

## **The Rt Hon. Lord Hunt**



Dr John Henderson Hunt, *C.B.E.*, M.A., D.M., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.G.P., F.R.A.C.G.P., general practitioner London was one of seven new life peers announced recently in the Prime Minister's List.

Dr Hunt played a major role in the foundation of the college (*January Journal*) and was the first honorary secretary of the Council. He was subsequently a President of the College for three years.

His life barony has been gazetted under the name, style and title of Baron Hunt of Fawley, of Fawley in the County of Buckingham. (*See Editorial*).

(*Photograph by D. Ivan Cookson, F.R.C.G.P.*)

### **ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE**

Dr Stuart Carne, F.R.C.G.P. has been elected President of the Section of General Practice of the Royal Society of Medicine.

### **RICHARD SCOTT PRIZE**

The Richard Scott Prize in General Practice for the year 1972 has been awarded to Dr W. D. Rees, general practitioner of Llanidloes, Montgomeryshire for his study *Distress of Dying* published in the *British Medical Journal*. The prize is £150.

### **PATRICK S. BYRNE PRIZE**

The Patrick S. Byrne prize for contribution

to medical education in general practice has been awarded for 1972 to Dr David Anderson, clinical tutor at the Preston Post-graduate Medical Centre. The prize is £150.

### **NEW CHAIR OF FAMILY PRACTICE**

A new chair of family practice is to be established at St. George's Hospital, London.

The professor of family practice will work with local general practitioners in a purpose-built health centre on the site, where work on the whole £35 million project is already underway.

It is expected that the new teaching complex will form the largest teaching hospital and medical school in Britain. This new chair is being created in association with new chairs

of human ecology, clinical neuroscience and geriatrics.

### JOINT BOARD OF CLINICAL NURSING STUDIES

The terms of reference of the Joint Board of Clinical Nursing Studies have been extended to include the community nursing services. The new terms of reference are: "to consider and advise the Secretaries of State on the needs of nurses and midwives for postbasic clinical training in specialist aspects of the hospital community nursing services in England and Wales; and, in consultation with the appropriate bodies, to co-ordinate and supervise the courses provided as a result of such advice; and to discharge such other functions as the Secretaries of State may assign to them."

Dr G. N. Marsh, F.R.C.G.P., general practitioner, Stockton-on-Tees, is a new member of the board.

### MISS IRENE SCAWN

Miss Irene Scawn, who was business manager of the *Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners* for many years has recently become Mayor of Dartmouth.

### MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKERS

The Secretary of State for the Social Services has announced that from 1 April 1974 "subject to certain safeguards, social work support for the health services in England and Wales should be provided by local authority social service departments and that hospital social workers should be employed by local authorities and made available to hospitals and other health service establishments."

### THE COST OF DRUGS

The cost of drugs dispensed by chemists under the National Health Service in England during the last five years was:

	£ million
1968	101.4
1969	111.4
1970	122.5
1971	136.6
1972	154.6

### GENERAL PRACTICE FINANCE CORPORATION

The General Practice Finance Corporation, which has a statutory duty not to make a loss

and borrows its money on the open market, has recently decided to raise the interest rate on borrowing to 11 per cent per annum.

### CAREER CHOICE

A survey by the Postgraduate Medical Education Council in Northern Ireland of 117 doctors, showed that general practice was the most popular single career choice. Of those questioned, 26 per cent wanted to enter general practice, and in all 42 per cent said "they were prepared at least to consider" general practice as a career.

Medicine was the next most popular branch of medicine with 20 per cent prepared to consider it as a career.

### BLOOD ALCOHOL LEVELS

A series of measures designed to reduce the number of accidents caused by drivers in a state of inebriation has recently been adopted by the Council of Europe. These measures determine the maximum level of alcohol in the blood acceptable when driving a motor vehicle, and the methods to be used to detect excessive levels and the penalties to be imposed for breach of this rule in 17 member states of the organisation.

The promille level has been set at 80 mg/100 ml (0.8 per cent) above which most drivers are a danger to other road users and should be liable to prosecution. The member states are however at liberty to set a lower promille level if they so wish.

### CERVICAL CYTOLOGY

The Secretary of State for the Social Services has recently decided to include women under 35 who have had three or more pregnancies in the priority group for routine cervical cytology screenings. This decision follows a recommendation of the Committee on Gynaecological Cytology which advises him on all aspects of the screening service.

### AREA HEALTH BOARDS

The Secretary of State for Scotland has started to appoint members to the new Health Boards. There will be 15 Health Boards in Scotland which will come into operation on 1 April, 1974. The Board Chairmen were appointed on 24 January 1973, and further members of the board will be appointed later in the year.

Dr G. W. Mears, M.R.C.G.P. has been appointed to the Orkney Area Health Board.

Dr A. M. KNOX, M.B., Ch.B., general practitioner, Aberdeen has been appointed to the Borders Area Health Board.

Dr A. G. FRASER, M.B., Ch.B., general practitioner, Aberdeen has been appointed to the Grampian Health Board.

Dr P. M. CRAWFORD, M.B., Ch.B., D.Obst. R.C.O.G., general practitioner, East Kilbride has been appointed to the Lanarkshire Health Board.

#### EXCEPTIONAL NEEDS PAYMENTS— SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFITS ASSOCIATION

Total expenditure on supplementary benefits in 1971 was about £638 million for which £4.73 million or 0.7 per cent was accounted for by exceptional needs payments mostly for clothing, footwear, bedding and household goods. About 576,000 payments were made with an average of £8.20 each.

Further details of these payments can be obtained from the book *Exceptional needs payments* London: H.M.S.O. price 29p.

#### GENERAL-PRACTITIONER PAPERS

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BARBER, G. (1973). Looking back, Money matters. *Update*, 6, 1339-1342.

BLOOMFIELD, E. (1973). Surgical procedures in a health centre. *Nursing Times*, 69, 299-301.

BREMER, G. J. & BRINKMAN, H. J. W. (1973). The letter of referral: to be given unsealed. *Huisarts en Wetenschap*, 16, 148-150. (English summary).

CHOISY, J. de (1973). A clinical assessment of 'Fortral' suppositories in general practice. *Current Medical Research and Opinion*, 1, 356-361.

DIXIT, I. P. (1973). Dust-mite urticaria. *Practitioner*, 210, 664.

DUNCAN, R. W. (1973). The use of trimethoprim-sulphamethoxazole in urinary tract infections in domiciliary practices. *Med. J. Austral.*, 1, 536-538.

EIMERL, T. S. (1973). The E book system for record-keeping in general practice. *Medical Care*, 11, No. 2, Supplement, 138-144.

FULDAUER, A. (1973). A nine-year study of the aged in a general practice. *Huisarts en Wetenschap*, 16, 135-147. (English summary).

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in general practice. *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Medicine*, 210, 685-689.

JAFFE, G. & Cowley, V. (1972). Wearing tights. A clinical trial of 'PHisoHex' in prevention and treatment of skin disorders resulting from occlusive clothing. *Nursing Times*, 68, 1098-1099.

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KENNEDY, T. M. (1973). Annual reports from general practice, 1971. *Update*, 6, 1285-1300.

MCRROBERTS, W. (1973). Alteration in the fractionated blood lead concentrations in the development of inorganic lead poisoning, and the concept of the role of "lead integration" in lead absorption. *Journal of the Society of Occupational Medicine*, 23, 3-18.

MCMULLAN, J. J. (1973). The impact of physical disability. Care in the community. *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Medicine*, 66, 139-140.

PINSENT, R. J. F. H. (1973). The impact of physical disability. *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Medicine*, 66, 136-137.

REES, W. D. (1972). The distress of dying. *Nursing Times*, 68, 1479-1480. (Survey from own practice.)

ROWE, I. L. (1973). Diuretics—practitioners' describing patterns. *Australian Family Physician*, 2, 40-45.

ROWE, I. L. (1973). Prescription of psychotropic drugs by general practitioners. 1. General. *Medical Journal of Australia*, 1, 589-593.

ROWLANDS, J. (1972). Annals of a Teesside practice. 17993-1969. *Medical History*, 16, No. 4, 387-403.

STEVENS, J. A. (1973). Hospital care from general practitioners. *Medical Journal of Australia*, 1, 403-407.

VELDEN, H. G. M. van der (1973). First line aid. *Huisarts en wetenschap*, 16, 81-85. (English summary: survey of family contacts.)

WILSON, J. B. (1973). Three Scots in the Service of the Czars. *Practitioner*, 210, 704-708.

WRAY, K. (1973). Compression sclerotherapy in general practice. *Medical Digest*, 18, No. 4, 18-22.

#### ROYAL COLLEGE OF NURSING

Membership of the Royal College of Nursing has now reached over 100,000.

### NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE

The *New England Journal of Medicine* has produced a London edition which is posted from London and contains no advertisements.

#### MEDICAL BENEFITS IN THE EEC

The Scottish Home and Health Department remind people planning to go to countries of the European Economic Community either to work or on holiday, that they should acquire one or other of two recently published leaflets explaining medical benefits for British citizens in the EEC.

Both leaflets are available at local offices of the Department of Health and Social Security, and at employment exchanges.

#### ALCOHOLICS

The Secretary of State for the Social Services has asked local authorities to co-operate with voluntary organisations in planning the development of comprehensive community services to meet the needs of alcoholics.

The circular just issued by the Department of Health and Social Security states that there are between 200,000 and 400,000 alcoholics in England and Wales whose dependence on alcohol significantly affects their bodily or mental health or personal and social relationships. The number of chronic alcoholics could be as high as 86,000. It is estimated that given treatment, two alcoholics out of three can be expected to respond, provided there

are adequate community facilities to give support.

#### HOSPITAL TRAVELLING PROBLEMS

New advice has been issued to hospital authorities in England and Wales about ways of helping hospital patients and their visitors over difficulties in travelling to and from hospital. Arrangements have existed for many years for repaying from public funds travelling expenses for people who attend hospitals as inpatients or outpatients and those of any necessary escorts in cases of hardship. In certain circumstances help with fares can also be given to visitors of close relatives in hospital, particularly where the visitor is already receiving supplementary benefit. The new circular brings these long-standing arrangements which involve both hospitals and social security offices to the attention of hospitals again to ensure that they make them more widely known to people who attend hospital so that everyone who is eligible for this help is encouraged to apply.

The Department of Health and Social Security is producing a model information leaflet and is asking hospital authorities to use this as a basis for locally-produced leaflets which will add local information about where to apply about transport and escort services provided by local voluntary bodies. The Department is also helping to spread knowledge of the arrangements by circulating copies of a circular and leaflets to local authorities, general practitioners and some national voluntary organisations.

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#### STARTING A FUND

“To anyone working at that time in the mental hospital wards the need for clinical research was as evident as the lack of any provision for it and the acute shortage of funds. A public meeting was then arranged at the Royal Society of Medicine to try to inaugurate a fund: but although a number had expressed interest only five people turned up. The canvassing of possible supporters was renewed and a second meeting arranged, but this time the meeting coincided unhappily with a London fog and again the number at the meeting was only five. It was Walter Maclay who suggested ‘Nobody need know how few are here. If we are agreed that a Fund is needed, let us declare the Fund formed.’ That was the start of the Mental Health Research Fund, which is now supporting research at the rate of £100,000 a year.”

*Psychological Medicine* (1972). 2, 429.