
COLLEGE NEWS

MEDICAL RECORDING SERVICE FOUNDATION

The Medical Recording Service Foundation, in association with the British Medical Association and the British Life Assurance Trust, is planning to create a videotape library service. This will run on similar lines to the existing tape-slide loan service of the Medical Recording Service Foundation. An experimental project is starting soon.

Any general practitioner using Sony videocassette equipment, black and white or colour, who would like to be included in the mailing list, should write to: Videocassette Library, Medical Recording Service Foundation, PO Box 99, Chelmsford CM1 5HL.

The initial trial will be for Sony equipment only, and not Philips. Doctors using Philips equipment who would like to be registered as interested should write to Videocassette Library, BMA/BLAT, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1.

MRCGP EXAMINATIONS

The dates for the next two MRCGP examinations are as follows:

November/December 1977

Written papers: 3 November 1977.

Orals: during the week ending 17 December 1977.

Closing date: 22 September 1977.

May/July 1978

Written papers: 18 May 1978.

Orals: during the week ending 1 July 1978 and the week ending 8 July 1978.

Closing date: 6 April 1978.

The written papers will be held in London, Leeds, Manchester, Edinburgh, Newcastle, Aberdeen, Cardiff, Belfast and Dublin. These and other centres may be used as required, subject to a minimum (and in some centres maximum) number of candidates. Oral examinations will be held in London and Edinburgh. The application fee is £50 and the reapplication fee £25.

PRACTICE ORGANIZATION ROOM

From June to September 1977 there will be a display of A4 records, showing their use and application, which has been mounted by Dr Metcalfe, Chairman of the Practice Organization Committee. It will be available for loan to the faculties when it is taken down in late September, and can also be loaned for meetings.

There are a number of other exhibits available for loan to the faculties, and this can be arranged through Mrs J. Mant, Secretary of the Practice Organization Committee, at 14 Princes Gate, London SW7 1PU.

The Practice Organization Study has been redesigned to make it compatible with data collection methods and it now reflects our interest in identifying innovations in general practice. Information gathered will be available to enquirers at 14 Princes Gate and each faculty will be able to obtain information about its own area. It is hoped that the Practice Organization Committee and the faculties will recruit as many practices which have made recent innovations in organization as possible and send the names and addresses to the Secretary of the Practice Organization Committee.

Messrs Keeler have mounted an interesting display on orthoptics and the Medical Recording Service also have on display some specimen tapes which may be heard on the tape recorder in the Practice Organization Committee Room.

BUTTERWORTH GOLD MEDAL

The title of the 1977 Butterworth Gold Medal Essay is "Towards Better Prescribing".

This competition is open to all members and associates of the College. Entries should consist of not more than 10,000 words, be typed on one side of A4 paper only, and be entered under a

nom de plume accompanied by the author's name and address in a sealed envelope.

Entries should be addressed to: The Secretary, Royal College of General Practitioners, 14 Princes Gate, London SW7 1PU, and marked "Butterworth Gold Medal Essay Competition". The closing date is 1 August 1977.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS/STANNING OVERSEAS FELLOWSHIPS 1977

Through the generosity of Mr Ellis Stanning, the Royal College of General Practitioners offers overseas travelling fellowships for younger doctors which are awarded annually with the following aims: "To provide an opportunity for study and to compare general practice abroad; to enable study of some particular aspect of general practice abroad; to learn about other systems of medical care; to report on their experience to the profession in the United Kingdom". Applications for these travelling fellowships are now invited from members and associates of the College who are principals in general practice in the UK of at least three years' standing, and who are under 38 years of age at the time of application. Enquiries should be made to the Secretary, Royal College of General Practitioners, 14 Princes Gate, London SW7 1PU. The closing date for applications is 31 December 1977.

NEW READING

The college Library is now maintaining up-to-date lists of material published from and about general practice. These lists are particularly useful for vocational trainees, those preparing for the MRCGP examination, and trainers. A sample copy will be sent on request; the full set for 1977 costs £2.50. Applications should be sent to: the Library, Royal College of General Practitioners, 14 Princes Gate, Hyde Park, London SW7 1PU.

MEDICAL NEWS

HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has accepted election to Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

COLLEGE OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS OF CANADA

The new College Officers for the year 1977/78 will be: President, Dr H. F.

King, Midland, Ontario; Chairman of the Board, Dr R. L. Perkin, Mississauga, Ontario. They will assume office after the Annual General Meeting on 16 November 1977.

COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS OF MALAYSIA

The following officers have been elected for the year 1977/78: President, Tan Sri Datuk Dr Mohd Din; Chairman of Council, Dr M. K. Rajakumar; Honorary General Secretary, Dr Goh Chin Siew; Honorary General Treasurer, Dr Tan Tiong Hong.

The address of the College is Room 1, 5th Floor, MMA House, 124 Jalan Pahang, Kuala Lumpur 02-14.

MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL

Dr D. W. Gau, MA, MRCP, MRCP, General Practitioner, Beaconsfield, has been appointed part-time Senior Lecturer in General Practice to the Department of Community Medicine, the Middlesex Hospital Medical School, London.

Dr Gau is a tutor of the Royal College of General Practitioners and a course organizer. He was formerly a general-practitioner trainee at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, and subsequently a demonstrator in the Department of Anatomy at the University of Cambridge.

He is the author of a chapter on the use of beta blockers in general practice in the UK and screening for hypertension in general practice, published in the *Lancet* in 1976.

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 approved the vocational training scheme at Salford for a period of two years.

The following vocational training schemes have been reapproved for a period of five years: Birkenhead, Camden and Islington, Clatterbridge,

Eastbourne, Enfield and Haringey, the Southern General, Glasgow; Western Infirmary, Glasgow, Kidderminster, Macclesfield, Maidstone, Redbridge and Waltham Forest, St Thomas's Hospital, Whiston, and Wycombe.

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

WINSTON CHURCHILL MEMORIAL TRUST

Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowships will be competed for between September and November 1977. One of the priority categories this year will be designers and makers of medical instruments and aids.

Further information can be obtained from the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, 15 Queen's Gate Terrace, London SW7 5PR.

NATIONAL CHILDBIRTH TRUST

The National Childbirth Trust is holding a 21st birthday conference for parents and professionals in family-centred maternity care, at the Charing Cross Hospital Medical School, St Dunstons Road, London, on 20 October 1977.

CONTRACEPTION IN IRELAND

The Family Planning Bill, which would have legalized contraceptives, was defeated in the Irish Senate in Dublin by 23 votes to 20 in May 1977.

THE TRUST FOR GROUP ANALYSIS

The Trust for Group Analysis is organizing a training course in psychotherapy for general practitioners. This will be held in London on Thursday afternoons

between 13.30 and 16.00 hours, starting in September 1977 and again in March 1978. Enquiries should be made to the Secretary, 1 Bickenhall Mansions, Bickenhall Street, London W1H 3LF.

CANADA

A total of 548 applications were received to sit the 1977 certification examination in family medicine. This was the largest number of applications since the examination was first held in 1969.

SESAME INSTITUTE FOR THE ARTS IN THERAPY

The application of the arts in therapy carries with it responsibilities of a special nature and depth. In recognition of these responsibilities, practitioners in music, the visual arts, and movement and drama concerned with standards and training formed the Sesame Institute for the Arts in Therapy. The Institute will investigate the need to establish and monitor professional standards of those engaged in this work.

The President of Sesame is Dr Jonathan Miller, and the Chairman of the Council is Dr W. A. R. Thomson, formerly the Editor of *The Practitioner*.

GENERAL PRACTITIONERS' EXPENSES

The percentage of the total expenses accounted for the following categories in the year 1974/75 was as follows: salaries/wages 37.1 per cent, premises 15.4 per cent, car and travel 13.9 per cent, medical supplies 12.5 per cent, net capital allowances 6.6 per cent, and other 14.6 per cent.

The General Medical Services Committee reports that during the three years up to 1974/75 general practitioners' practice expenses rose by 12.3 per cent, 7.0 per cent and 16.7 per cent respectively.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MIGRAINE IN CHILDHOOD

Sir,
The British Migraine Association is

organizing a nationwide questionnaire survey to determine the characteristics and types of migraine attacks experienced by children. This is a subject about which paediatric textbooks either

make no mention or limit discussion to abdominal migraine.

It has been estimated that 750,000 children under ten years of age suffer from migraine, and the pilot study has