

General Practitioners has played a valuable part in enabling the clinical projects to be examined initially, and we hope that the conference itself may allow the administrative integration of the health service to be followed by increasingly effective clinical integration.

It was encouraging to see the community physician directly involved in clinical studies with practical evidence of ways in which he can facilitate the care of populations through screening programmes, in close association with colleagues in general practice and in hospital.

The conference was realistic in recognizing the wide range of interests and skills in general practice, and resisted the temptation to recommend rigid structures into which the pattern of care for the conditions being studied should be moulded; but enough evidence was presented to suggest that close co-operation between the three branches of the profession can offer significant improvement in the quality of care.

In his summing-up of the conference, Sir Andrew Kay, Chief Scientist of the Scottish Home and Health Department, warned the delegates not to allow individual clinical responsibility to be offered up on the altar of closer integrated care. He felt that attitudes in the profession were now much more conducive to assessment and he called for changes in the style of teaching to accommodate this change, illustrating his own experience in Glasgow where Professor Barber and he conduct joint clinical teaching sessions. He called for the restoration of the former ethos of the medical profession, which he felt had been eroded in recent years due to the improvement in quality control which the working groups would continue to promote.

He congratulated the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh in promoting the conference through the wise counsel of the President, Dr John Crofton.

ALASTAIR G. DONALD

## Association of University Teachers of General Practice

**T**HE Annual Scientific Meeting of the Association of University Teachers of General Practice took place in Newcastle on 8 and 9 July 1976. Over 50 members and guests attended.

After a brief welcome from the Dean of the Medical Faculty, Professor J. N. Walton, the opening paper entitled 'Sore Throats Again?' was presented by Dr J. G. R. Howie (Aberdeen). Continuing the theme for the opening session of clinical research, Dr C. J. Watkins (St Thomas's Hospital Medical School) spoke of his study on acute lower respiratory disease in the first year of life, and was followed by Dr N. C. H. Stott (Cardiff) describing a double-blind randomized controlled trial of antibiotic therapy in middle respiratory tract infections. As with all papers presented during the two days the concepts expressed and the techniques used provoked vigorous discussion.

The second session contained a mixture of clinical and educational themes. Dr E. M. Clark (Southampton) demonstrated his new computer teaching aid PISCES (Patient Interview Simulation and Linked Computer Evaluation System), Dr J. D. Williamson (Guy's Hospital Medical School) read a paper on digoxin in the community, and Professor D. C. Morrell (St Thomas's Hospital Medical School) talked on the general practitioner's role in obstetric care.

The morning session on the second day was devoted to various aspects of undergraduate teaching. Two

papers were presented from the Glasgow department, Dr D. R. Hannay speaking on behavioural and clinical teaching in general practice, and Dr T. S. Murray on the use and evaluation of recording booklets. Dr J. R. Ashton (Southampton) used videotape to illustrate his talk on teaching interview technique, and Professor P. S. Byrne (Manchester) rounded off the programme with a paper on an analysis of verbal behaviour in the consultation, delivered in characteristic manner.

The final session took the form of a debate on the desirability of university practices in academic departments. Professor D. C. Morrell (St Thomas's Hospital Medical School) and Dr D. H. H. Metcalfe (Nottingham) presented working papers, and the hour available for discussion clarified only the difficulty of producing any one answer to fit all the various local problems faced by new university developments.

At the Annual Business Meeting which followed, the following were elected to the Executive Committee for the session 1976 to 1977: Professor J. H. Barber (Chairman), Dr J. G. R. Howie (Secretary), Dr H. W. K. Acheson, Dr D. H. H. Metcalfe, Dr J. S. K. Stevenson, and Dr N. C. H. Stott.

The next Annual Scientific Meeting will take place in Glasgow on 14 and 15 July 1977.

J. G. R. HOWIE