and hospital services
5. Improvement in co-operation between domiciliary services and other state authorities together with international societies with similar objectives
6. Improvement in the co-operation between scientific bodies of the Council for Planning and Co-ordination of Medical Services and Public Health.

The specialist in general practice is a 'unique type'. His rôle is determined by his position in the range of basic medical care and by the direct contact with the population of a particular area. The career outline of the general practitioner integrates the fundamentals of most important aspects of medicine. More so than any other person he is in the position to comprehend and influence—often for several generations—the factors originating in the naturally determined environment, which are relevant to good health or the incidence of disease.

ACCOMMODATION AT COLLEGE HEADQUARTERS

Temporary residential accommodation for members and associates and their families is provided at college headquarters.

The charges, including breakfast, are as follows:

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| For single rooms | £2 10s. 0d. per night |
| For double rooms | £4 5s. 0d. per night |
| For a flatlet (bed-sitting room for two, bathroom and dressing room) | £6 per night or £36 per week |
| For a self-contained flat (double bedroom, sitting room, hall, kitchen and bathroom) | £42 per week |

Children under the age of 12 years cannot be admitted, and dogs are not allowed.

A service charge of 10 per cent is added to all accounts to cover gratuities to domestic staff.

Car ports may be hired, at a cost of 10s. 6d. per 24 hours.

Enquiries should be addressed to the **Administrative Secretary, The Royal College of General Practitioners, 14 Princes Gate, London, S.W.7. (Tel. 01-584 6262).**