

with a view to raising cash to be given to charity, then the normal rules apply.

MRCGP COURSE 1976

The Midland Faculty will be holding a residential *Advanced Course in General Practice*, at University House, Edgbaston Park Road, Birmingham from 5-9 April, 1976. In addition to topics of current interest the programme will cover both the structure and content of the examination and will be designed to assist those doctors who are about to sit for the college membership.

Further details and application forms may be obtained from the Course Organiser, Dr P. J. Travis, Grove Surgery, 3 Grove Road, Solihull, West Midlands, B91 2AG.

SEVENTH WORLD CONFERENCE OF GENERAL PRACTICE

The Royal College of General Practitioners in conjunction with Medical Conference Travel Service has arranged a series of interesting travel packages for members and their families to attend this important Conference which is taking place in Toronto, Canada, from 4-7 October 1976.

A good selection of flights direct from London, Manchester and Glasgow has been arranged at most economical prices—from £109 per person with 25 per cent reduction for children aged two to 11 years.

An extensive travel brochure is at present being prepared and will offer many variations including a one-week conference package at The New Hotel, Toronto, and a series of three eight-day pre-congress and post-congress tours to:

(a) The Laurentian Mountains, Ottawa, Quebec City, Montreal and the St Lawrence Seaway.

(b) Niagara Falls, Montreal, the New England States, Boston and Cape Cod.

(c) Vancouver and the Canadian Rockies.

It is hoped that arrangements can be made with the Inland Revenue for the basic travel package of flight and accommodation in Toronto for the Conference period to be tax deductible.

For all further details and a travel brochure please contact Medical Conference Travel Service, 24 Preston Street, Brighton BM1 2HN.

MEDICAL NEWS

QUEEN'S GALLANTRY MEDAL



Dr and Mrs J. P. Norris

Dr John Phillips Norris, M.R.C.G.P., General practitioner, Salisbury, Wiltshire, has been

presented at Buckingham Palace with the Queen's Gallantry Medal.

At 1600 hours on 30 July 1974 Dr Norris was called to a caravan where he found a man who had tied a social worker with his head under "a substantial and well constructed guillotine, capable of being activated from a distant corner of the caravan by means of a cord".

Dr Norris himself was threatened with a gun, knocked down, and stunned. He too, was gagged, blindfolded, and tied to the ground by a seriously deranged man.

At 1000 hours the following morning this man said he was prepared to allow Dr Norris to leave the caravan, but he refused to go without the social worker. The police were by now involved and subsequently Dr Norris and one of the senior police officers were together able to seize the man, who was overpowered by other police officers and arrested.

Subsequently it was found that the caravan had been carefully prepared for this incident,

with bolts for securing the hostages, bars at the windows, and a raised lookout had been cut in the roof. A loaded air rifle and a quantity of ammunition were also found and the caravan was fitted underneath with an explosive device primed to explode.

REFERENCE

The London Gazette (1975). Supplement, 15 August.

Photograph by kind permission of the *Salisbury Times and Journal*.

AUSTRALIA

Dr M. O. Kent-Hughes, Melbourne, Australia, has been awarded the second Rose Hunt award.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF
GENERAL PRACTICE

The 20th International Congress of the International Society of General Practice (S.I.M.G.) will be held at the Hilton Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon, from 28 April to 1 May 1976.

Those interested should write to the Congress Secretariat, Gable End, Well Lane, Butley Town, Prestbury, Cheshire.

MATERNAL DEATHS

In the three years 1970-72 inclusive there were 355 reported maternal deaths, a rate of 15.4 per 100,000 maternities. This is the lowest so far recorded.

The four main causes of death were abortion (81 deaths), pulmonary embolism (61), toxæmia (47), and ectopic pregnancy (34). Uterine haemorrhage for the first time ceased to be one of the top four causes of death.

This is the first time a three-year period has been surveyed since the 1967 Abortion Act

came into operation. The rate of death from legal abortion fell from 12.7 per 100,000 in 1970 to 8.1 per 100,000 in 1972.

PHARMACY CLOSURES

The net number of pharmacy closures during September 1975, was 23 and the total for 1975 to the end of September was 231 compared with 165 in the same period in 1974.

REFERENCE

Pharmaceutical Journal (1975). 215, 423.

THE HEALTH SERVICE IN WALES

The number of still-births in Wales in 1974 was the lowest ever recorded, corresponding to a rate of 11.6 per 1,000 total births.

The 1,354 general medical practitioners in Wales had an average list size of 2,189.

The prescriptions dispensed through the Family Practitioner Committee Services cost over £1 per prescription and amounted to about eight prescriptions per head of the population per year.

The number of trainee practitioners in Wales rose from 17 in 1970 to 42 in 1974.

BRITISH NATIONAL FORMULARY

The Pharmaceutical Society and the British Medical Association (who are the copyright holders of the British National Formulary) have been informed by the Department of Health and Social Security that the Medicines Commission has recommended that a committee should be established under Section 4 of the Medicines Act to "take over responsibility for the *British National Formulary*".

REFERENCE

Pharmaceutical Journal (1975), 215, 393.