

COMPENDIUM OF DATA SHEETS 1975

THE second edition of this book arrived promptly in the *Journal* office, right up to date and with no information more than six months out of date. Thicker by 200 pages than its predecessor, this one contains such notable names as Abbott, Beecham, Boots and Sandoz, all of whom had previously declined incorporation; the preface can therefore say that the compendium now covers "a very high proportion of those medical products (prescribed by doctors)."

Those of us shown a strange rash or asked about an odd symptom—"Is it those pills I'm taking, doctor?"—will have an even more comprehensive manual in which to delve for information. If the data sheets can be better standardised and if a complete two-way glossary of approved and proprietary names could be included, this book might even begin to rival *Martindale* in usefulness.

We continue to hope that this splendid educational tool will next year attract the remaining self-excluded companies.

WOMEN DOCTORS' RETAINER SCHEME

THE Secretary of State for the Social Services has announced that the Government is now prepared to extend the women doctors' retainer scheme to women working in general practice. This scheme is open to any woman doctor under the age of 55 who fulfils certain educational requirements.

In the past this scheme has been limited to the hospital service, but as a result of consultation with representatives of the professions amendments to the *Statement of Fees and Allowances* are being made so that from 1 April 1975 family practitioner committees will be prepared to reimburse family doctors who employ a member of this scheme at the rate of £6.15 per session up to a maximum of one session per week.

Clinical tutors will arrange for doctors in the scheme to work in practices assessed as suitable by the relevant Regional Postgraduate Education Committee.

Women doctors have for a long time made a major contribution in general practice. This extension of the married women's scheme, outside hospital, should encourage more women into general practice, which is particularly important as so many women are now graduating in medicine. The details could perhaps be improved, but the principle is to be welcomed.

BINDING THE JOURNAL

For many years the printers of the *Journal*, The Devonshire Press Limited, have provided a binding service for the *Journal* with the supplements and annual index.

Despite an increasing number of readers who have asked for their *Journals* to be bound it is regretted that, because of inflation, it has become necessary to increase the charge for binding to £6.00.

Journals, supplements and the index should be sent directly to the Devonshire Press Limited, Barton Road, Torquay, Devon TQ2 7NX.