

observations on patients. One solution to such a change is the problem-orientated medical record.

Messrs Keelers have mounted a display on medical instruments and the peak flow meter and gauge in the cabinets, and the leaflets available for visitors to take away have been

increased considerably.

The R.C.G.P. Epidemic Observation Unit has mounted a display on their activities and the Medical Recording Service Foundation have again supplied the study box and tapes to demonstrate their services to general practitioners.

## MEDICAL NEWS

### SIR RONALD GIBSON



Sir Ronald Gibson, C.B.E.

Sir Ronald Gibson, C.B.E., LL.D., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.G.P., General practitioner, Winchester, was appointed Knight Bachelor in the New Year's Honours 1975. He is a former Chairman of the Representative Body of the British Medical Association and subsequently was Chairman of Council for five years. He was later a member of the Compton Committee.

In 1967 he delivered the James Mackenzie Lecture on *Lucerna Pedibus Meis* published in this *Journal*. He has also written several papers, particularly on care of the dying and on health centres, which have been published in the *British Medical Journal* and in other journals.

Sir Ronald Gibson was awarded the Gold Medal of the British Medical Association.

### ST MARY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL



Dr Conrad Harris

Dr Conrad Harris, M.Ed., F.R.C.G.P., D.Obst.R.C.O.G., General practitioner, Manchester, and Senior Lecturer in the Department of General Practice at Manchester University, has been appointed Director of the General Practice Teaching and Research Unit at St Mary's Hospital Medical School. This is a new unit in the Department of Epidemiology and his appointment begins on 1 April 1975.

Dr Harris is 41 and was a principal in general practice in Bootle from 1959-1971. During six of these years he was a member of Bootle Town Council. He is a former member of Council of the Royal College of General Practitioners and is an examiner for the membership. In 1971 he became one of the three fellows of the College who have been appointed under the age of 40. His wife is also a general practitioner.

His publications include *Innominate Science*

*the specialty of general practice, in this Journal in 1970 and Reports from General Practice No. 11, General Practice Teaching of Under-graduates in British Medical Schools.*

**BISHOP'S ADVISER**

The Reverend Walter Hedcock, M.D., M.R.C.G.P., has been appointed by the Bishop of Norwich Bishop's Adviser on Scientific Responsibilities.

Dr Hedcock was formerly Secretary of the General Medical Services Committee of the British Medical Association.

**BACK PAIN**

The Back Pain Association Limited is offering travelling fellowships and research fellowships to enable scientists or clinicians dealing with the problem of pain in the spinal region to undertake work in a United Kingdom Institution. Enquiries should be addressed to the Back Pain Association, Grundy House, Somerset Road, Teddington TW11 8TD

**MARIE CURIE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION**

The seventh annual symposium on *Cancer and the Nation* will be held at The Royal College of Surgeons of England on 13 May 1975. Enquiries should be made to The Marie Curie Memorial Foundation, 124 Sloane Street, London SW1X 9BP.

**FRANCE**

The French Senate had approved new abortion legislation which will make it possible to terminate pregnancies on request up to the tenth week.

It is known that French women are one of the largest groups of foreign nationals seeking abortion in the United Kingdom at the present time and it is expected that one effect of this legislation may be to reduce the number of

French women seeking abortions in the British Isles.

**THE BEAUMONT SOCIETY**

The Beaumont Society is holding a conference in April 1975 at Leicester University on Transvestism and Allied States in the family and society. Enquiries should be sent to Mrs Stephanie Taylor, BM Box 3084-Conference '75, London WC1V 6XX.

**BELFAST CITY HOSPITAL**

An advanced course in general practice will be held at the Medical Biology Centre and Belfast City Hospital on 23 March 1975.

Another course on family planning will be held on April 10 and 11 and after completion of the training practitioners will be eligible to apply for the family planning certificate.

**GENERAL-PRACTITIONER PRINCIPALS**

The December 1974 issue of *The Family Practitioner Services* gives the following figures of the ratio of unrestricted general-practitioner principals in general practice per head of population in the regions of England:

| <i>RHA</i>              | <i>Ratio of GPs to population</i> |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| North-west Thames ..... | 1 : 2094                          |
| South-western .....     | 1 : 2160                          |
| North-east Thames ..... | 1 : 2181                          |
| South-west Thames ..... | 1 : 2212                          |
| South-east Thames ..... | 1 : 2257                          |
| Wessex .....            | 1 : 2302                          |
| East Anglia .....       | 1 : 2328                          |
| Oxford .....            | 1 : 2380                          |
| Yorkshire .....         | 1 : 2394                          |
| West Midlands.....      | 1 : 2408                          |
| Mersey .....            | 1 : 2413                          |
| Northern .....          | 1 : 2430                          |
| North Western .....     | 1 : 2448                          |
| Trent .....             | 1 : 2503                          |