

MEDICAL HISTORY

Sir,

I am compiling a list of college members who are interested in medical history. I am particularly anxious to learn:

- (1) How many members are attracted to the subject;
- (2) How many belong to medical historical societies and clubs;
- (3) How many have lectured on the subject, with the titles of the addresses, and to what audience;
- (4) Titles of books with publisher and year of publication;
- (5) Titles of any published essays, papers, or reviews with date and place of publication;
- (6) Titles of any unpublished or unfinished work on medical history.

I should be more than grateful to your readers for their co-operation. An early response, no matter how brief, followed if necessary by a supplementary letter giving fuller information, would be appreciated.

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HOW MANY PATIENTS?

Sir,

With reference to Dr Fry's article (August *Journal*) the main point, whether intended or not, seemed quite clearly to be that a general practitioner might, with one partner, equally share the workload of approximately 9,000 patients. I do not think the figures he gave; nor the small amount of time he spent working in the practice *after 17.30 hours*; only doing one weekend in four and in addition having a whole day off a week, could support his contention.

What he has really done is to show how much work he does himself omitting details of the presumably heavy workload (especially 'out of hours') of *three* other doctors involved with a total list of about 11,500.

This is not therefore in itself of great interest and he did not prove that two doctors could look after 9,000 patients to my satisfaction.

C. H. MAYCOCK

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Crediton, Devon.

REFERENCE

Fry, J. (1972). *Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners*, 22, 521-8.

Journal of the Royal College of Physicians of London

This Journal is concerned with the integration of scientific disciplines in the practice of medicine and, by providing a wide ranging commentary on the growing points of medicine, is an essential complement to the specialised journals.

CONTENTS OF VOLUME 7, No. 2

E. Grey-Turner	Postgraduate Medicine and the European Economic Community
C. E. Newman	The College Goes West
J. N. Mills	Air Travel and Circadian Rhythm
D. M. Davies	Sixty Days in a Submarine: The Pathophysiological and Metabolic Cost
L. M. Payne and C. E. Newman	The History of the College Library: George Edwards Library Keeper
P. K. Thomas	Metabolic Neuropathy
R. W. E. Watts	Oxaluria
H. A. Waldron	Sir George Baker

Editor:	A. Stuart Mason, M.D., F.R.C.P.
Publication:	Published quarterly in October, January, April and July.
Subscription:	£4 per annum (including postage)
All inquiries to Editorial Office:	Royal College of Physicians of London, 11 St. Andrew's Place, Regent's Park, London, NW1 4LE
Publishers Office:	Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons Ltd., 39 Parker Street, Kingsway, London, WC2B 5PB