

## ANNUAL SPRING MEETING 1973

**T**HE Annual Spring Meeting of the College in 1973 will be a very special occasion. It will be attended by many members of the Canadian College of Family Physicians and is to be held in London from 2-6 April, 1973.

It will take place during the Presidency of H.R.H. The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh who has already shown great interest in the meeting and written the welcoming letter published above. Several hundred Canadian general practitioners and their wives are expected to attend.

These two Colleges have much in common both in origin and development. Their joint meeting in Canada in 1969 was a great success. A British working party chaired by Dr B. C. S. Slater has been making preparations for over a year; members who wish to come should start their own planning now.

This joint meeting will give practitioners from varying backgrounds in both countries a chance to learn more about different methods of delivering medical care. Above all it will create an opportunity for exchanging ideas. British doctors look forward to repaying some of the generous hospitality received at the previous joint meeting in Toronto.

## VISITING PROFESSORS OF GENERAL PRACTICE

**V**ISITING professors of general practice are a new development in the academic world.

Professorial heads of university departments of general practice are themselves relatively new although nowadays they are appearing much more often (February and May *Journals*). Although the role of permanent professors is now well understood, ideas about visiting professors are less clear.

The essential feature of visiting professorships is that they are flexible. The appointment is temporary, and the tenure may vary from as little as two weeks, which is envisaged as the shortest time for a Sir Harry Jephcott Professorship, to a year as with Dr D. L. Crombie's recent appointment (*April Journal*).

In the past there were only two avenues open. The first was for a general practitioner to become so eminent that he was invited to accept one of the very few visiting professorships with terms of reference wide enough to embrace several branches of medicine including general practice. Thus Professor Byrne in 1971 was the first general practitioner for several years to achieve the honour of the Auckland Savings Bank Visiting Professorship in New Zealand.

The second avenue required a general practitioner to acquire such an outstanding reputation that a university created its own special appointment. Such posts are therefore usually personal to the individual concerned and may well be non-recurring, for example Dr D. L. Crombie's personal Chair at the University of London, Ontario, Canada.