

FOUNDING LETTER

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College of General Practice

There is a College of Physicians, a College of Surgeons, a College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, a College of Nursing, a College of Midwives, and a College of Veterinary Surgeons, all of them Royal Colleges; there is a College of Speech Therapists and a College of Physical Education, but there is no college or academic body to represent primarily the interests of the largest group of medical personnel in this country—the 20,000 general practitioners. Many practitioners sadly felt the lack of such a body when negotiations about the National Health Service were taking place.

Preliminary discussions are now being held in the General Practice Review Committee of the British Medical Association about the possible development of such a College of General Practice, to help practitioners in the same ways that the Royal Colleges have helped their own fellows. Such a proposal must not interfere at all with the present qualifying examinations or with the many other activities of the Royal Colleges. It should be able to help practitioners in a great many ways—by supervising their education and postgraduate work, by improving the standard and status of general practice, and by acting as a repository for its traditions—all at little or no cost to the taxpayer.

We are anxious to collect evidence upon this subject of a possible College of General Practice. If any of your readers have suggestions or comments to make, for or against this proposal, will they please communicate with us?

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