

in your practice, or in that of a colleague, who has had diabetes not requiring treatment with insulin?

STUART CARNE

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THE COLLEGE—ITS PAST AND FUTURE

Sir,

The January 1973 *Journal* reached Burma in September and I found it most interesting and stimulating. In particular Dr John Hunt's James Mackenzie Lecture was an important narrative describing a comprehensive picture of events and incidents in the history of the College. While it enlivens and comforts because of the encouraging achievements so far attained, it also inspires confidence in the future.

As a founder member I well remember the day I signed my application with wholehearted support, and appreciate the heroic efforts of Dr Hunt and his equally enthusiastic colleagues.

Now that the College has a Royal President and a Royal Charter trust in the future is even greater. The retiring President, Dr G. I. Watson, echoed the feelings of us all in his speech.

I was particularly delighted to read the Royal Presidential Address outlining the new dimensions of general practice.

Finally, I would like to suggest that all the foundation members of the College who are still alive and continuing their support should be made fellows in recognition of their continuing support from the earliest days of the College.

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C Road,
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AN ACCURATE PRACTICE REGISTER

Sir,

An accuracy of 0.05 per cent for non-match for identity has been maintained for two years using a card index rather than a ledger.

This compares with a range of between one per cent and 22 per cent non-matches in the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys current study, with the College and the Department of Health.

A conversion table for dates was used (fig. 1) and an extensive trial of more complex tables showed that two decimal places (accurate to half a week) was sufficient in any study of more than 30 patients.

A convention for recording "Mr, Mrs, Miss" has proved that all the members on the list in any such category of age, sex, marital status and relationship to other patients on the list can be studied for many, consecutive, three-month

periods. It remains for one practice to be compared with another over a similar period.

The cards and fuller details are available.

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DECIMAL DATE TABLES 1973

Day	Month											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	.0	09	17	25	33	42	5	59	67	75	84	92
2	01	09	17	25	34	42	5	59	67	75	84	92
3	01	09	17	26	34	42	51	59	68	76	84	92
4	01	1	17	26	34	43	51	59	68	76	85	93
5	01	1	18	26	34	43	51	6	68	76	85	93
6	02	1	18	26	35	43	51	6	68	77	85	93
7	02	1	18	27	35	43	52	6	69	77	85	94
8	02	11	19	27	35	44	52	6	69	77	86	94
9	03	11	19	27	36	44	52	61	69	77	86	94
10	03	11	19	28	36	44	52	61	69	78	86	94
11	03	12	19	28	36	45	53	61	7	78	86	95
12	03	12	2	28	36	45	53	62	7	78	87	95
13	04	12	2	28	37	45	53	62	7	79	87	95
14	04	12	2	29	37	45	54	62	71	79	87	95
15	04	13	2	29	37	46	54	62	71	79	88	96
16	04	13	21	29	37	46	54	63	71	79	88	96
17	05	13	21	3	38	46	54	63	71	8	88	96
18	05	13	21	3	38	46	55	63	72	8	88	97
19	05	14	22	3	38	47	55	63	72	8	89	97
20	06	14	22	3	39	47	55	64	72	81	89	97
21	06	14	22	31	39	47	56	64	72	81	89	97
22	06	15	22	31	39	48	56	64	73	81	89	98
23	06	15	23	31	39	48	56	65	73	82	9	98
24	07	15	23	31	4	48	56	65	73	82	9	98
25	07	15	23	32	4	48	57	65	74	82	9	98
26	07	16	23	32	4	49	57	65	74	82	91	99
27	08	16	24	32	4	49	57	66	74	83	91	99
28	08	16	24	33	41	49	57	66	74	83	91	99
29	08	16	24	33	41	49	58	66	75	83	91	1.
30	08	25	33	41	5	58	66	75	83	92	1.	
31	09	25	42			58	67		84			1.

Examples: (a) $34.81 = 22.10.34$

$38.15 = 22.2.38$

3.34 years difference.

(b) Patients born 61.26, 62.66, 63.73, 65.12 and 70.04 have a mean age of 9.19 on 30.9.73 (73.75).