
COLLEGE NEWS

WORLD CONFERENCE ON FAMILY MEDICINE

The Eighth World Conference on Family Medicine/General Practice, convened by the World Organization of National Colleges, Academies and Academic Associations of Family Physicians/General Practitioners (WONCA) will be held in Montreux, Switzerland, from 14 to 19 May 1978.

In collaboration with Specialized Travel Services, the Royal College of General Practitioners is arranging a conference package for those wishing to attend this international symposium. For full details please write to: Specialized Travel Services, 83a Marylebone High Street, London W1. Telephone: 01-486 1991.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The twenty-fifth Annual General Meeting of the College will be held on Saturday 19 November 1977 at Imperial College, London SW7, beginning at 11.00 hours. The James Mackenzie Lecture will be delivered by Dr D. J. Pereira Gray.

The Annual Symposium will be held on Sunday, 20 November 1977, at Baden Powell House. Registration will be at 09.15 hours and the registration fee will be £4, to cover lunch and light refreshments. The title of the Symposium is "Standards and Settings in General Practice".

The morning session will be devoted to standards in general practice and the afternoon to the settings in which they are developed.

The Symposium has been approved under Section 63 for England and Wales.

FUTURE COURSES

November 1977

7-11 Five Years On In Practice (Part 2).

March 1978

13-17 Ages of Man (Part 5).

MRCGP EXAMINATIONS

The dates for the next MRCGP examinations are as follows:

May/July 1978

Written papers: Thursday, 18 May 1978.

Orals: In Edinburgh during the week ending 1 July 1978 and in London during the week ending 8 July 1978.

Closing date: 6 April 1978.

November/December 1978

Written papers: Thursday, 2 November 1978.

Orals: In Edinburgh and London during the week ending 16 December 1978.

Closing date: 21 September 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 a maximum) number of candidates. It may be necessary to limit the total numbers and candidates are therefore advised to apply well in advance of the closing dates.

The application fee is £50 and the re-application fee £25.

MEDICAL RECORDING SERVICE FOUNDATION

A supplement of "New Titles" has been added to the current MRSF catalogue of medical tape-slide programmes, bringing the number of programmes to over 1,000.

This supplement, with 14 tapes of special interest to general practitioners, may be obtained, free of charge, from the MRSF, PO Box 99, Chelmsford CM1 5HL.

PRACTICE ORGANIZATION ROOM

From December 1977 the Sonning Common Health Centre will be featured in the Practice Organization Room. This is a teaching practice which has a close liaison with the local community hospital, and the display will show examples of several different approaches to medical care.

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 not only to visitors to the POC Room but also each faculty will be supplied with information regarding its own area. It is hoped that the practice organization committees of faculties will recruit as many names of innovators in the faculties as possible, and send these names to Mrs Mant at Princes Gate.

MEDICAL NEWS

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

Mr Reginald Murley, TD, FRCS, the Royal Northern and St Albans Hospital, was elected President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England at the Council meeting on 14 July 1977.

DR P. S. MUKHERJI

Dr P. S. Mukherji, MRCP, MRCGP, DCH, General Practitioner, Edinburgh and part-time Lecturer in the Department of General Practice in the University of Edinburgh, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of

Edinburgh. Dr Mukherji is an examiner for the membership examination of the Royal College of General Practitioners.

DR T. I. STEWART

Dr T. I. Stewart, MRCGP, DCH, General

Practitioner, of Sonning Common Health Centre, has been appointed Visiting Associate Professor of Family Medicine to the University of South Carolina, USA, for the last three months of 1977.

DR ADRIAN CARO

Dr Adrian Caro, MRCP, General Practitioner, East Dereham, Norfolk, has written a thesis, *A Genetic Problem in East Anglia, Huntingdon's Chorea*, which has been recommended by the University of East Anglia for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

Dr Caro's work was carried out from general practice, and he was assisted by his wife, a medical research assistant working full-time with choreics and their families.

The work received financial support initially from the Regional Hospital Board and subsequently from the Department of Health and Social Security. The thesis has also been submitted as a 230-page report to the Department of Health.

DR HASTINGS BANDA

Dr Hastings Banda, President of Malawi, has given £64,000 to the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, where he received part of his medical training.

Reference

The Times (1977). 13 August.

SPEECH THERAPISTS

There were 860 whole-time equivalent speech therapists in posts in September 1975.

GENERAL PRACTICE FINANCE CORPORATION

The General Practice Finance Corporation reports that it loaned just under £2m during the last financial year to 250 general practitioners working in the NHS. The number of loans was higher

than in the previous financial year. The total advances since the Corporation began lending in May 1967 is now about £18½m, and 4,711 doctors have so far received loans.

HOUSING SUPPORT SERVICES

Mr Alfred Myers, Minister for the Disabled, reports that the Common Market is providing a £100,000 grant towards a research programme in Britain designed to evaluate support services in homes for disabled people.

COST OF HELPING THE DISABLED

Adaptations in the homes of disabled people rose by more than 71 per cent between 1973 and 1976, but the increased costs were more than twice as high, at 182 per cent.

SAFETY REGULATIONS FOR AEROSOLS

Only aerosols meeting safety standards specified in an EEC directive will be allowed to carry the recognized EEC mark as a result of regulations that came into operation on 1 September 1977.

These regulations make it an offence for any person responsible for the initial marketing in the UK of filled aerosols bearing a reversed epsilon to sell them if they do not comply with the prescribed requirements, which include aspects such as leak-tightness, compatibility of container with contents, test-pressure of the container, filling pressure, volume of the liquid phase, testing, safety labelling, and quantity of contents marking.

Reference

European Economic Community (1977). *The Aerosol Dispensers (EEC Requirements) Regulations, SI No. 1140*. London: HMSO.

PHARMACY CONSORTIUM

It is thought that Associated Chemists

(Wicker) Limited, of Sheffield, which has recently celebrated its silver jubilee, is the oldest pharmacy jointly owned by a number of pharmacists in the UK.

Reference

Pharmaceutical Journal (1977). 219, 158.

SURVEY ON ANAESTHETIC MORTALITY

The Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust has made a grant of £36,000 spread over a period of three years to the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland, for the purpose of conducting a survey into anaesthetic mortality.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR COUNSELLING

The British Association for Counselling has been formed to promote education and training for counsellors with a view to raising the standard of counselling and to advance the education of the public.

One of the divisions of the new association will be Counselling in a Medical Setting.

Those interested should apply to Dr A. J. Haines, MRCP, 4 Greenland Road, London NW1.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL CANCER CONTROL CAMPAIGN

The Women's National Cancer Control Campaign has produced films, leaflets, posters, and promotion leaflets on various aspects of prevention and detection of cancer, suitable for patients. In particular, *Your Life in Your Hands* is the title given to a short film, a leaflet, and a poster, each intended to encourage women to practise breast self-examination. The cytostest is also the subject of WNCCC leaflets, posters, and a film. Further general information, promotion leaflets, and samples can be obtained from the WNCCC, 1 South Audley Street, London W1Y 5DQ.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GENERAL-PRACTITIONER OBSTETRICS

Sir,
I cannot share Dr Richmond's view

(*July Journal*, p. 406) that a 27 per cent average attendance rate at delivery suggests a conscientious approach by his general-practitioner colleagues. The second and third stages of labour are

uniquely loaded with potentially disastrous pitfalls for both mother and child. There is no other situation occurring in such frequency in a general practitioner's working life that carries