

Coronary Heart Disease and the Lipid Story by Dr David Patterson. Number 76-43. Eight slides, 32 minutes.

Drugs in Old Age by Dr M. K. Thomp-

son. Number 76-58. No slides, 21 minutes.

Immobility Problems in Old Age by Dr M. K. Thompson. Number 76-59. No slides, 22 minutes.

MEDICAL NEWS

DR DOROTHY SANDERSON

Dr Dorothy Sanderson, F.R.C.G.P., D.R.C.O.G., has been appointed Lecturer in Primary Medical Care at the University of Southampton.

Dr Sanderson graduated in 1953 from the Westminster Medical School and has been working for the last 18 years in general practice in Coventry. She has participated in both undergraduate and postgraduate teaching in general practice and in organising postgraduate medical education. She was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of General Practitioners in 1974 and her main outside interests include philately. It is thought that she is the first woman to be appointed to a full-time lectureship at a department of general practice in the United Kingdom.

DR J. C. MURDOCH

Dr J. C. Murdoch, M.R.C.G.P., has been appointed Senior Lecturer in the Department of General Practice, University of Dundee. Dr Murdoch is at present a principal in a National Health Service practice in Lenzie. He has been working in association with Professor Barber's Department and is currently engaged in research into Down's syndrome.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE— SECTION OF GENERAL PRACTICE

The President of the Section of General Practice of the Royal Society of Medicine for the year 1976-77 is Dr E. M. Shipsey, M.R.C.G.P., General Practitioner, Beckenham.

The Albert Wander Lecture will be delivered by Dr D. G. Wilson, O.B.E., F.R.C.G.P., General Practitioner, Bushey, Herts, on 15 June 1977.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON POSTGRADUATE TRAINING FOR GENERAL PRACTICE

The chairmen of the councils for postgraduate medical education in the United Kingdom have issued a statement that they consider the new Joint Committee on Postgraduate Training for General Practice to be the proper body "to assume responsibility for setting standards of training in general practice."

The Joint Committee on Postgraduate Training for General Training and the Royal College of General Practitioners has now approved the West Cumbria and Windsor vocational training schemes for a period of two years.

The following vocational training schemes have been re-approved for a period of five years: Barnsley, Doncaster, Guy's, and Romford.

HEALTH CENTRES IN SCOTLAND

There are now 83 health centres in Scotland, catering for three quarters of a million people.

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

A working party, originally initiated by Dr David Owen, Minister of State at the Department of Health and Social Security, at the end of 1975, has now reported on the structure and functions of the Department of Health and Social Security.

The working party concluded that the complexity of the organisation is almost totally baffling and the result is wasteful confusion. It suggests that in the extent of its consultation the Department is, perhaps, unique in Whitehall, and a sizeable proportion of its work is self-inflicted.

The team concluded that much of the

information that was being demanded was quite unnecessary and that there was little control over the volume and content of documents flowing from the Department. "In part this seems to us the result of having large numbers of specialists within the Department who are obliged, because they have been appointed for the purpose, to produce something."

Mr Ennals, Secretary of State for the Social Services, has commented that it is unusual for a government department to expose itself to public comment and, while the report was not a blueprint for change, it was a helpful contribution to the necessary task of identifying any changes needed and finding the best way of achieving them.

REFERENCE

The Times (1976). 10 September. P. 4.

NUMBER OF GENERAL PRACTICES

It has been estimated that there are now about 11,000 separate general practices in the National Health Service in the United Kingdom.

EXPENDITURE ON FAMILY PRACTITIONER SERVICES

The September issue of *The Family Practitioner Services* lists the total revenue expenditure of Area Health Authorities in England for 1974-75, with the percentage of expenditure on family practitioner services.

REFERENCE

Family Practitioner Services (1976). 3, No. 8, 168-170.

SOCIAL SCIENCE AND MEDICINE

The fifth International Conference on Social Science and Medicine will be held in Nairobi on 8-12 August 1977.

The meeting will have three principal themes: *Economics of Health Care*, *Primary Health Care*, and *Sex and Gender in Health and Medicine*.

The subjects of the sections will include: primary health care in relation to socio-political structure, social care roles of

general practitioners, delivery of primary health care in developing countries, training for primary health care in industrialised societies, and comparative costs of community and hospital care.

Those interested should apply to Dr P. J. M. McEwan, Glengarden Bridge of Gairn, Ballater, Aberdeenshire AB3 5UB.

GOVERNMENT PENSIONS

The annual increase in public service pensions (which includes National Health Service pensions) begins on 1 December 1976.

Pensions beginning on or before 1 July 1975 will be increased by 13.8 per cent.

LEGISLATIVE POWER OVER THE PROFESSIONS

Legislative power in respect of all professions in Scotland except the teaching profession and the legal professions will remain with the Westminster Parliament (Supplementary Government Statement on Devolution).

REFERENCE

Devolution to Scotland and Wales (1976). Supplementary Statement. Command 6585. London: H.M.S.O.

OPEN MEDICINE

A Conference with the theme *Medical Education at the Open University—Why?—How?—When?* arranged by the Open Medicine Trust is to be held on Tuesday, 11 January 1977 at the Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London W1M 8AE. Applications should be sent to Mr Ivor Shipley, O.M.T. Organiser, 3 Pickhurst Lane, Bromley, Kent BR2 7JE. Telephone: 01-462-2216.

CORRECTION

In the August 1976 issue of the *Journal* it was reported that Dr B. B. Reiss qualified at the University of Oxford and worked later at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London. This should have read that he qualified at St. Bartholomew's Hospital in the University of London.