

The written papers for these examinations will be held in: London, Newcastle, Manchester, Edinburgh, Cardiff, Belfast, and/or Dublin. Oral examinations are held in London.

Details may be obtained from: Membership Secretary, Royal College of General Practitioners, 14 Princes Gate, London, SW7 1PU.

PRACTICE ORGANISATION ROOM

From 14 October for three months the main display features the activities of the National Society for Mentally Handicapped Children. This Society concentrates on educating and supporting parents of mentally handicapped children and the display will include, not only an account of their activities, but also a large variety of the leaflets and booklets that they produce to explain the causes and treatment

of various types of mental handicap. It is proposed to lend this display to interested Faculties when this is taken down from the P.O.C. Room in January 1976.

A large number of monographs have been written on various aspects of practice organisation. These have recently been augmented by information on vocational training and vocational training schemes.

The Practice Organisation Study continues to attract information from some of the most highly organised practices in Great Britain. It shows their method of organisation and enables general practitioners to identify practices near to his own with much the same features as his own, so that he may visit them and compare organisation methods. All practices in the practice organisation study state that they welcome visitors.

MEDICAL NEWS

SOUTH AFRICAN COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Professor P. S. Byrne *C.B.E.*, *P.R.C.G.P.*, has been appointed an Honorary Fellow of the South African College of Medicine.

Professor Byrne, Dr W. Fabb of Australia, and Dr D. Rice of Canada, were the first three honorary Fellows.

PROFESSOR P. S. BYRNE

Professor P. S. Byrne, *C.B.E.*, *P.R.C.G.P.*, President of the Royal College of General Practitioners, delivered the third Annual Glaxo Oration awarded by the Australian Postgraduate Federation in Medicine.

Professor Byrne's tour of Australia included Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Hobart, Launceston, Canberra, Sydney and Brisbane, and during his visit he appeared in the Australian wireless programme *Guest of Honour*.

DR J. G. R. CLARKE

Dr J. G. R. Clarke, *F.R.C.G.P.* has been elected President of the Section of General Practice of the Royal Society of Medicine.

Dr Clarke is a former member of the Council of the British Medical Association and a former Vice-Chairman of the Council of the Royal College of General Practitioners.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

The Vocational Training Subcommittee of the General Medical Services Committee has recommended to the General Medical Services Committee that in future it should be a condition of appointment for trainers to have passed the *M.R.C.G.P.* examination.

GENERAL-PRACTITIONER PRESCRIPTIONS

The Scottish Home and Health Department (1975) has found that the total number of NHS prescriptions issued by general practitioners for stimulants and appetite suppressants (based on a one per cent sample) was lower in 1973 than in any of the years 1969-1972.

In 1973 for the first time non-barbiturate hypnotics were prescribed more often than barbiturates.

REFERENCE

Scottish Home and Health Department (1975). *Misuse of Drugs in Scotland*. Edinburgh: HMSO.

ADMISSIONS TO MEDICAL SCHOOLS

The University Central Council on Admissions reports that 13,000 school leavers applied for

admission to medical schools in the United Kingdom. Only 3,000 obtained places.

The number of applicants for medical school places has risen steadily in the last few years from 7,500 in 1970 to 13,000 in 1974.

Using a points system of 5 points for an A grade, 4 points for a B grade, and 3 points for a C grade, it appears that under half the successful medical school entrants scored 13-15 on their three A levels and just over half scored 9-12 points.

BALINT CONFERENCE

The Third International Balint Congress will be held in Paris on 28-30 May 1976.

Those interested should apply to 124, rue de Courcelles, 75017 Paris, France.

MEDICAL PRACTICES COMMITTEE

The Medical Practices Committee has decided to change the upper limit for classifying an area as intermediate, so that under-doctored areas may receive a bigger share of additional medical manpower.

The revised standard, which becomes effective on 1 October 1975 will be an average list of between 1,801 and 2,200 (instead of 2,100) after taking account of inflation of doctors' lists, anticipated medical list changes, and the admission of one more principal.

There will be no changes in classifying restricted areas.

REFERENCE

British Medical Journal (1975). 2, 604.

ASTMS

The Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs (ASTMS) is actively recruiting general-practice employee pharmacists.

REFERENCE

Pharmaceutical Journal (1975). 215, 209.

GENERAL PRACTICE FINANCE CORPORATION

The General Practice Finance Corporation received 301 applications for loans in 1974/5 compared with 327 in the previous year.

The average loan was £11,500 and the lending rate is 17 per cent a year.

THE MANAGEMENT OF INCONTINENCE IN THE HOME

A Conference on the Management of Incontinence in the Home is being held on 12 December 1975 in the Department of Geriatric Medicine, University of Manchester, in conjunction with the Disabled Living Foundation.

Those interested should apply to The Disabled Living Foundation, 346 Kensington High Street, London W14 8NS.

CORRESPONDENCE

ORAL CONTRACEPTIVES AND VENOUS THROMBOSIS

Sir,

In the first report¹ from the Royal College of General Practitioners' Oral Contraception Study we emphasised that more data were desirable, and that many analyses called for more extensive consideration.

In November 1974, I indicated that we were re-calculating data on Pill use and venous thrombosis.

These calculations are now complete and a full report is being prepared. The accompanying table corresponds to table 7.3 in our report, and

includes data from an additional two and a half years of observation but, because of the more stringent exclusions, the number of cases is smaller. All women having or developing a medical condition predisposing to venous thrombosis have been excluded entirely. For pregnancy and the puerperium we have excluded the period of observation and associated events from the month after that in which the last menstrual period occurred to the calendar month after the end of the pregnancy, inclusive.

Similarly, for any woman undergoing surgery we have excluded the whole calendar month when the operation was performed and the whole of