

DR S. J. CARNE



At the Seventh World Conference on General Practice held in Toronto from 4 to 7 October 1976, Dr S. J. Carne, FRCGP, General Practitioner, London, was elected President of the World Organization of National Colleges, Academies and Academic Associations of General Practitioners/Family Physicians (WONCA).

Dr Stuart Carne has been a member of the Council of the Royal College of General Practitioners for many years and is at present Honorary Treasurer of the College.

He was awarded the Foundation Council Award in 1975 and is the author of several articles on sickness certification and child care. He is also Consultant in General Practice to the Royal Air Force.

This is the first time a British General Practitioner has been elected President of WONCA.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners has appointed Dr Donald Irvine, FRCGP, as its first Visiting Professor.

Dr Irvine is in general practice in Ashington, Northumberland, and is part-time Regional Adviser in General Practice at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne.

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners hopes that this

appointment will enable Dr Irvine to visit every state in Australia, and is an indication of its continuing interest in the contribution which the discipline of general practice can make to medical education.

Dr Irvine is Honorary Secretary of the Council of the Royal College of General Practitioners and one of the College's examiners for the membership examination. He is joint author of *The Future General Practitioner - Learning and Teaching*, and has written several papers including *Reports from General Practice Number 15 - Teaching Practices*, which was published in 1972.

He was William Pickles Lecturer in 1975 and a member of the Government committee, under the chairmanship of Dr Merrison, which reported in 1975 on the regulation of the medical profession.

DR C. R. HART

Dr C. R. Hart, MA, D.LITT., MRCGP, FR.HIST.S, General Practitioner, Yaxley, Peterborough, has received the first substantive D.LITT. degree to be awarded within the Arts Faculty of the University of Leicester, for his publications on history and medicine. Dr Hart has written two books: *The Early Charters of Eastern England*, and *The Early Charters of Northern England and the North Midlands*.

Dr Hart was formerly a research student in the Department of English and Local History at the University of Leicester, where he specialized in Anglo-Saxon history and the early history of English science and medicine. He was elected FR.HIST.S, in 1957 and received the first MA degree to be awarded by the new university.

He has also edited *Screening in General Practice* and is editing another book, *Child Care in General Practice*, which will be published soon.

CHIEF NURSING OFFICER IN SCOTLAND

Miss Margaret G. Auld, M.PHIL., SRN, SCM, MTD, has been appointed Chief Nursing Officer to the Scottish Home and Health Department with effect from January 1977.

HEALTH EDUCATION COUNCIL

The Health Education Council has appointed Dr George Cust, MFCM, DPH,

DTM&H as Chief Medical Officer. He succeeds the late Dr Arthur Dalzell-Ward.

Dr Cust is 49 and was formerly Regional Specialist in Community Medicine at the North-West Thames Regional Health Authority.

HEALTH SERVICE IN SCOTLAND

Membership of the Chief Scientist Organization

Professor J. D. E. Knox, of the Department of General Practice, University of Dundee, was a member of the Chief Scientist's Organization in Scotland in the year beginning 1976.

Reference

Health Bulletin (1976). 34, 302.

Age on first appointment

The Scottish Home and Health Department has reported the age on first appointment as a consultant or principal in general practice in the NHS in Scotland in the year 1975:

Age	Consultant	Principal
Under 30	3	103
30-34	36	46
35-39	24	27
40-44	6	15
45-49	4	3
50-54	3	9
55-59	—	3
Average age		Average age
36.1 years		34.8 years

Reference

Howitt, L. F. (1976). *Medical staffing in the National Health Service in Scotland. Health Bulletin*, 34, Table 3, 267.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

The Medical School of the University of Edinburgh has been celebrating the 250th anniversary of its founding.

The Royal Scottish Museum has mounted a special exhibition entitled 'Edinburgh and Medicine' which traces Edinburgh's medical history from the earliest days to the present. This exhibition is open until the end of January.

In addition an illustrated catalogue of the exhibition and the proceedings of the symposium, 'The Early Years of the Edinburgh Medical School', are available. Further information can be obtained from A. D. C. Simpson Esq., Assistant Keeper, The Royal Scottish Museum, Chambers Street, Edinburgh.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON POSTGRADUATE TRAINING FOR GENERAL PRACTICE

The Joint Committee on Postgraduate Training for General Practice and the Royal College of General Practitioners have now re-approved the following vocational training schemes for a period of five years: Carshalton, Cork, St Bartholomew's Hospital, St Charles's Hospital, and Watford.

All these schemes are recognized by the Royal College of General Practitioners for the purposes of the MRCGP examination.

SENIOR HOUSE OFFICERS IN SCOTLAND 1975

The percentage distribution of senior house officers by years in that grade in Scotland in 1975 was as follows:

Under 1 year	60.2
1—2 years	25.0
2—3 years	9.4
More than 3 years	5.5

Reference

Howitt, L. F. (1976). *Medical Staffing in the National Health Service in Scotland*, *Health Bulletin*, 34, 269.

JOINT MEETING OF COLLEGES OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

The Third Joint Meeting of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, the New Zealand College of General Practitioners, the Colleges of General Practitioners Singapore, Philippines, Hong Kong and Malaysia, will be held from 8 to 11 September 1977 in Kuala Lumpur.

The World Organization of National Colleges, Academies and Academic Associations of General Practitioners/Family Physicians (WONCA) will be holding its regional meeting at the same time.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GENERAL PRACTICE

An International Conference on General Practice will be organized by the International Society of General Practice (SIMG), from 19 to 22 May 1977. The Conference will be held in the university city of Marburg, and enquiries should be addressed to the Congress Office, E-v-Behringstrasse 46, D-3550, Marburg 1, West Germany.

MANDATORY VOCATIONAL TRAINING

The National Health Service (Vocational Training) Bill, which requires medical

practitioners seeking to provide general medical services as principals in the NHS to obtain required medical experience, was read for the third time in Parliament on 29 October 1976.

LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE

In October 1976 the National Conference of the British Labour Party passed a proposal which would require doctors to work for at least five years in the British NHS after qualification.

COMPULSORY STERILIZATION

Draft legislation to enforce compulsory sterilization has been proposed in three Indian states, the Punjab, Haryana and Maharashtra.

THE NHS IS THE PUBLIC'S FIRST PRIORITY

Mr David Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, when addressing the annual study course for members of all health authorities in Blackpool in October, said, 'In my view the National Health Service has gained the respect and confidence of our people to a greater extent than any other public service set up to meet the needs of our people. In the public's view of priorities in public expenditure, the National Health Service heads the list. That is why the Government has protected the Health Service from the most serious effects of public expenditure cuts. It is why the proportion of our national wealth spent on health and personal social services has increased from less than four per cent in 1965/66 to nearly six per cent today.'

USA

American Medical Association

The American Medical Association has elected Dr John H. Budd, a family physician from Cleveland, as its new President-elect.

Death rate

In 1975, for the first time in the history of the USA, the death rate dropped below nine deaths per 1,000 people.

Council of Teaching Hospitals

The Council of Teaching Hospitals reports that 66 per cent of all those graduating from medical schools in 1976 have entered training in one of the primary care specialties.

Reference

American Family Physician (1976). 14, 18.

CANADA

All medical schools in Canada now have residency training programmes in family medicine which have been approved by the College of Family Physicians of Canada.

MEDCOMP

The International Congress on Computing in Medicine will take place from 7 to 10 February 1977 in the Berlin Congress Hall.

The theme is 'Systems Aspects of Health Care Delivery', and there will be 100 contributions from 17 different countries.

Applications should be made to Online Conferences Limited, Cleveland Road, Uxbridge UB8 2DD.

CHILD-RESISTANT CONTAINERS

Regulations were laid before Parliament in October 1976 requiring that aspirin and paracetamol when sold over the counter should be in child-resistant containers.

PRESCRIBING BY GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

The Secretary of State for Social Services, Mr David Ennals, speaking at Norwich said: 'There is only one area of expenditure in the National Health Service which is open-ended, and that is the prescription of drugs by family doctors. It is the doctor who prescribes: but the more one doctor uses, the less there is for other doctors to use. If prescribing costs go up, cuts have to be made elsewhere if we are to keep within stated public expenditure limits over the years.'

THE INSTITUTE OF FAMILY PSYCHIATRY

An introductory course in family psychiatry for general practitioners will be held from 18 to 22 April 1977.

Further information can be obtained from the Secretary of the Institute of Family Psychiatry, Ipswich Hospital, 23 Henley Road, Ipswich IP1 3TF.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

On 1 July 1975 contraceptive care was introduced into the NHS.

Since that time 2,591 general practitioners have opted to be put on the contraceptive list, and 4,972 on the list of those fitting intrauterine devices.