

about it after all is said? The old adage—Use few drugs only and be familiar with all their properties—is difficult now to follow when strange new names come with the consultant's letter, but it was good advice and well worth remembering.

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### DEVELOPMENTAL PAEDIATRICS

**T**HERE are several reasons why family doctors should be concerned with this important subject. In the first instance they have a personal interest in the development of all children in their practice. A good relationship with the mother and the rest of the family is already established. Here is an opportunity to practice preventive medicine in an age group where positive results are most likely to be achieved. The techniques are easily acquired and little or no formal training is needed. The apparatus is cheap and simple. The work, however, is time-consuming but amply rewarding to the many who already undertake some kind of assesement of their youngest patients' progress.

A small number of doctors, most of them members of the College, have formed a study group to try and take matters a stage further. They have drafted a record card which they consider an improvement on existing cards. It is designed in two alternative sizes, otherwise identical; the smaller one fits existing medical record envelopes while the larger fits the new A4 folder. The practice organization committee has set up a working party and with the help of the research committee will be initiating a long-term programme to evaluate and validate this new card. At present the work is regarded as a research project and the authors hope that all those in the College who are interested in the study of developmental paediatrics will volunteer to join this project, starting with a questionnaire.

Further details are given in the Epidemic Observation Unit section on page 545. Anyone wishing to receive the questionnaire or test out the record card should complete and send in the notification form at the end of this *Journal*.