
COLLEGE NEWS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

The Annual General Meeting of the College will take place in Lecture Theatre 'A' of the Department of Mechanical Engineering of Imperial College in Queen's Gate, London, on Saturday, 18 November 1978. The James Mackenzie Lecture will be given by Dr W. Yellowlees, entitled "Ill Fares the Land". An exhibition of College Museum items will be on display in the College Library on the same day.

The Annual Symposium will be held the day before, on Friday, 17 November, at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, Regent's Park. Those who work in members' own health care teams will be welcome to attend.

Topics will include "The team—a doctor's perspective" by Dr T. Stewart; "The dragon at the gate" by Mrs Sandra Kilby; "The problems of attached staff" by Mrs June Clarke; "Why social workers?", Miss June Neill; "The patients—have they been forgotten?", by the Reverend S. Barnes; and "The present and the future", by Dr Barry Reedy.

Enquiries should be made to the

Secretary of the Practice Organization Committee, 14 Princes Gate, Hyde Park, London SW7 1PU.

PRACTICE ORGANIZATION ROOM

A display has been arranged based on the use of a small computer to keep doctors' accounts and other office procedures. The computer is inexpensive (£850 for the first package) and the packages offered include an age/sex register and a record of the capitation fees, with subsequent programmes of an at-risk register, vaccination register, and contraception register. There is also a print-out package which will allow the computer to send postcards to patients asking them to return for injections or surveys.

This new arrival is of such importance to general practice, and the price so reasonable, that the exhibit merits study by all members of the College. It will remain in the Practice Organization Room for the months of November, December, and January. A new exhibit of diagnostic instruments by Messrs Keeler will also be on display.

The Practice Organization Study, which provides a fund of knowledge of all aspects of general practice, would

like to hear from any practitioners who feel they have an innovation, however small, which would be of interest to others. Questionnaires may be obtained from Mrs J. Mant, Secretary to the Practice Organization Committee, 14 Princes Gate, London SW7 1PU.

MRCGP EXAMINATIONS

The dates for the next MRCGP examinations are as follows:

May/July 1979

Written papers: Thursday, 17 May 1979. Orals: in Edinburgh during the week ending 30 June 1979 and in London during the week ending 7 July 1979.

Closing date: 5 April 1979.

The written papers will be held in London, Birmingham, Leeds, Newcastle, Manchester, Edinburgh, 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 reapplication fee £25.

MEDICAL NEWS

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

Dr Jack H. Medalie, Chairman and Professor of Family Medicine at Case Western Reserve University, has been appointed the first Dorothy Jones Weatherhead Professor of Medicine.

It is thought that this is the first endowed chair in family medicine at an American university.

It is reported that for the second consecutive year family practice has been the second most popular choice of residencies among medical students at this university.

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

Dr John G. Bain, MD, MRCGP, DRCOG, DCH, has been appointed to the new joint senior lectureship in general practice and child health at the University of Aberdeen. An Aberdeen graduate, Dr Bain had a period as Research Assistant in the Department of General Practice at Edinburgh and then completed vocational training at Livingston with a special interest in paediatrics. After five years as a principal at Livingston he became a visiting fellow at the Department of Family Medicine in the University of Florida.

TARGET NET INCOME FOR DENTISTS

The Review Body on doctor's and dentist's remuneration has recommended that the target net income for dentists working full time in the NHS should be £8,829 in the year beginning 1 April 1978.

For the year 1978/1979 the Review Body has estimated that the new target net average income should be augmented by a sum of £14,550 (including an allowance for the notional rents of owner-occupied practice premises).

GRAVES MEDICAL AUDIOVISUAL LIBRARY

In addition to tape-slide programmes, Graves Medical Audiovisual Library now hold a small stock of videocassettes which may be borrowed.

Two programmes recently acquired which will interest general practitioners are "Consultations in General Practice" B/W, 45 minutes, produced by Hull and East Riding Committee for Postgraduate Studies, and "Sexual History; Loss of Libido" B/W, 21 minutes, produced by Dr T. Betts and Ms Sally Pidd, Department of Psychiatry, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham.

A videocassette may be borrowed for £3 per day (plus VAT). For users of Sony U-Matic equipment the programmes are available from Graves Medical Audiovisual Library, and for Philips VCR format from the BMA/BLAT Videocassette Library.

Further information on medical videocassettes is available from either of these resource centres. As this is a new project of BMA/BLAT/GMAL loans are limited to the United Kingdom only.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION PRIZES

The Sir Charles Hastings Award has been made to Dr D. B. Berzon of London for research in ear disease in group general practice, and the Charles Oliver Hawthorne Award to Dr K. A. A. Mourin of Dereham for research into a study of thyroid disorders.

THE CROWS

Dr C. J. F. Coombs, retired General Practitioner from Truro, Cornwall, has had his book *The Crows* selected by David Charles, of Newton Abbot, as the Country Book Club choice for June 1978.

SOCIETY FOR PSYCHOSOMATIC RESEARCH

The twenty-second Annual Conference of the Society for Psychosomatic Research will be held on 27 and 28 November 1978 at the Royal College of Physicians, London.

The subject will be "Psychosomatics in War and Peace" and further details can be obtained from Dr Paul Williams, Institute of Psychiatry, de Crespigny Park, London SE5.

LOWER TAR BRANDS OF CIGARETTES

The Government's latest tar and nicotine tables show that half the brands of cigarettes listed are now in the lower tar groups. This continues the trend for a greater number of brands to fall in these two groups, and is twice the proportion shown when the tables were first published in 1972. The percentage of cigarettes sold in these two groups has changed from five to 21 between 1972 and 1977.

CHINA

Dr Fu Lien-Chang, Mao Tse-tung's personal physician, has been posthumously rehabilitated after being "persecuted to death" during the cultural revolution, reports the New China news agency.

Reference

The Times (1978). August.

PURCHASE OF LAND

A group of six doctors, three in Leatherhead and three in Ashted, have recently purchased land from the Secretary of State for Social Services.

Reference

Williams, M. K. (1978). *British Medical Journal*, 2, 583-584.

PROPOSALS TO BAN PHENACETIN

The Department of Health and Social Security has opened consultations with the medical and pharmaceutical professions and consumer interests on a proposal to make an order to prohibit the sale, supply, and importation of phenacetin.

CONTROL OF INTRA-UTERINE CONTRACEPTIVE DEVICES

Legislation with effect from 10 August 1978 brings under control all contraceptive intra-uterine devices. Licences will be required for such new devices

with effect from 1 October 1978. Manufacture and wholesale dealing will also be controlled.

NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR OVERSEAS DOCTORS

Mr Roland Moyle, Minister of State (Health), has announced that the language provision for overseas doctors will be introduced on 1 December 1978.

VACCINE DAMAGE PAYMENTS

Mr David Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, has announced that the new vaccine damage payments scheme will provide £10,000 tax free in respect of those persons who have since 5 July 1948 suffered severe damage as a result of the vaccinations given in a scheduled list which have taken place under routine public policy vaccination programmes.

The criteria for payment will be disablement due to vaccine damage assessed at 80 per cent or more according to the established rules for industrial injuries disablement benefit.

POSTGRADUATE PHARMACEUTICAL EDUCATION IN WALES

The Secretary of State for Wales, Mr John Morris, announced his intention to set up a Welsh Committee for Postgraduate Pharmaceutical Education. This will consist of only nine members but in most respects will parallel the Committee which deals with postgraduate education.

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 Bath, Swindon/Cirencester, Eastbourne, Brighton, and Scunthorpe. These schemes are recognized by the Royal College of General Practitioners for the purpose of the MRCP examination.

The Royal College of General Practitioners has also approved the schemes at Dublin and Cork, for the purposes of the MRCP examination.