

vance to work in which our College is concerned, a field in which morbidity studies may in the end prove even more revealing.

It is not surprising that in a small country the circle of research workers should be limited and that there should be a tendency for mutual quotations of references between the departments, an inbreeding relieved by evident awareness of work in progress in comparable academic institutions in the USA. Work done outside the established departments and relevant work in other sciences than medicine seems under-represented in the extensive bibliographies which are a feature of this compilation. The defences of orthodoxy were penetrated by this journal in one instance, by a paper concerned with morbidity in a particularly sensitive context, that of the oral contraception pill.

On the eleventh day the lords and ladies of Florence returned to the city, exchanging the remoteness of romance for the realities of the plague. Perhaps an effort is required of orthodox epidemiology also, that it apply itself to matters of immediate concern as well as to those less frequently encountered. There are problems in plenty which urgently await attention.

REFERENCE

1. *British Medical Bulletin*. 27, 1. Jan. 1971.

THE MEDICAL RECORDING SERVICE

THE Third Conference On the Use of Audiotape in Medical Teaching was held on 14 October 1970 at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, and its proceedings have recently been published by the Medical Recording Service Foundation from Kitts Croft, Writtle, Chelmsford, CM1 3EH. It is one of the signs of the great success of John and Valerie Graves that Kitts Croft is an internationally-known address. Slides and tapes are now lent by the service all over the world and do much to foster international goodwill as well as postgraduate education.

The first conference was held in 1963, and the second was a tenth-anniversary assessment of progress and an attempt to find new and better ways of fulfilling what had become a very worth-while task. The cost to the Graves must have been enormous, and if they felt at any time like complaining, it must be evident that they were too busy to do so. Backed by a devoted staff, which has increased to keep pace with the growing activities of the service, and helped so far as was possible from college resources, the work has flourished.

The service is non-profit-making and is not exclusive to members of the College. Any doctor, para-medical worker or teaching organization anywhere in the world may make use of its services. Those who are interested in the production of taped teaching material cannot do better than read the verbatim report of the conference, and those who wish the service well may feel it appropriate to remember the Medical Recording Service Foundation which finances it.

A thought should also be spared for Smith, Kline and French, Ltd, which financed the service through its developing stages, and thus made a most generous contribution to the evolution of the Royal College of General Practitioners of which the Medical Recording Service is an important part.
