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## MRCGP EXAMINATION

The dates for the next MRCGP examination 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.

### May/July 1980

Written papers: Thursday, 15 May 1980.

Orals: In Edinburgh during the week ending 29 June 1980 and in London during the week ending 5 July 1980.

Closing date: 20 March 1980.

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 and the re-application fee £25. Application forms may be obtained from the Membership Secretary at the College.

## 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 1980 are:

1. The general practitioner accoucheur in the 1980s.
2. The management of giddiness.
3. The case for and against specialization 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.

They should be marked 'Butterworth Gold Medal Essay Competition' and sent to the Secretary, Royal College of General Practitioners, 14 Princes Gate, London SW7 1PU.

The closing date is 31 March 1980.

## PRACTICE ORGANIZATION ROOM

The theme for the exhibitions during the next year will be the general practitioner's office and will deal with the employment of staff, their training, and the equipment they use. The current display features the work of the receptionist and her training.

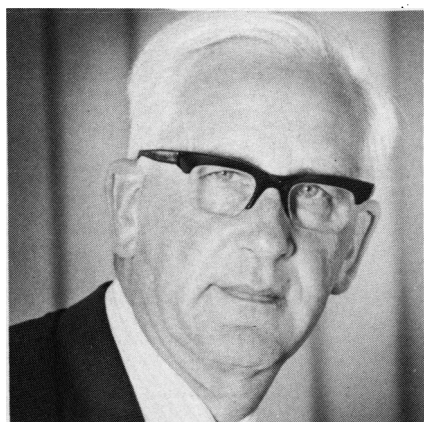
A display has been mounted by Elva Medical Equipment for offices, including such items as desks and carpeting call systems.

The Practice Organization Study continues to display details of practices for interested enquirers, and the cabinets have been reorganized to display instruments which doctors might carry in their bags when visiting.

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## MEDICAL NEWS

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## WELSH NATIONAL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Dr Robert Harvard Davis, MA, DM.Oxon, BA, BM, B.Ch, FRCGP has been appointed to the newly created Chair of General Practice at the Welsh National School of Medicine. Dr Harvard Davis is 55 and married with two children. He trained at Queen's College, Oxford, and Guy's Hospital Medical School, and became a member of the Royal College of General Practitioners in 1958, proceeding DM.Oxon in 1962. He was elected a fellow of the College in 1971.

He is currently Reader in General Practice and Honorary Director of the General Practice Unit in the Welsh National School of Medicine.

Dr Harvard Davis was Chairman of the Committee on the Organization of Group Practice which published its report in 1971, and the author of the book *General Practice for Students of Medicine* which has since been reprinted in German.

He was also a member of the Committee on Child Health Services (Court Committee); he is the author of over 40 articles which have been published in a variety of journals, including the *Lan-*

cet, *British Medical Journal*, *Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners*, *Journal of Clinical Science*, and *Journal of Medical Illustration*.

## HEALTH EDUCATION COUNCIL

Dr Brian B. Lloyd has been appointed Chairman of the Health Education Council. Dr Lloyd is 58 and a Director of the Oxford Polytechnic and a physiologist by profession. He has been a member of the Health Education Council since 1975 and is at present Chairman of its Education Committee.

## PRESCRIPTION CHARGES

Prescription charges were increased from 16 July 1979 to 45p an item.

Charges for elastic hosiery are 50p an item, £1.00 for an elastic stocking, £2.00 per pair.

The charge for prepayment certificates starting on or after 16 July 1979 will be £4.50 for a six-month certificate, and £8.00 for a 12-month certificate.

## CHURCHILL TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIPS

Churchill Travelling Fellowships are again being awarded for 1980 and among the categories this time are community health workers, who include nurses, general practitioners, home help organizers, and all those providing health care in the community.

Grants are offered for candidates from all walks of life who wish to develop a special interest through travel and a project may be proposed in any country the candidate chooses. The only requirement is that they have to show

they can make an effective use of the opportunities both whilst they are abroad and when they return.

Successful candidates will be expected to start their travels during 1980, making their own arrangements within the scope of the grant. The grant will recover return air fare plus all travel and living expenses abroad for a period of three months.

Further details can be obtained from Miss A. Seagrim, Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, 15 Queen's Gate Terrace, London SW7 5PR.

## FACULTY OF GENERAL PRACTICE OF THE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE OF SOUTH AFRICA

The Faculty of General Practice of the College of Medicine of South Africa is holding a Congress in Cape Town in March 1980. For further details applications should be made to Dr Stanley Levenstein, General Practice Congress Steering Committee, PO Box 253, Rondebosch, 7700 Cape Town, South Africa.

## SIMG/JANSSEN AWARD

Entries are invited for the 1980 SIMG/Janssen Award which is offered to a European general practitioner annually by Societas Internationalis Medicinæ Generalis (International Society of General Practice) in conjunction with Janssen Pharmaceuticals Limited.

The aim of the award is to stimulate research in general practice by helping to finance a particular project each year. The project should be completed within two years and should be of international interest. Selection will be by an expert international panel of general practitioners.

The value of the award will be £300, a further £200 being made available to the successful applicant towards travelling expenses to present the results of the work to a SIMG conference.

Applicants should write to SIMG Secretariat, Bahnhofstrasse 22 A—9020 Klagenfurt, Austria, before 1 October 1979.

## 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 vocational training scheme at Solihull.

The following schemes have been re-approved: Warwick and Leamington, Bury, Hamilton and East Kilbride, and Northumbria. These schemes are recognized by the Royal College of General Practitioners for the purpose of the MRCGP examination.

## ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE

The Royal Society of Medicine is holding a postgraduate study course organized by its Section of General Practice from 15 to 19 October 1979 under the title, "New perspectives—third forum for general practitioners".

The topics will include: Rheumatology; The practice team; Caring for the retarded in the community; Hormone replacement therapy; Prescribing for depression and anxiety; The doctor and the law; Indications for surgery in coronary heart disease.

Further information can be obtained from the Conference Secretary, Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London W1M 8AE.

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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## COURSE FOR PRACTICE ADMINISTRATORS AND MANAGERS

Sir,  
The Midlands Faculty, reviewing its activities through the Faculty Board, felt there may be a vacuum in educational facilities for practice managers and administrators. Readers of the *Journal*

will be aware that with the evolution of group practice and the team approach those managing or administrating practices have reached their posts by several routes—from business, local government, nursing, medical secretarial posts, hospital practice, or other backgrounds. Few have been specifically trained, and whereas colleges of further education train medical secretaries, and all grades

of ancillary staff are covered by the Association of Medical Secretaries, the Faculty Board felt there might be a place for experienced administrators and managers to meet, with a programme tailored to their specific needs.

To test the market, a one-day Section 63 Course was held on 10 April 1979, at which 20 practice administrators, each accompanied by a partner from their