

## DR D. J. LLEWELLYN

Dr D. J. Llewellyn, FRCGP, Senior Lecturer and Adviser in General Practice at the Welsh National School of Medicine, has been awarded the degree of M.ED by the University of Wales in March 1978 for his thesis on "The development of postgraduate education for the general practitioner in Wales—vocational training".

## DR A. T. H. GLANVILL

Dr A. T. H. Glanvill, MRCGP, General Practitioner, Honiton, Devon has been elected Mayor of the reorganized town council of Honiton. Dr Glanvill was previously Mayor of Honiton in 1964.

## MEDICAL ACT 1978

The Medical Act received the Royal Assent on 5 May 1978. This Act introduces new powers for the General Medical Council to maintain and improve professional medical standards in the UK. These include tighter control of the doctor's physical and mental fitness to practise and a strict, though fairer, procedure for overseas doctors wishing to practise in the UK.

These changes are part of a major reform of the General Medical Council, the body responsible for the regulation of the medical profession in the UK. The Council is strengthened and at the same time becomes more democratic under the terms of its new constitution which ensures that for the first time it will have a majority of its members elected by practising medical practitioners.

## CENTRAL HEALTH SERVICES COUNCIL

The constitution of the Central Health Services Council has been altered to enable the President of the Royal College of Radiologists and the Dean of the Faculty of Anaesthetists to sit, *ex officio*, as nominated members of the Council.

## NEW ZEALAND COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

In 1977 the New Zealand College of General Practitioners comprised 409 fellows and members and 142 associates—a total of 551.

## NEW FORM OF DRUG SURVEILLANCE

The Committee on Safety of Medicines is consulting with the profession about a proposal to monitor drugs by requesting clinicians to report on the use of specified drugs, having identified the clinicians in general practice through NHS prescriptions and in hospitals via hospital pharmacists.

## ISRAEL

The Israel Association of Family Physicians was established officially at a meeting of members in the Tel Aviv Medical School on 7 March 1978.

Dr Max Polliack was unanimously elected as Chairman of the Association.

Full membership is limited to physicians holding a certificate of specialization in family medicine from the Ministry of Health. General practitioners or other physicians or allied health professionals with an interest in family medicine may enrol as associate members.

## JOINT FINANCING

A joint financing programme is being extended between the personal social service projects and health service resources.

It is intended that funds should be used imaginatively where social service support is being provided for housing projects, such as wardens in sheltered housing schemes for the elderly and physically handicapped.

A system of joint financing has been introduced to assist collaboration between health and local authorities in providing personal social service schemes of joint interest.

Under this scheme in the current financial year £34½ million will be available compared with £21 million last year.

## 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 schemes at Chester and Borders (South East Scotland). These schemes are recognized by the Royal College of

General Practitioners for the purpose of the MRCGP examination.

## RECRUITMENT OF HEALTH VISITORS

The Council for the Education and Training of Health Visitors is actively recruiting for health visitors as members of the primary health care team.

Training centres are interviewing prospective health visitor students now and will take registered nurses with midwifery or approved obstetric qualifications who can choose from 47 centres throughout the UK. Courses last 51 weeks, about one third of which is spent gaining practical experience.

The salary scales for qualified staff are at present under negotiation but the proposed range is £3,840 to £4,679 per annum.

Further information can be obtained from the Council for the Education and Training of Health Visitors, Clifton House, Euston Road, London NW1 2RS.

## MORE FREE URGENT MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR SELF-EMPLOYED PEOPLE

The National Insurance Commissioner has taken decisions on benefit claims in recent months involving the application of EEC regulations in their existing form. Self-employed people resident in the UK who have in the past made contributions as employed persons are now entitled to free or reduced costs for urgent medical treatment in other EEC countries while staying there as temporary visitors, for example, on holiday or on business trips.

It remains the policy of the Government of the UK to press for the extension of EEC regulations to cover all UK citizens.

## TRAINING GRANT FOR CHEMIST CONTRACTORS

The grant payable to chemist contractors who provide pre-registration training experience is to be increased to £1,100 a year. The new grade will be paid for graduates who start their pre-registration year on or after 1 June 1978.

## Reference

*Pharmaceutical Journal* (1978). 220, 407.

## ARTHRITIS

Mr David Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, has estimated that there were 27,400 arthroplasties of which it is thought that just under half or about 12,500 were hip replacements for arthritis.

## PRESCRIPTIONS FOR ORAL CONTRACEPTIVES

In 1976, 5,939,000 prescriptions for oral contraceptives were dispensed in England and Wales compared with 1,357,000 in 1974.

## PROGRESS IN HEALTH PLANNING

The Scottish Health Service Planning Council hopes to produce during 1978 recommendations on services for the elderly, for persons with mental disorder, and the whole field of child health.

## CANCER STUDY GRANTS

### *Yamagiwa-Yoshida Memorial Grants*

The Yamagiwa-Yoshida Memorial International Cancer Study Grants are designed to enable investigators of any nationality to gain experience in, or make comparative studies of, special techniques in both the biological and clinical aspects of cancer research.

The grants are available only for study outside the applicant's country of residence since they are intended to accelerate and encourage international collaborative activities. They are awarded for periods not exceeding 90 days.

Awards are being offered for research on cancer and will be granted to experienced investigators who have demonstrated their ability for independent research and who wish to broaden their experience by a period of study at a single institution in another country.

Further details of both Japanese and American grants can be obtained from the International Union Against Cancer, Rue du Conseil-Général 3, 1205 Geneva, Switzerland.

## HEALTH SERVICE COMMISSIONER

### *Ambulance services*

The Health Service Commissioner has invited a regional health authority, as a matter of urgency, to define the time limit, possibly in consultation with the Department of Health and Social Security, between a family practitioner's request for an ambulance and its arrival *either* at the patient's home *or* at hospital, in order to ensure that members of the ambulance service and family practitioners alike are in no doubt of the precise meaning of time limits set by general practitioners when requesting ambulance services.

This recommendation follows a complaint in which it emerged that a general practitioner requested an ambulance "within an hour", meaning that he wanted the patient to reach the hospital within this time, whereas the ambulance control officers said that they had assumed that "within an hour" meant that the ambulance should arrive to pick up the patient within an hour of the request.

### Reference

Health Service Commissioner (1978). Second Report for Session 1977-78, p. 127-130. London: HMSO.

### *Failure to provide a service*

The Health Service Commissioner has recommended that an area health authority should apologize to a complainant and his wife for failure to provide a service which arose when a consultant did not see a patient who had been referred with a letter from a general practitioner requesting an appointment "this morning".

### Reference

Health Service Commissioner (1978). Second Report for Session 1977-78, p. 104-105. London: HMSO.

### *Essential information*

The Health Service Commissioner, in his report for the four months ending March 1978 has recommended to a health authority that "revised arrangements be made to ensure that essential information (about patients' discharge from hospital) is provided to family practitioners more promptly in future than in the case he had considered".

### Reference

Health Service Commissioner (1978). Second Report for Session 1977-78, p. 20. London: HMSO.

## CORRECTION

In the May 1978 *Journal* it was incorrectly stated that Dr Brackenridge was the first chairman of an area health authority to be a general practitioner in active practice.

In fact Dr Ivan Clout, OBE, MA, MRCGP, General Practitioner, Crawley, Sussex was the first general practitioner to have such an appointment and is still Chairman of the Surrey Area Health Authority.

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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## GRANTS FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

Sir,  
I would like to comment on a short news item (May *Journal*, p. 307) in which it was stated that none of the studies funded by the Biomedical Research Committee were from general practice, implying that there is no research in

general practice funded by the Secretary of State for Scotland.

The Scottish Home and Health Department have two principal grant-giving bodies for research: one is the Biomedical Research Committee and the other is the Health Services Research Committee. The Biomedical Research Committee, as its name would imply, is concerned with projects of a scientific

nature and it is therefore very uncommon for projects for general practice to be appropriate to this Committee. The Health Services Research Committee on the other hand is concerned with both clinical and operational research and it is not unusual for projects from general practice to be reviewed by this Committee. Details of the amounts of money