

requiring probably a minimum of one year in hospital is being considered.

The Council still supports the general policy of introducing mandatory vocational training for general practice by the beginning of 1980.

The Council also recommended that the Postgraduate Training Committee in General Practice should not be a sub-committee of the College Council but should become independent in a way similar to the Joint Committees for Higher Medical Training.

#### HUNTERIAN SOCIETY GOLD MEDAL

The Gold Medal of the Hunterian Society for 1974 has been awarded to Dr Trevor Hudson for his essay on *The Medical Problems of Retirement*.

The subject for the 1975 essay is *The Better Utilisation of Medical and Paramedical skills in Medical Practice*.

This competition is open to all general practitioners resident in the British Isles. Further details can be obtained from Dr Napier Thorne, 96 Harley Street, London W.1.

#### COST OF SLIMMING PILLS

The cost to the National Health Service of appetite suppressant drugs in 1973 was £2,478,926.

#### BALINT

The third International Congress is being held in Paris from 28–30 May 1976. Those interested should apply to 124 Rue de Courcelles, 75017 Paris, France.

Professor Marshall Marinker will deliver the Balint Memorial lecture on *The Academic General Practitioner* on 9 December at 20.00 hours at the Medical Society of London, 11 Chandos Street, London W1Q.

#### GENERAL PRACTICE FINANCE CORPORATION

The General Practice Finance Corporation made 196 separate loans amounting to more than £2¼ million pounds to general practitioners working in the National Health Service during the financial year 1974/75. The Corporation reports a fall in new business after its lending rate on new loans was increased to 17 per cent in August 1974.

During the last year there was “a much higher proportion of applications received for the erection of new specially-built premises rather than for improvements to existing surgeries.

#### EQUIPMENT FOR THE DISABLED

The fourth edition of *Equipment for the Disabled*—a series of illustrated booklets—will be published by the Oxford Regional Health Authority on behalf of the Department of Health and Social Security.

The next booklet will be *Clothing and Dressing* and publication is expected in the late autumn 1975.

Applications should be made to: Equipment for the Disabled, 2 Foredown Drive, Portslade, Sussex BN4 2BB.

#### CORRECTION

In the June *Journal* under the heading of Consultant Psychiatrists a recommendation was reported that there should be one consultant psychiatrist (whole-time equivalent) per 60,000 population. This was wrongly attributed to the Central Manpower Committee and was in fact a recommendation of the Department of Health and Social Security.