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# COLLEGE NEWS

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## NEW YEAR HONOURS

### CMG

J. R. H. Watson (Past President, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners)

### OBE (Civil Division)

M. H. Dale  
Sheila E. Fraser  
J. A. R. Lawson

### MBE (Civil Division)

A. G. Fraser

### MBE (Military Division)

I. M. M. Bagshaw

## 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.

## 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.

## MRCGP EXAMINATIONS

The dates for the next MRCGP examinations are as follows:

*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 advance 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.

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# MEDICAL NEWS

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## ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY TEACHERS OF GENERAL PRACTICE

The membership of the Executive Committee is as follows: Professor R. Scott, Edinburgh (Chairman); Dr A. G. Donald, Edinburgh; Dr V. W. M. Drury, Birmingham; Dr P. Freeling, London; Dr G. K. Freeman, Southampton; Dr J. G. R. Howie, Aberdeen; Dr T. S. Murray, Glasgow (Secretary); Dr J. S. K. Stevenson, Edinburgh (Treasurer); Dr N. C. H. Stott, Cardiff; Dr H. J. Wright, Leeds.

## HELPING HAND

A Symposium arranged by the Helping Hand Organization (HHO) will take place on 13 and 14 September 1979 at Magdalen College, Oxford. HHO

provides rehabilitation facilities for those suffering from the various forms of alcohol and drug addiction, and the Symposium will concentrate on recent findings in pharmacology, biochemistry, and physiology.

Further details of the Symposium can be obtained from the Helping Hand Organization, c/o The Alcohol Education Centre, 99 Denmark Hill, London SE5 8AZ.

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PSYCHOLOGY AND MEDICINE

The Welsh branch of the British Psychological Society is holding an International Conference on Psychology and Medicine in the University College of Swansea, Wales, from 23 to 27 July 1979. Topics will include the

relevance of psychology to the understanding, treatment, and prevention of physical illness.

Enquiries should be sent to Dr David Osborne, Department of Psychology, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, Wales.

## CANCER—THE PATIENT

The eleventh annual symposium arranged by the Marie Curie Memorial Foundation will be held at the Royal College of Surgeons of England, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PN, on Tuesday, 15 May 1979 with the title, "Cancer—the Patient".

Further details can be obtained from Mr P. A. Sturgess, Secretary, Marie Curie Memorial Foundation, 124 Sloane Street, London SW1X 9BP.

## COMMUNITY PHARMACY

### Loss of pharmacies

There was a net loss of 97 pharmacies from the Register of Pharmacies in 1978, compared with 138 in 1977.

### Prescriptions

The Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee has issued the following prescription statistics:

In August 1978 in England 23,833,636 Health Service prescriptions were issued at a total cost of £53,096,025. The average net ingredient cost was 176·84p, the container allowance was 2·80p, and the average total cost was 221·76p.

The total number of prescriptions in England and their total cost both continue to rise.

## HEALTH SERVICE COMMISSIONER

In the most recent report of the Health Service Commissioner for the period August to November 1978, a case is

described in which Sir Idwal Pugh investigated a complaint by a parent that an abnormality in his daughter's eye detected by school nurses in a school had not been reported either to the parents or to the family doctor. This complaint was upheld by Sir Idwal.

### Reference

Health Service Commissioner (1978). Report August to November 1978. pp. 192-195. London: HMSO.

## GRAVES MEDICAL AUDIOVISUAL LIBRARY

The following new recordings are now available from the library. Each talk is available on compact cassette with 35 mm slides. A price list and further details will be sent on request.

*Epistaxis* (Cat. No. 78-81). Mr R. F. McNab Jones. 26 slides. 22 minutes.

*Napkin area eruptions* (Cat. No. 78-90). Dr J. Verbov. 42 slides. 22 minutes.

*Examination of the lower back and limbs in patients with back, hip, and*

*sciatic pain* (Cat. No. 78-82). Mr J. D. G. Troup. 79 slides. 38 minutes.

*Electrocardiography in ten steps* (Cat. No. 78-91). Dr F. Gleeson. 20 slides. 10 minutes.

*Prevention and control of congenital rubella* (Cat. No. 78-94). Dr R. Pilsworth. 19 slides. 30 minutes.

A new edition of the catalogue is also available and can be obtained free of charge on application to the Graves Medical Audiovisual Library, PO Box 99, Chelmsford CM2 9BJ.

## CORRECTION

In the editorial, "Journal of Audiovisual Media in Medicine", Dr W. D. Clarke was described as "A Director for the Black Centre for Health and Medical Education". He should, of course, have been described as "The Director of the BLAT Centre for Health and Medical Education (British Life Assurance Trust for Health and Medical Education)".

This error is very much regretted.

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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## JAMES MACKENZIE LECTURE

Sir,

I found Dr Yellowlee's Mackenzie Lecture (January *Journal*, p. 7) alternately delightful and impossible. There are many statements and assumptions which I would like to challenge, but I have chosen to write about only one. I have chosen this because it is a reference to Mackenzie's own experience and work.

Dr Yellowlee states that "The failure of Mackenzie and his contemporaries to recognize acute infarction was simply because it was not there". This statement is simply not true. Mackenzie (1913) quotes a number of illustrative cases. In many instances, the cases are supported by careful postmortem evidence. These careful case histories coupled with a meticulous postmortem examination can leave no-one in any doubt that he saw a large number of myocardial infarctions. In his book entitled *Angina Pectoris* published in 1923, he was able to show the age at which 284 people had died who suffered from angina pectoris where the death was due directly to the condition which caused the angina.

It may be true to say that Mackenzie did not fully appreciate the relationship between coronary atherosclerosis, myocardial ischaemia, and myocardial death, but it is certainly untrue to say that myocardial infarction was an uncommon disease in his experience.

J. S. MCCORMICK  
Dean

Faculty of Medical and Dental Sciences  
University of Dublin  
Trinity College  
Dublin 2.

### References

Mackenzie, J. (1913). *Diseases of the Heart*. 3rd edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Mackenzie, J. (1923). *Angina Pectoris*. London: Frowde & Hodder & Stoughton.

## MEDICAL CARE IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Sir,

The Royal College of Physicians has instituted a working party to enquire into the provisions of medical care for students in higher education and to report with recommendations. This report will bring up to date the original of the Royal College's Social and

Preventive Medicine Committee recommendations published in 1966.

Amongst the many changes that have occurred in student care in the last decade has been the increase in the number of general practitioners who are involved in the part-time care of students at universities, colleges, and polytechnics. Members of the working party are anxious to ensure that the views of as many general practitioners as possible are represented in the final memorandum, in particular those of the part-time college doctor.

Will those who are interested please send us their comments, suggestions, and recommendations on this matter.

E. V. KUENSSBERG  
President

Royal College of General Practitioners

A. D. G. GUNN  
Chairman

British Student Health Association  
14 Princes Gate  
London SW7 1PU.

### Reference

Royal College of Physicians (1966). *Report of the Sub-Committee on the Student Health Service*. London: RCP.