

Swann, Alison, 172 Newbattle Abbey Crescent, Dalkeith, Midlothian.
 Sydney, M. A., Green Rigg, Frisington, Cumbria.
 Taffinder, L. D., Pennycress Chapel Lane, Sibsey, Boston, Lincs.
 Talbot, J. M., The Barn House, Souldern, Bicester, Oxon.
 Terry, J. A. C., 27 Pyle Street, Newport, IOW.
 Thacker, M. P., 1 Vinneys Close, Burton, Christchurch, Dorset.
 Thompson, R. M., 4 Gaythorne Avenue, Preston, Lancs.
 Thompson, T. M., 18 Conifer Avenue, Lilliput, Poole, Dorset.
 Toase, P. D., The Flat, 1 Huntingdon Road, Cambridge.
 Todd, June L., 29 Seneschal Road, Cheylesmore, Coventry.
 Toms, B. W., 27 Mardale, Albany, Washington, Tyne and Wear.
 Tosh, G. R., 29 Greystone Avenue, Burnside, Glasgow.
 Towers, D. G., 253 Rotton Park Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham.
 Tuckwell, G. D., 47 College Road, Epsom, Surrey.
 Turner, A., 44 Mill Lane, Upton, Chester.

Upjohn, Gillian, M., Landings, Outings Lane, Doddinghurst, Brentwood, Essex.
 *Valentine, J. P., 67 Corinium Gate, Cirencester, Glos.
 Varnavides, C. K., 33 Woodhill Rise, Leeds.
 Walton, J. L., 8 Leicester Terrace, Northampton.
 Waters, H. J., 44 Craigeard Road, Normanby, Middlesbrough.
 Watkins, R. D., 3 Kathleen Park, Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire.
 Watson, A. D., 3 Elm Street, Errol, Perthshire.
 Watt, W. M., 20 Crownhill Rise, Torquay, Devon.
 Webster, M. C., Marakoti, Muir-of-Ord, Ross-shire.
 Webster, R. W., 37 Moorside Court, Fenham, Newcastle upon Tyne NE5.
 Westcott, R. H., 3 Second Avenue, Heavitree, Exeter, Devon.
 Westhead, J. N., 28 The Uplands, Kenton, Newcastle upon Tyne.
 White, Anne J., 67 Littlepark Avenue, Bedhampton, Hants.
 Whitley, M. W., Kenvale, 11 Russell Place, Edinburgh.
 Wicks, M. M., Little Orchard, Popp's

Lane, Bexhill-on-Sea.
 Wilkinson, Elizabeth J., Room 150, Block B, Doncaster Royal Infirmary, Doncaster.
 Willcox, R., 10 Flint Meadow, Neston, Wirral, Merseyside.
 Williams, E. H., The Lodge, Nevill Hall Hospital, Abergavenny, Gwent.
 Williams, J. H. B., 471 Oxford Road, Reading, Berks.
 Williams, P. G., c/o Officers' Mess, RAF Laarburch, BFPO 43.
 Williams, S. M., The Admiral Chaloner Hospital, Guisborough, Cleveland.
 Winner, J. M., 12 Southwood Gardens, Burghfield Common, Reading.
 Wood, D. G. E., Coed Melys, Cichle Hill, Menai Bridge, Anglesey.
 Wyatt, Susan J., The Medical Centre, Badgers Crescent, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire.
 Youdan, M. E., 104 Stumpacre, Bretton, Peterborough, Northants.
 Young, G., Ythan, Kemdal Road, Kennay, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire.
 Young, J. A., 9 Nellfield Place, Aberdeen.
 *Denotes distinction.

MEDICAL NEWS

CHAIRMEN OF AREA HEALTH AUTHORITIES

Two general practitioners have been appointed as chairmen of area health authorities in the reorganized NHS. It is thought that this is the first time that general practitioners have been appointed as chairmen.

Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster Area Health Authority (Teaching)

Dr J. E. O. Dunwoody, MB, BS, General Practitioner, London, has been appointed Chairman of the Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster Area Health Authority (Teaching). Dr Dunwoody was formerly a Cornish Member of Parliament and Junior Minister in the Department of Health and Social Security. He is Honorary Director of Action on Smoking (ASH) and author of the articles: "A Birth-Control Plan for Britain" and "Smoking and Health".

Surrey Area Health Authority

Dr Ivan Clout OBE, MA, MRCP, General Practitioner, Crawley, has been ap-

pointed Chairman of the Surrey Area Health Authority.

Dr Clout was a former County Councillor, a member of the South-West Thames Regional Health Authority and author of the articles "Malignant Melanoma", published in the *Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners*, and "Psychiatric Illness in a New Town", published in the *Lancet*.

MEDICAL STAFF IN THE NHS TRAINED OVERSEAS

At 30 September 1976 the following proportions of doctors in the NHS had trained overseas: 1,753 out of 11,882 (14.7 per cent) consultants; 8,691 out of 18,256 (47.6 per cent) junior hospital doctors; and 4,101 out of 21,837 (18.8 per cent) principals in general practice.

DHSS APPOINTMENTS

In reply to a question from Mr Laurie Pavitt, Mr Eric Deakins gave details of

paid appointments under the patronage of the Secretary of State for Social Services.

There are 2,061 part-time appointments with fees ranging from £50 per day for the chairman of the Attendance Allowance Board to £18.90 per day for the chairman of the National Insurance Advisory Committee. Members of the various committees, panels and boards receive fees varying between £35 and £6.30 per day.

The 90 chairmen of area health authorities and 14 chairmen of regional health authorities receive £2,000 a year, but members are not paid.

Reference

Community Health Council News (1977). No. 20, p. 11.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND MATRIMONIAL PROCEEDINGS ACT 1976

The Domestic Violence and Matrimonial Proceedings Act 1976 came into

force on 1 June 1977. This Act amends the law relating to matrimonial injunctions and provides the police with powers of arrest for breach of an injunction in cases of domestic violence. It also amends the law relating to the right to occupy the matrimonial home.

PRESCRIBING NEOMYCIN

The Committee on Safety of Medicines (1977) recently announced that topical neomycin could cause deafness.

Reference

Committee on Safety of Medicines (1977). *Adverse Reactions Series*, No. 14.

PHARMACISTS IN HEALTH CENTRES

The Labour Party in its evidence to the Royal Commission on the NHS has advocated that pharmacists should become members of the primary health care team and practise in health centres with doctors, dentists, and opticians.

Reference

The Pharmaceutical Journal (1977). 218, 497.

WHOOPIING COUGH VACCINATION

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunization (1977) has published a review of the evidence on whooping cough vaccination. The committee included three general practitioners: Dr J. S. Noble, FRCGP, Dr G. I. Watson, OBE, FRCGP and Dr W. O. Williams, OBE, FRCGP.

Among its conclusions are a recommendation that pertussis vaccine should continue to be used, and that "on balance it is considered that the advantages of an earlier start to immunization at the third month outweigh the better immunological response at six months of age, and the Committee therefore recommends that the first dose of triple vaccine should be given at the third month of life."

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF NURSING

The Royal College of Nursing has been issued with a certificate as an independent trade union by the Certification Officer.

This establishes the Royal College of Nursing as both a professional organization and, in law, an independent trade union under Section 8 of the Employment Protection Act 1975.

BRITISH HOSPITALS EXHIBITION

The Institute of Health Service Administrators is sponsoring the 1978 British Hospitals Exhibition from 5 to 8 June 1978 at Olympia, London. Further information can be obtained from: Mrs Alex Haydon, 21 Park Square East, Regent's Park, London NW1 4LH.

TEMPORARY REGISTRATION ASSESSMENT BOARD

The General Medical Council has reported the results of the Temporary Registration Assessment Board (TRAB) during 1976.

The percentage pass rates for most countries with ten or more entrants during that year were: the Sudan, 79 per cent; Nigeria, 61 per cent; Iraq, 41 per cent; India, 38 per cent; Italy, 36 per cent; Poland, 29 per cent; Egypt, 28 per cent; Syria, 28 per cent; Pakistan, 26 per cent; Bangladesh, 24 per cent; Spain, 23 per cent; Brazil, 20 per cent; Greece, 17 per cent; Russia, 16 per cent; Iran, 8 per cent; and Turkey 5 per cent.

PHARMACIES IN THE UK

The number of registered pharmacies in the UK in each of the last ten years was as follows:

1967	14,293
1968	13,990
1969	13,510
1970	13,137
1971	12,825
1972	12,542
1973	12,266
1974	12,042
1975	11,733
1976	11,507

EXPENSES OF MEMBERS OF MEDICAL COMMITTEES

The Department of Health and Social Security Circular HN(77)68 gives advice about the payment of travelling and other allowances in compensation for loss of remunerative time to be made to members of district medical committees and members of family practitioner professions who serve on certain other committees.

"The rates of allowance which should be paid to members of district medical committees and district dental committees and to members of the family practitioner professions who serve on the bodies referred to in paragraph 2 are those which are now contained in the NHS and Regional Nurse-Training Committees (Travelling Allowances)."

MULTIDISCIPLINARY COURSE FOR THE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE TEAM

This course is being held at the West London Institute of Higher Education, Maria Grey College, Twickenham, Middlesex. It will start with residential sessions from 20 to 21 September 1977 and continue with day release sessions from 28 September to 2 November.

Further information can be obtained from Dr L. T. Newman, 87/89 Abbey Road, London NW8.

HEALTH SERVICE COMMISSIONER

The Annual Report of the Health Service Commissioner 1976-77 has now been published by HMSO. Sir Idwal Pugh has commented that "a significant proportion" of the complaints received revealed standards which fell in some way short of what the complainant could have expected. In 67 cases of the 120 reported on, the complaint was justified in whole or in part. There had been a "significant increase" in complaints from 504 to 582.

The three main reasons for rejecting complaints had proved to be because the complaint had not been put to the authority concerned, because it concerned the exercise of clinical judgement, and if it was against family practitioners or service committees of family practitioner committees.

Reference

Annual Report of the Health Service Commissioner 1976-77 (1977). London: HMSO.

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 reapproved the following vocational training schemes for a period of five years Birkenhead, Leicester, Mansfield, West Middlesex, and Worcester.

Reapproval is subject to review should there be an inspection of any of the schemes on behalf of the Joint Committee within the next five years.

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

HEALTH EDUCATION COUNCIL

The Health Education Council has recently issued two leaflets free of charge, entitled, *Healthy Eating for your Children* and *The Overweight Child*. These can be obtained from The Health Education Council, 78 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1AH.

OUT-OF-HOURS CALLS

The Standing Committee on Emergency Calls of the World Organization of National Colleges and Academies of General Practice has concluded as follows: "The Committee defined an emergency as any call for treatment from a patient or interested party which can reasonably be interpreted by the doctor as requiring immediate attention to the exclusion of any activity he may be performing.

"The Committee recognized that different countries and communities have different health care systems and circumstances and that these would obviously dictate what emergency services would be available. Nevertheless it was felt that emergency care was part and parcel of the duties of the general practitioner/family physician and that the services should be undertaken and directed by him as part of his service to his patients."

Reference

WONCA News (1977). 4, No. 3, 2.

NHS

Planned total expenditure on the NHS in 1978/79 is £5,762m gross and £5,613m net of estimated income from charges.

The corresponding figures in 1977/78 are £5,700m gross and £5,546m net, and the corresponding charge in 1976/77 was £5,665m gross and £5,526m net.

POOR FAMILIES

There were 120,000 families in Britain in December 1975 in which the head of the family was employed in full-time work and where the family's net income was below the appropriate supplementary benefit level.

It is estimated that there were about 90,000 such families where the head was self-employed part-time or full-time.

RENTS IN LONDON

The average weekly rent for a three-bedroomed council house in London in early 1977 was estimated at about £7.

HEALTH SERVICE MANAGEMENT COSTS

The Secretary of State for Wales, Mr John Morris, has announced that all health authorities in Wales are being asked to reduce expenditure on management so that by 1979/80 they will be spending five per cent less on this than last year.

NHS CONSULTANTS

The value of distinction awards and the number of consultants in receipt of each class of award in England and Wales are as follows:

Class	Amount	Number receiving
A +	£10,689 p.a.	113
A	£ 8,109 p.a.	422
B	£ 4,761 p.a.	1,205
C	£ 2,025 p.a.	2,718

UNIVERSITY APPLICATIONS

The number of applications to read medicine at British universities has fallen from a peak of 13,003 in 1974 to an estimated total for 1976 of 12,096.

When 'A' level results are scored as A5, B4, C3, well over half the successful candidates scored between 13 and 15.

WORLD RHEUMATISM YEAR

The British League Against Rheumatism is hoping to sponsor closer liaison between established bodies in this field and general practitioners with an interest in rheumatic diseases. The League would like to hear of practitioners who hold clinical assistantships or similar posts in departments of rheumatology or physical medicine and those with a particular interest in their own practices.

Those interested are requested to write to Dr D. G. Wilson, 19 Chiltern Avenue, Bushey, Watford WD2 3PU.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ANONYMOUS LETTERS

The Editor welcomes the increase in the number of letters being received for publication in the *Journal* but reaffirms that correspondents are asked to give their names and qualifications (see *Editorial Notice*).

Anonymous letters are being received and these will not be accepted for publication.

PARENTS FOR CHILDREN

Sir,
We feel that general practitioners and specialists in all branches of medicine will want to know of the existence of a

new home-finding agency serving handicapped children. Parents for Children was founded in October 1976 with the help of a grant from the Department of Health and Social Security and other trust funds in order to specialize in finding adoptive families for older children in care and for those with mental or physical handicaps.

There is enough evidence to show that families can be found for both older and handicapped children if the time and skill is available, and further evidence that family care is a better preparation for life than an institutional upbringing. Based on these premises, Parents for Children is setting out to demonstrate what kind of service is needed to find the right families to prepare the children, and to support both in their life together.

The agency takes a flexible approach to parenthood, trying to identify those

people in the community who have something special to offer such children. The children themselves are mostly out of the ordinary and it is to be expected that many of the families who can look after them may be out of the ordinary too. Age, religious affiliation, and even marital status are not the most important criteria—commitment, understanding of the children's special needs, patience, and a sense of humour probably are.

A simultaneous research programme is being carried out by the National Children's Bureau to study the methods of work and follow up the outcome.

The children are being referred by local authorities in the London and South-East areas, and families are being drawn from a radius of 100 miles of London. The staff consists of four qualified and experienced social workers and two secretaries. The first