

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 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.

DEATHS

Fellows

K. W. Alexander
Hurstville, New South Wales.
Sir John G. Goodhart
Bromley, Kent.
C. J. M. King
Hunters Hill, New South Wales.
C. J. Swanson
Hawick, Roxburghshire.

Founder Members

F. T. Ingram
Edinburgh 9.
A. K. James
Edinburgh 10.
Elsie M. Smyth
Strood, Rochester, Kent.
H. H. D. Sutherland
Brora, Sutherland.
J. L. Park
Bonar Bridge, Sutherland.
J. A. Ward
Gaddesby, Syston, Leicestershire.

Members

R. F. Bolt
Barnet, Herts.
G. G. Cockburn
Aberdeen.
J. Palmer
Handcross, Haywards Heath, Sussex.

Associates

L. Radclyffe
London NW2.
T. R. O'Dempsey
Stafford.
Dorothy J. Shiells
Coggeshall, Essex.

MEDICAL NEWS

REGIONAL ADVISER IN GENERAL PRACTICE

Dr R. M. Berrington, MRCGP, General Practitioner, Huntingdon, has been appointed Regional Adviser in General Practice for the East Anglian region.

Dr Berrington was formerly organizer of the Peterborough General Practice Vocational Training Scheme.

NURSING PRACTICE RESEARCH UNIT

A new Nursing Practice Research Unit to evaluate nursing care has been set up by the Department of Health and Social

Security at Northwick Park Hospital and Clinical Research Centre, Harrow. Its Director is Dr Rosemary Crow, MA, PH.D., SRN, SCM, HV.

The Unit will undertake research commissioned by the Department's Nursing Research Liaison Group.

STENDEL PRIZE

The Stengel Prize of £200 is awarded every three years to any doctor or group of doctors who have worked in the Trent Region for a piece of research in a field related to clinical psychiatry and carried out during tenure of an appointment in the Region, whether in

hospital, university, general practice, or other service. Preference will be given to doctors who have been qualified for not more than eight years. Enquiries should be made to Dr C. P. Seager, Department of Psychiatry, University of Sheffield, Whiteley Wood Clinic, Woofindin Road, Sheffield S10 3TL.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR GENERAL PRACTICE

On 11 January 1979 there was a meeting between representatives of the Joint Committee on Postgraduate Training for General Practice (JCPT) and the Joint Consultants Committee (JCC).

At this meeting the following agreements were reached between the representatives of these two committees and were subsequently endorsed by both parent bodies. First the JCC endorsed the two principles recommended by the Council of Postgraduate Medical Education which had been accepted by the Royal College of General Practitioners, the General Medical Services Committee, and the JCPTGP, about the policy for selecting hospital posts and posts in community medicine to be used for gaining the prescribed experience in vocational training:

1. The Joint Committee on Postgraduate Training for General Practice should set the standards for general practice training—including criteria for approval of hospital or community medicine posts for general practice training—and should exercise general oversight of the arrangements.
2. Regional postgraduate education committees, working to the criteria laid down by the JCPTGP, should select posts suitable for general practice training from among those posts recognized by the appropriate Royal College or faculty for training in its own specialty.

It was agreed that senior house officer appointments in general surgery will be considered acceptable for the purposes of prescribed experience as an alternative to accident and emergency appointments. It was also agreed that the constitution of the JCPT should be amended so that the JCC appoints three full members which will represent the Central Committee for Hospital Medical Services, the Hospital Junior

Staffs Committee, and the Conference of Colleges.

It was also agreed that the fourth member of the appeals committee should be a consultant in clinical practice nominated by the JCC.

GRAVES MEDICAL AUDIOVISUAL LIBRARY

Graves Medical Audiovisual Library have produced the 1979 catalogue containing over 1,200 tape-slide titles.

For the first time titles are presented as an alphabetical subject index, using MeSH vocabulary (Medical Subject Headings, as used by the United States Library of Medicine and in *Index Medicus*).

Each entry gives the title, author's name, running time, number of slides, a short appraisal, suitable audience, publisher, and the date of publication.

The catalogue in its new format was derived from the print-out of the (Marc) Computer at Southampton University Library.

All tape-slide programmes are now recorded on cassette, 'open reel' tape having been withdrawn at the end of last year. Illustrations are 35mm transparencies.

Doctors wishing to obtain the 1979 catalogue (free) should contact Graves Medical Audiovisual Library, PO Box 99, Chelmsford CM2 9BJ. Telephone (0245) 83351.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE—ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES

Mr David Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, has announced that the

total allocation to the health service for the year beginning April 1979 represents an increase of two per cent in real terms on the current year.

Gross figures vary but every region will receive at least one per cent real growth in its budget.

TEACHING OF FAMILY PLANNING

A conference on the essentials in contemporary teaching of family planning is being held at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists on 1 June 1979.

Speakers include Mr John Loudon, Professor Martin Vessey, Mrs K. Dunnell, Mrs P. Crabbe, Professor R. Harden, Dr E. Wilson, Dr Michael Briggs, and Dr Egon Diczfalusy. Applications and enquiries should be made to the Secretary, Joint Committee on Contraception, 27 Sussex Place, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RG.

CORRECTION

Dr Lionel Kopelowitz, JP, MRCP, General Practitioner, Gosforth, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, has been elected President of the Society of Family Practitioner Committees. Dr Kopelowitz is interested in vocational training for general practice and lectures regularly on the Newcastle vocational training scheme.

His name was incorrectly spelt in the February issue and this error is much regretted.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

URINE INFECTION IN GENERAL PRACTICE

Sir,
In his methodical survey of the usefulness of urine microscopy in general practice (February *Journal*, p. 103) Dr Wilks necessarily deals only with urine specimens which can be sent to the laboratory as well as being examined by microscopy in the surgery. Such specimens generally come from adults, or from children who can voice their symptoms. But especially valuable can be microscopy of samples from febrile babies, samples too small or else too crudely collected to qualify for laboratory examination. When they

show pyuria, the diagnostic information is quick and particularly welcome.

J. M. FORRESTER

120 Morningside Drive
Edinburgh EH10 5NS.

UNWANTED PREGNANCY IN GENERAL PRACTICE

Sir,
It is difficult to see the relevance of the article by Dr David Tunnadine (February *Journal*, p. 108) to the provision of NHS abortion services.

Apart from the psychoanalytical presumptions of the discussion, the hypothesis presented is seriously

weakened by the absence of any data on control women. Are the personality traits described exclusive to all women requesting abortions? How would the personalities of Miss A. and Miss B. compare with those of matched patients? In addition, what evidence does Dr Tunnadine have that the patterns of doctor/patient relationship described are common to all, or even the majority of, women seeking abortions?

Unfortunately, the lack of such data cannot be remedied by recourse to a theory which suggests that "the basic fault (determining whether a woman seeks an abortion) probably occurs at the time of separation (weaning) from her mother". It would be a pity if the value judgements implicit in this paper