

Professor J. C. van Es*Professor of General Practice, University of Utrecht, Holland***Training for general practice in Holland**

... It was not entirely fortuitous that 1965 also witnessed the founding of the Nederlands Huisartsen Instituut (Netherlands General Practitioners Institute) in Utrecht, with the full co-operation of the university and the Dutch minister of social affairs and public health following the initiative of the Dutch College of General Practitioners.

... All seven other (than the University of Utrecht) such medical schools now also possess departments of general practice. Five have a Chair of general practice, two an associate professor.

... During the third and fourth years of training, formal lectures in general practice are given, amounting to a total of 40 hours. The use of the formal lecture is to be regretted, but it has been impossible to modernise all aspects of teaching mainly because of staff shortages.

... On the 'return days' the cases are more systematically discussed under the guidance of the mentor, each student in turn presenting a case. The exchange of experience between students has been found to be of great importance, not only with regard to content, but also emotionally.

... It is not yet clear how all this future training is to be done, but the Dutch government regards the present Common Market regulations as a severe obstacle to achieving this reorganisation of postgraduate training.

... However it is stimulating and encouraging to know that general practice is in the ascendant and this is indeed a basic condition for a human achieving comprehensive medical care for which so many patients are longing.

REFERENCE

van Es, Professor J. C. (1972). *Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners*, 22 (See article in full in this *Journal*).

CHILDREN WHO SMOKE

In March 1971, 7,115 final year primary school children in Derbyshire completed a screening questionnaire enquiring into their smoking habits and respiratory symptoms. This was the first study of this kind in primary school children in the United Kingdom. The prevalence rate of regular cigarette smoking was found to be 5 per cent and that for experimental smokers was 29 per cent.

It was found that the smokers started smoking earlier than the experimental smokers. Seventeen per cent of smokers had puffed their first cigarette before the age of seven. When asked why they thought children of their own age did not smoke, all groups gave "parents advised against it" and "because of health reasons" as the first two reasons. The non-smokers gave "that it was a dirty habit" as their third reason and this differed from the other two groups. The smokers felt that smoking was enjoyable, gave more adult status, and that it was pleasant to smoke with one's friends.

Bewdley, Beulah (1971). *Children's Smoking*. Paper read at XV Annual Meeting Society for Social Medicine.