

### VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHEMES

The following vocational training schemes have now been approved for the purposes of the membership examination of the Royal College of General Practitioners: Barnsley, Cornwall, Harrogate, Lanarkshire, London (Queen Mary's), Northwick Park, Oxford, Scunthorpe, and Watford.

### M.R.C.G.P. EXAMINATION

Two sample modified essay questions are available from the Membership Secretary, Royal College of General Practitioners, 14 Princes Gate, London, SW7 1PU. Price: £1.00.

These will help candidates who have not taken vocational training courses and trainers and course organisers. It would be helpful if members would bring this publication to the attention of candidates and trainees.

Log/diaries are also available for use by trainers and course organisers in instructing candidates; Price 10p each.

### PRACTICE ORGANISATION ROOM

Among the many memoranda on different subjects that can be taken from the practice organisation room, arrangements have been made to type out the script of the last two exhibitions. The practice organisation study continues to display details of some of the most highly organised practices in the country and demonstration tapes are available from the Medical Recording Service.

## *In Memoriam*

### Members

I. J. Sachs, London N.W.8.

E. L. Sergeant, (Founder-member) Poole, Dorset.

J. M. Wingfield, Chulmleigh, Devon.

## MEDICAL NEWS

### Dr J. H. OWEN

Dr John H. Owen, F.R.C.G.P., Chairman of the Welsh Council of the Royal College of General Practitioners, has been admitted to the Druidic Order (White Robe) of Gorsedd of Bards of the Isles of Britain.

### THE MILROY LECTURE 1974

Dr J. Tudor-Hart, F.R.C.G.P., general practitioner, Glyncorwg Health Centre, Glamorgan, delivered the 1974 Milroy Lecture of the Royal College of Physicians of London.

The last time this lecture was delivered by a general practitioner was 1942 by Dr William Pickles.

### UPDATE AWARD WINNERS

Dr J. E. McKnight, F.R.C.G.P., former general practitioner, Northern Ireland, has been awarded the Patrick S. Byrne prize for education in general practice. Dr McKnight is now Postgraduate Dean at the Queen's University, Belfast.

Dr C. A. H. Watts, O.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.G.P., general practitioner, Ibstock, Leicestershire, has been awarded the Richard Scott Prize for research in general practice.

### ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE

Dr Stuart Carne, F.R.C.G.P., general practitioner, London, President of the Section of General Practice of the Royal Society of Medicine, will deliver the Valedictory Address on 16 October 1974.

Other meetings of the Section will include:

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 20 November | Good general practice: icons and iconoclasts                            |
| 18 December | Sex and the general practitioner  |
| 15 January  | Coronary care: home or hospital   |
| 19 February | Patterns and pressures in prescribing                                   |
| 19 March    | Life before death   |
| 16 April    | The general practitioner and the specialist: co-operation and collusion |
| 21 May      | Annual General Meeting<br>Guest speaker: Lord Mancroft                  |
| 18 June     | Albert Wander Lecture<br>by Professor Marshall Marinker                 |

### NEW EDITOR OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL

Dr S. P. Lock has been appointed the Editor of the *British Medical Journal* to succeed Dr M. Ware who is retiring on 1 August, 1975.

### MICHAEL WILLIAMS LECTURE

The Michael Williams Lecture at the Royal Society of Medicine was recently delivered by Professor E. Wilkes, Professor of Community Care and General Practice at the University of Sheffield.

### DR C. A. H. WATTS

Dr C. A. H. Watts, *O.B.E.*, M.D., F.R.C.G.P., general practitioner, Ibstock, Leicestershire, has been elected a member of the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

### DR G. N. MARSH

Dr G. N. Marsh, general practitioner, Stockton on Tees, has been invited to be Visiting Professor in General Practice at the University of Iowa, United States of America, for six months during 1974. Dr Marsh has recently been awarded the degree of M.D. for his thesis on *Team workload in general practice*.

### M.D.

Dr John Marks, general practitioner, Borehamwood, has been awarded an M.D. from Edinburgh University for his thesis on *The history and development of Local Medical Committees, their Conference and its Executive*.

### LUNG CANCER STUDY

The MRC-DHSS Epidemiology and Medical Care Unit is carrying out a study with the Department of Economics at the University of Essex on the implications of smoking for the NHS and the economy as a whole. For lung cancer, information is needed on the extent to which patients use medical and other services outside hospital. Would any general practitioners who may be interested and willing to help with this study please contact the Unit's Director, Dr T. W. Meade, at Northwick Park Hospital, Watford Road, Harrow, HA1 3UJ (01-864 5311) for further details.

### DEATHS FROM WHOOPING COUGH

Dr Owen for the Secretary of State for Social Services reported in Parliament in May, 1974

the deaths from whooping cough among children under one year of age in the United Kingdom were as follows:

1964	..	..	..	..	..	..	35
1965	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
1966	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
1967	..	..	..	..	..	..	41
1968	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
1969	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
1970	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
1971	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
1972	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
1973	..	..	..	(provisional)	..	..	2

### DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN

The National Children's Bureau defines disadvantaged children as those who come from a family which has only one parent *or* contains at least five children *and* had lived in poor housing and had a low income. Six per cent of British and ten per cent of children in Scotland come into this category. It is estimated that 19 per cent of all 11 year-olds in Scotland were disadvantaged as defined in this way.

### WINSTON CHURCHILL MEMORIAL TRUST

The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust now invites applications for Fellowships. There are no age limits and academic or professional qualifications are not needed. Candidates must be citizens of the United Kingdom who wish to travel abroad to widen their knowledge. Applications should be sent between 1 September and 6 November to The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, 15 Queen's Gate Terrace, London SW7.

### MORGANNWG HOSPITAL

The autumn term course of lectures and tutorials on psychological medicine will be held from 4 October to 20 December 1974. Further information can be obtained from Mrs D. Pugsley, Postgraduate Secretary, Morgannwg Hospital, Bridgend, Glamorgan.

### GENERAL PRACTITIONERS AND ABORTION

The Lane Committee has now published its report for the Government on its review of the working of the Abortion Act 1967.

*General Practitioners and Abortion* was the evidence to the Lane Committee by Dr Ann Cartwright and Miss Marjorie Waite, published in full as Supplement No. 1 to the

*Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners*, August 1972.

This can be obtained from the Longman Group, 43-45 Annandale Street, Edinburgh EH7 4AT, price 75p.

### HAMPSHIRE POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL CENTRE

General-practitioner refresher courses will be held on 16-17 November 1974 and 30 November-1 December 1974. Applications should be made to The Secretary, Postgraduate Medical Centre, Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Romsey Road, Winchester, Hampshire.

### CORRECTIONS

In the April issue of the *Journal* the list of new members read: Marcham, P. H. L., Abingdon, Berkshire and should have read: Tate, P. H. L., Marcham, nr Abingdon, Berkshire.

Figure three on page 343 of the May *Journal* contains a transposition error. Patients numbered 323, 330, 350, 356, 367, 371, 374 and 380 should have been included in the group where effective health deteriorated.

### REFERENCE

Williams, E. I. (1974). *Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners*, 24, 341-346.

## CORRESPONDENCE

### THE HANDEDNESS OF KERRS

Sir,

Do the authors on the paper on left-handedness in the Kerr family (June *Journal*) wish to make statements about the Kerr family, or the methods that they used for investigating left-handedness in the Kerr family? Any conclusions that they make about left-handedness in the Kerr family must be made knowing that there is likely to have been a large bias introduced by the method of the survey. This was clearly stated in the paper.

Until evidence can be produced that the group of the Kerr family that responded by providing information is similar to the rest of the Kerr family that did not, the only reasonable conclusions that can be drawn from the material available is that there is an excess of left-handed Kerrs among those who responded to the appeal for information about left handedness in the Kerr family.

If the authors are to undertake further studies of this nature they must surely realise that they must make some effort to check on the bias that their sampling method introduces.

G. KEELE

Darbishire House Health Centre,  
Upper Brook Street,  
Manchester M13 0FW.

### REFERENCE

*Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners* (1974). 24, 437-9.

### ANCILLARY STAFF

Sir,

I have read, with much interest, the report by Dr Ronald Mulroy (May *Journal*) on *Ancillary staff in general practice*, and I suggest that the facts revealed by the Wakefield symposium questionnaire do not reflect much credit on the average

general practitioner—either as a manager of his own affairs or as a humanitarian employer.

The ever-increasing clinical workload of the general practitioner makes it of paramount importance that all non-clinical work should be delegated to properly-trained staff—with the emphasis on 'properly-trained.'

The Association of Medical Secretaries has as its two basic objects the establishment and maintenance of a high standard among medical secretaries and the provision of educational facilities for those employed in, or about to take up, medical secretarial work. A full-time course for school-leavers has been run for several years at colleges all over the United Kingdom—over 70 colleges now mount this course—and anyone fortunate enough to employ one of the Association's diplomates will agree that the standards set, and achieved, are remarkably high.

On the recommendation of its Education Committee and its Advisory Board (the former consisting of representatives of the Departments of Education and Science and of Health and Social Security, with principals and college tutors as well as members of the Association's Council and the latter of representatives from all the Royal Colleges) the Association also now offers a range of other courses—post 'A' level, part-time, day-release and evening classes—to cater for the needs of the majority of interested persons, whether student or in post.

Training is, therefore, available but many general practitioners complacently continue to employ untrained persons—ignoring the benefits which could accrue to their practices were these same employees offered the opportunity to train (for example, more than the 40% in the sample would be complying with the law by having contracts of employment!).

In conjunction with the Royal College of General Practitioners, the Association mounted a pilot