

VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHEMES

The Royal College of General Practitioners has approved the Chelmsford Vocational Training Scheme for the purpose of its membership examination. It has also re-approved the Swansea, Ilford, and Banbury (Horton Hospital) Training Schemes for a further period of five years.

EXAMINATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE COLLEGE

The dates for the next two MRCGP examinations are as follows:

October/December 1976

Written papers: Thursday, 4 November 1976
Orals: week ending 18 December 1976
Closing date: 7 October 1976.

May/July 1977

Written papers: Friday, 20 May 1977
Orals: week ending 2 July 1977
Closing date: 14 April 1977.

MEDICAL RECORDING SERVICE FOUNDATION

The new address for correspondence for the Medical Recording Service Foundation is P.O. Box 99, Chelmsford, CM1 5HL.

The Service has recorded an additional 35 new titles of tape slides, recorded by eminent people in the medical world.

Among new titles available from the Service in the summer of 1976 are:

So you want to do research by Mrs Joan Mant. Advice on how general practitioners can carry out valuable research with simple techniques. (19 minutes).

Should a doctor tell? by Dr F. R. Gusterson. Personal opinions of what a patient should be told with terminal malignant disease. No slides. (26 minutes).

The Premenstrual Syndrome by Dr Katharina Dalton. The premenstrual syndrome is thought to be the world's commonest disease and may affect as many as half of all women. (13 slides, 20 minutes).

MEDICAL NEWS**UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE**

Dr B. B. Reiss

Dr B. B. Reiss, M.R.C.P., M.R.C.G.P., has been appointed Director of General-Practice Studies at the University of Cambridge.

Dr Reiss, who is aged 50, qualified at the University of Oxford and University College Hospital, and held junior appointments at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London. He spent a year in the United States of America on a Fulbright Travel Award as a Resident in Medicine at St. Luke's Hospital, New York.

He entered general practice in Cambridge in 1959 and subsequently became Secretary of the Education Committee of the East Anglia Faculty of the Royal College of General Practitioners. He was awarded an Upjohn Travelling Fellowship in 1970 and was President of the Cambridge Society for the Study of Comparative Medicine in 1972 and President of the Cambridge Medical Society in 1973.

He held the post of Regional Adviser in General Practice for East Anglia from 1973 to 1976 and has written papers on virus infections in the community published in the *British Medical Journal* and the *Journal of Hygiene*.

SIR CHARLES HASTINGS PRIZE

The Sir Charles Hastings Prize, awarded annually by the British Medical Association for systematic observation, research, and record in general practice, has been won by Dr T. A. Madden, of Peckham, London, SE15 for his essay on *Adverse Penicillin Reactions in the Records of a General Practice, 1973-75*.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON

Professor D. C. Morrell, F.R.C.G.P., M.R.C.P., general practitioner, London, and Professor of General Practice, St Thomas's Hospital Medical School, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE: SECTION OF GENERAL PRACTICE

The following Officers have been nominated for the 1976/77 session: *President*: E. M. Shipsey, M.R.C.G.P. *Honorary Secretaries*: J. D. Cohen, M.R.C.G.P., St J. Dowling, M.D.

HEALTH EDUCATION COUNCIL

Sir George Godber, G.C.B., M.D., F.R.C.P., Hon. F.R.C.G.P. has been appointed Chairman of the Health Education Council, with effect from 1 January 1977.

Sir George Godber's appointment as Chairman will be non-executive and unpaid.

COMPULSORY VOCATIONAL TRAINING

The National Health Service (Vocational Training) Bill has now been published. This will require doctors in England, Scotland, and Wales to have prescribed medical experience before they can become principals (not locums or assistants) providing general medical services with the British National Health Service.

Details of the required experience will be outlined in regulations, after consultation with the medical profession and other interested bodies. The timetable for implementing the Bill is also subject to consultation and will take account of the need to allow doctors to plan their careers in the light of the new arrangements.

The government believes that this development, which has been encouraged by successive governments, is a significant contribution to the improvement of standards in primary medical care.

HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS

The number of in-patients spells in National Health Service hospitals in England and Wales in 1973 decreased by two per cent compared with 1972, interrupting a continuous rise during recent years.

Spells of maternity care were four per cent down compared with 1972, but they still accounted for one fifth of the total and constituted the largest diagnostic group with over 9,000,000 hospital spells in 1973. The next largest group were diseases of the digestive system and respiratory system (nearly ten per cent and over eight per cent respectively).

GENERAL-PRACTITIONER PREMISES

"Nevertheless only 15 per cent of practitioners are at present working from health centres in England, although this proportion should increase by about two and a half per cent each year. For the foreseeable future reliance will be placed on the majority of family doctors themselves providing premises for primary health care."

REFERENCE

Department of Health and Social Security (1976). *On the State of the Public Health for the year 1974*. p. 89. London: H.M.S.O.

GENERAL-PRACTITIONER TRAINERS

"The number of appointed general-practitioner trainers now approaches the annual number of new entrants into general practice, so that what a mere five years ago seemed a pipe dream has now become a practical possibility."

REFERENCE

Department of Health and Social Security (1976). *On the State of the Public Health for the year 1974*. p. 79. London: H.M.S.O.

TEMPORARY REGISTRATION ASSESSMENT BOARD

The General Medical Council has reported the results obtained by the first 1,000 candidates in the tests of the Temporary Registration Assessment Board, up to and including February 1976. The total pass rate was 34.5 per cent.

The country with the largest number of candidates was India, with 236 and a pass rate of 42.3 per cent, followed by Egypt with 215 candidates and a pass rate of 21.4 per cent.

Of the nations which contributed at least 20 candidates, those with the highest percentage pass rates were Nigeria (71 per cent) and Iraq (48 per cent), and those with the lowest pass rates were Iran (nine per cent) and the U.S.S.R. (four per cent).

MALARIA

The number of cases of malaria notified in England and Wales has risen from 62 cases in 1966 to 607 cases in 1974.

WINSTON CHURCHILL MEMORIAL TRUST

The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust is again offering some travelling fellowships which will be competed for between September and November 1976. A limited number of awards will be made for outstanding or unusual projects. Enquiries should be addressed to: The Trust Office Administrator, 15 Queen's Gate Terrace, London, SW7 5PR.

STATEMENTS TO REPLACE MEDICAL CERTIFICATES

Medical evidence given by family doctors to patients claiming sickness benefit and other social security incapacity benefits will be provided in a new form, with effect from October 1976.

The present medical certificate will be replaced by a doctor's statement recording the advice to his patient on refraining from work. The change is designed to represent the doctor's role more accurately, while ensuring that the evidence the patient needs is available when he claims sickness or injury benefit, invalidity pension, or non-contributory invalidity pension.

Doctors will have more flexibility in the issue of such statements than has been possible previously for medical certificates.

RECIPROCAL HEALTH CO-OPERATION BETWEEN BRITAIN AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA

British citizens visiting Czechoslovakia are now entitled to receive urgent medical treatment free under the reciprocal health co-operation agreement between Britain and Czechoslovakia which came into force in May 1976.

Britain now has similar agreements with Austria, Bulgaria, the Channel Islands, Gibraltar, Malta, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Rumania, Sweden, U.S.S.R., and Yugoslavia.

REGISTRATION FEES FOR PHARMACISTS' PREMISES

The annual fee for the registration of pharmacy premises goes up from £8 to £16 a year as a result of parliamentary legislation, with effect from June 1976.

PRIVATE MEDICAL SCHOOL

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland recently opened an extension to its medical school which is the only private medical school in Ireland or Great Britain.

The President of Ireland, Cearbhall O'Dalaigh opened the building on 27 April 1976.

DOCTORS' PAY

In the sixth report the Independent Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration has reported its recommendations taking effect on 1 April 1976. All doctors and dentists earning £8,500 a year or more receive no award at all, in accordance with the present government's national incomes policy. Doctors earning under this sum will be paid a cash supplement of up to £312 a year, subject to the cut-off point. As a consequence of this, just over half of all doctors and dentists will receive any increase and for them the average rise will be six per cent.