

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.