

for loan to faculties for their meetings. Any interested faculty should contact Mrs J. Mant, Secretary to the Practice Organization Committee, at 14 Princes Gate, London SW7 1PU.

The Practice Organization Study continues to attract much interest. The questionnaire 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 to each faculty, which will be supplied with information on its own area. It is hoped that the faculty practice organization committees will recruit as many names of innovators as possible. Mrs Mant welcomes enquiries and will be pleased to supply any information about the questionnaire.

MEDICAL RECORDING SERVICE FOUNDATION

A new tape-slide has been produced, called *Non-Surgical Management of Carcinoma of the Breast*, by Dr A. H. Laing. The word 'management' has been deliberately used in the sense of the Oxford English Dictionary "to handle,

to control, to take charge of", and this tape-slide is designed to help general practitioners manage the whole patient, and indeed the whole family.

This tape lasts 42 minutes and has 39 slides and is available now from: Medical Recording Service Foundation, PO Box 99, Chelmsford CM1 5HL.

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.

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 NEWS

DISABLED LIVING FOUNDATION

Mrs Belinda J. Banham has been appointed Director of the Disabled Living Foundation.

Mrs Banham was formerly Chairman of the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Area Health Authority.

WELSH NATIONAL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Dr R. Harvard Davis, FRCGP, Senior Lecturer in General Practice at the Welsh National School of Medicine, has been promoted to Reader.

BRITISH JOURNAL OF PSYCHIATRY

Dr J. L. Crammer has been appointed Editor of the *British Journal of Psychiatry* in succession to Dr E. H. Hare. Dr Crammer has been Senior Lecturer in Psychiatry since 1971 and is Honor-

ary Consultant at the Maudsley Hospital. He was Assistant Editor of the *British Journal of Psychiatry* from 1968 to 1973.

SINGAPORE FAMILY PHYSICIAN

Dr E. K. Koh, FRCGP, Singapore, has been appointed the new editor of the *Singapore Family Physician*.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Mr G. Perkins has been appointed Chief Training Officer to the NHS at the Department of Health and Social Security.

USA

American Medical Association

At the convention of the American

Medical Association 1977, held in San Francisco, Dr J. H. Budd of Cleveland, Ohio, an Associate of the American Academy of Family Physicians, was inaugurated President.

Family Doctor of the Year

President Carter recently presented at the White House the award of Family Doctor of the Year to an Associate of the American Academy of Family Physicians, Dr Robert Boyer.

This award, the first of its kind, was presented by the *Good Housekeeping* magazine with the Academy's co-operation. Dr Boyer is a graduate of the University of Kansas School of Medicine and is one of seven physicians practising in Kingman, Kansas, a town of 4,000 people, 40 miles west of Wichita. He is a clinical assistant professor of family practice.

Reference

American Family Physician (1977). August Newsletter.

COURT OF THE APOTHECARIES

Dr J. F. Fisher, FRCGP, General Practitioner, Bournemouth, has been elected to the Court of Assistants of the Society of Apothecaries, London. Dr Fisher is Provost of the Wessex Faculty of the Royal College of General Practitioners.

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

Professor P. S. Byrne, CBE, FRCGP, of the Department of General Practice, University of Manchester, has been awarded a grant of just under £14,000 from the Social Science Research Council. This is for a two-year study of non-verbal behaviour in the consultation.

WINCHESTER

Dr B. J. Doney, MRCGP, is the General-Practitioner Tutor, Winchester Postgraduate Medical Centre.

THE MEDICINES COMMISSION

The Annual Report of the Medicines Commission for 1976 has now been published.

Among the members are Dr M. J. Linnett, OBE, FRCGP, General Practitioner, London; W. M. Darling, Esq., OBE, FPS, General Practice Pharmacist; and B. Martin, Esq., BVMS, MRCVS, General Veterinary Practitioner, Kilmarnock.

Among the members of the Committee on Safety of Medicines is Dr Margaret H. J. Richards, FRCGP, General Practitioner, Cardiff.

In 1976 the Committee on Safety of Medicines received 6,490 notifications of suspected adverse reactions to medicinal products, compared with 5,052 in 1975.

The Committee has recommended that preparations containing more than 50 micrograms of oestrogen should no longer be promoted or recommended for contraception, and a voluntary agreement was secured with the pharmaceutical industry to act upon these recommendations.

Reference

The Medicines Commission (1977). *Annual Report for 1976*. London: HMSO.

LORD COHEN

Lord Cohen, who was for many years a former President of the General Medi-

cal Council, directed in his will that the casenotes of his patients should be destroyed.

GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

The General Medical Services Committee has established a working party to consider a new charter for general practitioners as a result of a resolution passed by the Conference of Local Medical Committees.

The chairman of the working party is Dr J. Ball, General Practitioner, Bewdley, and the other members are Drs S. Jenkins, P. Kielty, G. Riddell, and M. Wilkes.

PATIENTS' ASSOCIATION

The Patients' Association has moved from Oxford to 11 Dartmouth Street, London SW1. Telephone: 01-222 4992. The new secretary is Mrs Audrey Goehr.

COST OF THE NHS

The estimated cost of the NHS and personal social services in the year ending March 1977 was £6,215 million. The cost of social security benefits at December 1976 rates is estimated at £11,563 million.

Mr. David Ennals, Secretary of State for the Social Services, has announced the Government's priorities, which are:

1. Fairer shares of Government money for less well-off regions across the country.
2. Better treatment for the 'Cinderella services'—those for the mentally ill, the mentally and physically handicapped, and the elderly.
3. Increased support for families, e.g. the introduction of child benefit for all children.

The Good Neighbour campaign to help elderly, disabled, and lonely people in their homes is to be stepped up, and the economies include:

1. A five per cent cut nationally in health authorities' management costs from the March 1976 level.
2. A reduction in staff of up to ten per cent in some parts of the Department's headquarters.

BRITISH PHARMACEUTICAL CONFERENCE

The British Pharmaceutical Conference was held in Sheffield in 1977. Sir

George Godber, Chairman of the Health Education Council, proposed the toast of "The British Pharmaceutical Conference and the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain". In his speech Sir George said that the future of medicine required recognition of a "greater medical profession" which included other professionals concerned with health and was certainly not now to be dominated by medicine as it once had been. He considered that there should be something "specially close about the mix between medicine and pharmacy, and I am going to say bluntly that I do not think it is as close as it should be".

Reference

The Pharmaceutical Journal (1977). 219, 277-279.

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 re-approved the vocational training scheme at Bromsgrove, Falkirk, Oxford 1 and 2, and University College Hospital, London.

These schemes are recognized by the Royal College of General Practitioners for the purpose of the MRCGP examination.

SCREENING FOR HYPERTENSION

The British Medical Association's General Medical Services Committee is opposed to pharmacists screening patients for hypertension. At a meeting held on 27 October between representatives of the GMSC and the Pharmaceutical Society, to discuss Merck Sharp and Dohme's proposed pilot scheme, the GMSC representatives indicated that they were opposed to pharmacists screening for hypertension generally, and under the pilot scheme in particular, and that the GMSC intended to write to Merck Sharp and Dohme to dissuade it from carrying on with the scheme.

The Pharmaceutical Society's Council has already agreed that Merck Sharp and Dohme should proceed in involving pharmacists in the scheme providing that each pharmacist obtains the approval of a local general medical practitioner and agrees with that general practitioner the level of blood pressure at which the patient should be referred to him.

Reference

The Pharmaceutical Journal (1977). 219, 459.