

'aid' to get closer to Mrs A and allow her to express her feelings of guilt. The success of this does not validate the psychotherapeutic interpretation of Mrs A's subconscious thought processes. After all, there are other ways of arriving at the same successful result. On the evidence available, Mrs A with her previously stable personality might have had a true depressive illness, something perhaps which her husband could not tolerate, and which made her irritable and troublesome with her children and her lodger, and caused pathological guilt. The article does not say whether or not tricyclic antidepressants were prescribed.

Graham and Sher's main summary emphasises the difficult (not "undisclosed") tensions present between the two professions. Surely any tensions are unlikely to be eased by such statements as "... the social worker would act as consultant to the general practitioner . . .". This relationship seems to persist through much of their article and introduces ideas of status and hierarchy which are entirely artificial, if not condescending.

Dr Smith comments on my "aggressive dismissal", when I think he really means my rude dismissal. In a short letter encompassing many ideas, I am afraid this impression is easily, if unwittingly, conveyed. The rest of his highly speculative penultimate paragraph is obviously difficult for me to answer objectively. But it does point to the dangers of the techniques which we are discussing, in that your contributor's ways of thinking can lead to almost automatic, mechanical conclusions which at the very least require scientific verification.

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#### REFERENCES

- Brook, A. & Temperley, Jane (1976). *Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners*, **26**, 86-94.  
Smith, C. W. L. (1976). *Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners*, **26**, 574-575.  
Maycock, C. (1976). *Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners*, **26**, 358.

#### CONVERTING MEDICAL RECORDS

Sir,

I agree with Dr Cormack that letters in the medical records should be arranged in chronological order before being thinned out (August *Journal*).

In January 1970 I decided to go through the medical records of the 4,500 patients who are looked after by my wife and me, thinning out repetitive letters, discarding pathology reports which were no longer of value, and case notes which were illegible. This exercise took me two years in my spare time. Two main advantages were that the information contained in the records was much more readily avail-

able and that the storage space for the records was reduced by about 20 per cent.

Since then I have continued to thin out the records for new patients as they come in, and a side benefit has been that one does not miss significant information about a new patient.

Using this method I find the present envelopes very convenient and I am not in favour of changing to the large A4 folders.

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#### REFERENCE

- Cormack, J. (1976). *Royal College of General Practitioners*, **26**, 576.

#### UGANDA FACULTY

Sir,

As the Founder Secretary of the Uganda Faculty, and having been as well secretary for nearly seven years, and provost for one, I hope you will allow me to comment on Dr M. J. Aylett's letter (August *Journal*).

Like Dr Aylett, I also hope that one day the Uganda Faculty will form again, although I have very serious doubts about this ever happening during the next decade. Almost all the expatriate members are now settled outside Uganda. I have been in contact with some of the members who are now settled in this country, and none has so far indicated his desire to go back. So the only possibility is that the local African doctors may in future become members of the College and form a Faculty.

We all are very grateful to Dr E. R. Gibbons for the excellent service he has rendered to the Faculty. We admire the way in which he has sent out the gifts from the remaining funds in Uganda. I am sure that, but for his efforts, these funds would have been frozen by the Amin Government.

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#### REFERENCES

- Aylett, M. J. (1976). *Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners*, **26**, 574.  
*Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners* (1976). **26**, 353.

#### PAYMENT FOR PASSING THE M.R.C.G.P. EXAMINATION

Sir,

Within the next few weeks I am entering a partnership in general practice in the south-east area of London and find that although I have managed to pass the examination to become a Member of the College, this is in no way recognised in terms of additional remuneration by the government.

If I had been vocationally trained and undertaken a year as a trainee assistant, I would be entitled to a considerable annual emolument.