

mark had been reached by the time the draw was organized. It is possible that more forms will be received in time for the next draw, as the Club is now entitled to take up to 150 members.

The first draw took place on Friday 5 May 1978 at a hotel in Swansea with a sponsored buffet meal to which members of the faculty board and their wives were invited. The first prize of £250 was won by the wife of the Secretary (to her considerable embarrassment), the second prize of £25 by a patient, and the three prizes of £12 each were won respectively by the retired doctor and two more patients from the same town, one of whom was the local funeral director. Fortunately it had been explained beforehand that as three quarters of the club

membership were from one small town there could well be a bias in that direction!

As a result of this favourable response more than £600 will be available in the first year and a similar amount or more in each of the following two years. There is no reason why the scheme should not continue beyond 1980 if the participants agree. In fact some schemes have quite long waiting lists once they get off the ground.

Should any Faculty Secretary be interested, further information can be obtained from Dr J. Owen, 159 West Road, Nottage, Porthcawl, Mid-Glamorgan, Wales.

JOHN OWEN

The general practitioner and social worker workshop

A CONFERENCE on "Marital dysfunction in general practice" was organized by the General Practitioner and Social Worker Workshop in Manchester from 21 to 23 April 1978.

Dr Mike Chatterton, Department of Social Administration, University of Manchester, spoke on "Family professionals—ideology, research, and treatment", during which he made some interesting points challenging some of the assumptions often made about the 'nuclear family'. The first day ended with a showing of a film *Sexuality and Communication* (Ortho Pharmaceuticals Ltd), which skilfully combined information about human sexual responses with demonstrations of verbal and non-verbal communication between husband and wife, and couple and therapists.

Sexual problems

The Saturday morning session was devoted to sexual problems. Dr Ray Goodman, General Practitioner and Psychosexual Therapist, Manchester, presented an entertaining account of the history of sexual beliefs, mores and theories from the earliest recorded times to the present day. He ended by discussing some recent animal research on the development of different 'sex centres' in the brains of the male and female fetus. The following speaker, Dr Tim Betts, Department of Psychiatry, University of Birmingham, described the situation which led to the formation of a clinic for the treatment of psychosexual disorders, and the training of professionals from various disciplines in this clinic. Two programmes were organized, one consisted of three-day theoretical courses, and the other involved one year of supervised instruction in the clinic. Despite the use of training staff in a service role, the clinic was virtually overwhelmed by referrals. The final speaker in this session, Mrs Joan Woodward, Brook Clinic, Birmingham, described her approach, emphasizing the necessity of dispelling the image of a clinic or consulting room with its medical overtones. A discussion ensued.

Marriage guidance

Saturday afternoon was devoted to "Marriage guidance in a general practice setting". Dr Roger Thornham, General Practitioner, Stockton-on-Tees, described the five-doctor group in which he worked, and then Mrs Kathleen Powell, Marriage Guidance Counsellor, presented data relating to her work at the practice and at the local marriage guidance council. She pointed out similarities in the people seen and the range of problems presented, as well as the differences, such as the length of each counselling session and the number of interviews, both of which were higher on average in general practice, which could be taken to imply a large unmet need. There followed a lively discussion, including some controversy about professional versus voluntary workers, during which the role of the voluntary worker was stoutly defended, especially in view of the relative lack of professional resources.

The final speaker, on Sunday morning, was Mr Christopher Clulow, Institute of Marital Studies, London, who spoke on "Marital interaction and first encounters". Mr Clulow commented on the large percentage of clients who contacted his unit for an appointment but failed to take up the offer of help from the Institute. A summing up of the Conference was then held under the chairmanship of Mrs Jean Gough, General Practitioner and Social Worker Workshop. A largely unspoken but recurring theme throughout the weekend was the large amount of unmet need in marital and sexual problems, which it is hoped may be better met after this meeting.

The Third Annual General Meeting of the Workshop was also held during the course of the Conference at which Mrs Jackie Kerr, Mrs Sandra Perez, and Dr Len Ratoff were elected to the Committee following the resignations of Mrs Eileen Ineson, Mrs Yvonne Horsfall-Turner, and Dr Ged Keele.

HEATHER SCOTT
Honorary Secretary