

holder is currently on display and it is hoped to attract further exhibits.

The Practice Organization Study has been classified and a gazetteer produced to act as an index. The Committee would be grateful if readers would fill in one of the innovation questionnaires so that up-to-date information about current trends in general practice may be obtained. Forms are available from Mrs J. Mant, 14 Princes Gate, Hyde Park, London SW7 1PU.

### BUTTERWORTH GOLD MEDAL

The Butterworth Gold Medal is awarded for the best essay relevant to general medical practice from a list of three selected subjects. The subjects for 1979 are:

1. The management of chronic sickness in general practice: needs versus demands.
2. *Cui Bono*. The place of confidentiality in general practice.
3. "Have you got a tissue, doctor?" The management of acute emotional problems arising during the consultation in general practice.

This competition is open to all fellows, members, and associates of the College. Entries, which must be in essay form, should consist of not more than 10,000 words, be typed on one side of A4 paper only, and be entered under a *nom de plume* accompanied by the author's name and address in a sealed envelope.

Entries should be addressed to the Secretary, Royal College of General Practitioners, 14 Princes Gate, London SW7 1PU, and marked 'Butterworth Gold Medal Essay Competition'. The closing date is 1 August 1979.

### UNDERGRADUATE ESSAY PRIZE COMPETITION 1979

The Royal College of General Practitioners awards three prizes of £70,

£50, and £40, with an additional £10 in book tokens for an outstanding essay, to successful candidates in a competition which is open to all undergraduates of medical schools in the UK and Eire who have not yet passed their final examination.

Candidates are asked to submit an essay on a subject relevant to the practice of medicine in the community. This may take the form of an account of a clinical, epidemiological, or practice organization study associated with general practice, or a case report of patients seen in general practice.

Particulars of entry and application forms can be obtained from the Secretary, Royal College of General Practitioners, 14 Princes Gate, London SW7 1PU.

The closing date is 31 May 1979.

### 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.

*November/December 1979*

Written papers: Thursday, 1 November 1979.

Orals: In Edinburgh and London during the week ending 15 December 1979.

Closing date: 6 September 1979.

The written papers will be held in London, Leeds, Birmingham, 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 ad-

vance of the closing dates.

The application fee is £50.00 and the reapplication fee £25.00. Entry is free to members of the College. Application forms may be obtained from the Membership Secretary at the College.

### Deaths

*Past President  
Honorary Fellow  
Fellow*

G. F. Abercrombie,  
Walton-on-the-Hill, Surrey.

*Fellows*

Jack Herbert-Burns,  
Dorchester, Dorset.  
G. T. Robertson  
Alness, Ross & Cromarty.  
Eric L. White,  
Lisburn, Co. Antrim.

*Founder Members*

T. C. Cotton,  
Brandon, Suffolk.  
G. W. Ireland,  
Ford, Midlothian.  
J. R. Kingdon,  
Lock's Heath, Southampton.  
K. W. Martin,  
Mudford, Hants.  
J. G. Mathewson,  
Fleet, Hants.  
G. J. Phillips,  
Keswick, Cumbria.

*Member*

J. R. F. Popplewell,  
Bovingdon, Herts.

*Associate*

Gordon Jefferson,  
Caistor, Lincoln.

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## MEDICAL NEWS

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### HONG KONG COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

The inauguration ceremony of the Hong Kong College of General Practitioners will take place on 11 March 1979. Dr the Hon. K. L. Thong, Director of Medical and Health Services of the Hong Kong Government, will be present.

### FALL IN PERINATAL DEATHS

Provisional figures for the first quarter of 1978 show that the perinatal death rate (which includes stillbirths and deaths within the first week after birth) fell to 15.9 per thousand in England and Wales.

### NINTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON GENERAL PRACTICE/FAMILY MEDICINE

The ninth World Conference on General Practice/Family Medicine will be held jointly with the American Academy of Family Physicians in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, from 4 to 9

October 1980.

This six-day meeting will have as hosts the American Academy of Family Physicians, and will feature joint lecture presentations with instantaneous transmission services.

In addition to lectures and other educational activities, there will be clinical seminars, 'live' teaching demonstrations, and closed-circuit television.

In addition to the medical meeting the Academy is planning a wide variety of medical activities for the spouses and children of participants. The tone of the meetings is expected to capture the flavour of 'old New Orleans' including the famous Mardi Gras and world-renowned New Orleans Jazz.

Further information can be obtained from the Director of Planning, 1980 WONCA/AAFP Meeting, 1740 West 92nd Street, Kansas City, Missouri, USA, 64114.

### WONCA NEWSLETTER

The *WONCA Research Newsletter* is now being published by the *Journal of Family Practice* and is available from Dr Peter Curtis, MRCP, MRCGP, Department of Family Medicine, UNC School of Medicine, 711 Clinical Sciences Building 229H, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514, USA.

### NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE IN SCOTLAND

Elderly patients aged 65 and over occupied 57 per cent of the beds used daily in non-psychiatric and non-obstetric hospitals in Scotland in 1976. This is the first time the percentage has exceeded 50 per cent.

Community nursing staff made a substantial proportion of their home visits to the elderly; 20 per cent of home visits were made by health visitors and 77 per cent by district nurses. Nearly 10 per cent of the population aged 65 to 74 were seen by health visitors, compared with 21 per cent of those aged 75 and over. Home nurses visited 8.5 per cent of those aged 65 to 74 and 23 per cent of the over 75s.

Nearly a quarter of a million women in Scotland received contraceptive advice from general practitioners, and just over half as many were advised by family planning clinics.

The number of abortions rose slightly and 29 per cent were performed on girls aged 19 and under, compared with 18 per cent in 1970. Abortions for single women had risen from 38 per cent in 1970 to 48 per cent of all abortions in 1977.

The average number of patients on a general practitioner's list was 1,905.

### ATTENDANCE OF PATIENTS AT HOSPITAL

The numbers of discharges and deaths, outpatient attendances, and new accident and emergency attendances at 31 December each year in NHS hospitals were as follows:

	Inpatient discharges and deaths	New outpatient attendances	New accident and emergency attendances
1970	6,028,000	9,279,000	8,877,000
1973	6,158,000	9,353,000	9,717,000
1977	6,391,000	9,053,000	10,323,000

#### Reference

House of Lords (1978). Quoted in *British Medical Journal*, 2, 1723.

### HEALTH SERVICE IN WALES

The number of positive cases of cervical cytology detected per 1,000 cases examined rose from 4.7 in 1974, to 7.0 in 1977. The number of positive cases detected from general practitioners has also risen from 88 in 1974, to 201 in 1977.

Of the 842 total positive cases 48.5 per cent were under the age of 35.

On 1 October 1977 there were 1,204 unrestricted general practitioner principals in Wales with an average list size of 2,175. Eighteen per cent of principals in Wales have list sizes of more than 2,500 and an additional seven per cent have list sizes over 3,000.

The number of vocational trainees in Wales has risen as follows: 1974—42; 1975—56; 1976—56; 1977—66.

#### Reference

Welsh Office (1979). *Health and Personal Social Services Statistics for Wales*. Cardiff: HMSO.

### EEC COMMISSION

The Plenary Assembly of the Standing Committee of Doctors of the EEC met on 1 and 2 December 1978 in Copenhagen with the Danish Medical Association acting as hosts.

The assembly agreed the following motion:

"That a specific postgraduate training for general practice is essential; that such training must include elements of postgraduate training both in hospital and in general practice itself; and that it must be of a minimum of two years' duration. The Standing Committee of Doctors recommends that by 1985 such a specific postgraduate training for general practice, whether obligatory or

voluntary, be established in all member states of the European Communities and that any doctor migrating to a member state in which such training is obligatory must be required to fulfil the obligation in order to practise as a vocationally trained general practitioner in that country."

#### Reference

EEC Plenary Assembly (1978). Declaration on health costs. *British Medical Journal*, 1, 65.

### 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 approved the Monklands, Airdrie, and Lanarkshire vocational training schemes, and have re-approved the schemes at Salisbury and Rotherham.

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

### CORRECTION

In the article on the history of vocational training for general practice by Drs Horder and Swift (*January Journal*, p.24), a half-page column was omitted in error.

This should have appeared at the bottom of page 29 under the heading 'The first local vocational training schemes'. The missing section was:

#### The first local vocational training schemes

The first four local initiatives to begin the expansion of the three-year training schemes, which has continued throughout the 1970s, were at Belfast<sup>39</sup> in 1964 (a two-year scheme changing to a three-year one in 1967), Ipswich<sup>40</sup> in 1969, Newcastle<sup>41</sup> in 1969, and Manchester<sup>42,43</sup> in 1969. All followed the general pattern of two years in hospital and one year in a teaching practice.

There was no day release course in Belfast in the first years, but this was developed strongly at Newcastle and Ipswich. At Ipswich the day release course concentrated particularly on psychiatry and its application to the problems of general practice. At both Newcastle and Ipswich this course continued through the period in hospital posts as well as that in training practices. A particular difference at Newcastle was the division of the trainee year into an initial six months and a