

MEDICINES' REVIEW COMMITTEE

Membership of the Committee on the Review of Medicines has now been announced and the Chairman will be Sir Eric Scowen, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.P.Ed., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.Path.

Drs J. Day, M.R.C.G.P., General Practitioner, London, and W. O. Williams, O.B.E., B.Sc., M.D., F.R.C.G.P., General Practitioner, Swansea, have been appointed members.

**EMERGENCY BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS
FOR CHILDREN**

The Scottish Home and Health Department have now issued a circular to Health Boards about the procedure to be followed where parents refuse to give permission for emergency treatment to their children.

Doctors are advised that they should obtain a statement from the parents saying they understand the risk and continue to refuse permission; the doctor should then ask a medical colleague to give his written supporting opinion that the child's life is in danger. Thereafter the doctor should proceed to treat the child in accordance with his clinical judgment.

In the past doctors in this situation have often applied to the Reporter to the Children's

Panel to have the child taken into the care of the local authority under the 1968 Social Work (Scotland) Act. This procedure is time-consuming and does not in any case remove the need to obtain parents' consent to treatment. The circular recommends that this practice should not be followed in future.

THE PHOBICS SOCIETY

The Phobics Society is a body dedicated to helping anyone who suffers from irrational fears, severe enough to interfere with day-to-day living. The address is 4 Cheltenham Road, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester M21 1GN.

**NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE
AMBULANCEMEN**

The National Health Service Ambulancemen have negotiated through their Whitley Council a settlement for £6 a week flat rate for all grades of ambulance men.

This will cost about £5 million pounds, covers about 16,500 ambulance men in Great Britain, and will last for 12 months from 1 January 1976.

Obituary**GERARD VINCENT O'CONNOR**

M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., M.R.C.G.P.

Dr Gerard Vincent O'Connor died on 17 October, 1975 aged 71. He had worked, apart from a wartime break in the Royal Army Medical Corps, in the same Sheffield practice for 45 years. He was a founder member of the College.

In that simple statement can be contained little of the debt which the College of today owes to those original few hundred general practitioners 23 years ago. G. V. O'Connor ought to be remembered in these pages as their representative. He was never what is termed an 'important' member; he never sat on the committees of the College or its boards or working parties, but from the grimmest and most depressed part of general practice—a very poor working-class housing

estate in a filthy Northern city—he could see beyond the confusion and enormously heavy sheer hard labour of the National Health Service's early years and could realise that a College which the general practitioner could call his own needed his support. This he gave with what obituarists are wont to call "his characteristic generosity". In G. V.'s case the quotation marks are unnecessary. His partners and his receptionists felt a reflected glow of pride at the testimonies given by his old patients as they have come to surgery in the days after his death. His generosity was indeed characteristic.

When he came to retire, rather than simply leave his branch-surgery practice to be advertised as a small single-handed vacancy, he took in a partner, gave him a completely free hand in organisation and worked with