

on A4 records and other more advanced forms of record-keeping now replaces the one showing FP5 and FP6. It is also proposed to mount a display on influenza, which is being lent by the Swansea Research Unit.

Messrs Keeler have mounted a new display in the cabinets, and the Medical Recording Service have arranged for a number of tapes to be available for visitors to hear on the study unit in the POC room.

The face of general practice has changed in the ten years that the Practice Organization Study has been running, and it is desirable to reflect some of the current changes. Participants in the Practice Organization Study will therefore receive a new questionnaire soon, which will allow us to demonstrate more information about their practices.

The Practice Organization Committee (Study Group) has printed a report on appointment systems in general practice, which reviews current practices and recommendations on the optimum use of appointment systems. It is obtainable from the Secretary to the Practice Organization Committee, 14 Princes Gate, London SW7 1PU, price £1.50.

A number of portable displays on practice organization themes are also available for loan on application to the Secretary at the above address.

SUMMARY OF COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

A meeting of Council was held immediately after the Annual General Meeting, at 14 Princes Gate, Hyde Park, on 20 November 1976. The following officers were elected:

Chairman, Dr M. J. Linnett.

Vice-Chairman, Dr A. G. Donald.

Deputy Vice-Chairman, Dr R. MacG. Aitken.

Honorary Treasurer, Dr S. J. Carne.

Honorary Secretary, Dr D. H. Irvine.

The Council discussed its procedure for co-options and agreed to amend its previous policy which excluded the possibility of co-opting to the Council a member of the College who had gained insufficient votes for election at the Annual General Meeting. It was decided that in future members of Council who are not re-elected at the AGM should not normally be eligible for co-option.

The Council then decided to co-opt Drs K. J. Bolden and D. M. Wilks.

The report of the Annual General Meeting appears on page 113.

MEDICAL NEWS

NEW ZEALAND

Dr W. N. Clay, General Practitioner, Auckland, New Zealand, has been elected President of the New Zealand College of General Practitioners.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON ADVERSE REACTIONS

Dr V. W. M. Drury, FRCGP, General Practitioner, Bromsgrove, and Senior Clinical Tutor in General Practice at the University of Birmingham, has been appointed a member of the Sub-Committee on Adverse Reactions of the Committee on Safety of Medicines.

PERSONAL SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

Dr Stuart Carne, FRCGP, General Practitioner, London, has been elected one of the representatives of the Central Health Services Council on the Personal Social Services Council.

Dr Stuart Carne is the Honorary Treasurer of the Royal College of General Practitioners. He is the author of the book *Paediatric Care*, published in 1976, and President of WONCA.

OPHTHALMIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dr Douglas Millington, MRCGP, DO, General and Ophthalmic Medical Practitioner, Birmingham, has been appointed a member of the Standing Ophthalmic Advisory Committee of the Department of Health and Social Security.

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

Dr B. W. McGuinness, FRCGP, of Liverpool, has been appointed Academic Sub-dean, Faculty of Medicine, at the University of Liverpool. It is thought that this is the first time an appointment has been made as Academic Sub-dean jointly with a Senior Lectureship in General Practice.

THE QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY OF BELFAST

Dr R. L. Miller, B.Sc, MD, MRCGP, DRCOG, has been appointed Senior Lecturer in General Practice in the Department of General Practice at the Queen's University of Belfast, with effect from 1 February 1977.

UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE

Dr J. Campbell Murdoch, MRCGP, General Practitioner, Kirkintilloch, has been appointed Senior Lecturer in the Department of General Practice at the University of Dundee. During the last three years Dr Murdoch has been tutor with the Department of General Practice at the University of Glasgow.

UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

Dr S. L. Barley, MRCGP, General Practitioner, Sheffield, has been appointed part-time lecturer in the Department of Community Medicine, University of Sheffield.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

The Prime Minister has approved the appointment of Mr R. E. Radford as Deputy Secretary and Principal Finance Officer of the Department of Health and Social Security.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Dr Pritam S. Sahni was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from

Oxford University in October 1976 for work during the last two years on metabolic and hormonal features of acute myocardial infarction in relation to clinical course. Dr Sahni practises in Kuwait and has been a member of the Royal College of General Practitioners since 1965.

BACK PAIN

The Department of Health and Social Security has formed a new working group under the chairmanship of Professor A. Cochrane to study back pain. The membership includes three general practitioners, Dr M. E. Barker of Stamford, Dr C. A. Pragnell of London, and Dr D. J. Price of Walton-on-Thames.

HEALTH SERVICES BILL

The Health Services Bill, which will separate private pay beds from NHS hospitals, received the Royal Assent in November 1976. The first effect will be the phasing out within six months of 1,000 of the total of 4,444 pay beds at present within the NHS.

Thereafter, progressive phasing out of the remaining pay beds will be in the hands of an Independent Health Services Board, consisting of a chairman and four other members appointed by the Secretary of State. The composition will include two doctors and two persons appointed after consultation with other NHS staff and patient interests.

NATIONAL MARRIAGE GUIDANCE COUNCIL

The National Marriage Guidance Council has recently revised three booklists and is prepared to send these to readers of the *Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners*, provided a stamped addressed envelope is enclosed.

The address is: The National Marriage Guidance Council, The Book Department, Herbert Gray College, Little Church Street, Rugby CV21 3AP.

HEALTH AUTHORITY BUDGETS

Mr David Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, warned health authorities in November 1976 that cash limits would be firmly imposed and any excess spending during the year would be deducted from the next year's cash allocation. "It is best to be clear and frank, rather than to leave room for doubt."

COUNSELLING EXCHANGE

The Standing Conference for the Advancement of Counselling is holding an exchange on *Jobs, Non-Jobs, No Jobs—Counselling Realities* from 14 to 16 April 1977. It is relevant to counsellors in all fields. Further information can be obtained from 26 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3HU.

WALES

Infant mortality

In the year 1975 the number of infants dying under one year of age (infant mortality) fell below 500 for the first time.

The actual figure was 492, of whom 127 were attributed to congenital abnormalities, 359 to 'other causes'.

Expectation of life

Expectation of life in Wales at present is 68.0 years for males and 74.6 years for females.

Disciplinary action against general practitioners

In Wales in 1975 there were 38 service committee cases in which general medical practitioners were involved. No breach was found in 34, and in four cases a breach of general medical services was found.

Number of prescriptions per health service patient

The number of prescriptions per health service patient in Wales in the years 1971 to 1975 inclusive, was: 7.20, 7.40, 7.61, 7.87 and 8.07 prescriptions per patient per year.

Reference

The Welsh Office (1976). *Health and Personal Social Services Statistics for Wales*. Table 5.11. Cardiff: HMSO.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF NURSING

At the Annual General Meeting in London of the Royal College of Nursing it was decided that the College should take action to be certificated and listed as an independent trade union.

EXTENSION OF MOBILITY ALLOWANCE

From the beginning of 1977 claims can be made for children in the five to ten age group for a mobility allowance. Applications should be made to the local Department of Health and Social Security.

NHS—FAMILY PRACTITIONER COMMITTEES

Figures of the expenditure per head of population in 1974/75 by family practitioner committees in England have recently become available. The six highest and the six lowest are as follows:

	£ per head of population
Kensington, Chelsea and Westminster	19.84
Isle of Wight	18.40
Cornwall	18.27
City and East London	17.85
Dorset	17.69
Camden and Islington	17.60
Dudley	12.94
St Helens and Knowsley	12.76
Solihull	12.74
Rotherham	11.97
Trafford	10.35
Tameside	9.14

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 approved the vocational training schemes at Burnley, Bury, Oldham, Rotherham and Warrington/University of Liverpool Family Practice Teaching Unit for a period of two years.

The following vocational training schemes have been re-approved for a period of five years: Barnstaple, Exeter, Southend (South Essex), Taunton, Wrexham, and Yeovil.

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

BRIGGS REPORT

The Secretary of State for Social Services, Mr David Ennals, has reaffirmed the Government's firm commitment to introduce legislation implementing the main recommendations of the Briggs Committee on Nursing, as soon as parliamentary time allows.

Reference

Committee on Nursing (1972). *Briggs Report*. London: HMSO.

RHODESIA

General practitioners in Rhodesia have recently proposed the establishment of a College of General Practice of Rhodesia.