

FIRST SESSION**A future in general practice****WELCOME**

Professor Gittins welcomed members of the symposium in his capacity as Vice-Principal of the University College.

OPENING REMARKS

Dr John Hunt, C.B.E., M.A., P.R.C.G.P., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S.

WE have a very interesting programme this morning. First of all, John Fry is going to talk to us about common world problems of medical care. Many countries have the same problems and we can learn a great deal from each other. They include the academic organization of general practice in different places; there are now 15 or so national colleges and academies of general practice and we are beginning to have joint meetings at which we exchange views and learn from each other. In April 1970, we have a joint meeting with the Australians in Aberdeen. In parts of Australia, 30 to 50 per cent of the general practitioners have come from this country during the last 15 years, and in Tasmania I believe the figure is more like 50 per cent. There are all sorts of reasons for this. One is the hospital-bed problem but this is by no means the only one, and if we can analyse the reasons why our doctors, many of them good ones, are leaving here and going to Australia we shall be in a position to try to reverse this flow. We want to have the best doctors coming here, and not many of our best ones going out.

When I visited Australia I was impressed by their general-practitioner hospitals. In one at Bunbury, south of Perth, 13 general practitioners have charge of 150 beds. It is a magnificent hospital. There is a general-practitioner floor—a pilot scheme—in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Adelaide with 50 general-practitioner beds within a teaching hospital. This whole floor is given over to general-practitioner beds where the students can be taught by the consultants *and* by general practitioners together. The Minister of Health for South Australia told me that he thought this experiment had been an enormous success, and that it may be copied in other parts of Australia.

Dr Harvard Davis is going to talk to us about patterns of practice,