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# MEDICAL NEWS

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## CANADA — MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION

The College of Family Physicians of Canada is introducing on 1 January 1980 a programme of maintenance of certification.

The College of Family Physicians of Canada believes that assessment and confirmation of certification of standards cannot be a once only event, and that the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of the certificated family physician cannot be viewed as a static state but require constructive monitoring by the certificant and the College to ensure the maintenance of the certification standard.

There are four components forming the basis of the maintenance certification: a profile of the individual physician's practice based on a system of sampling between 150 and 300 consecutive consultations during a four-week period; a pre-test consisting of 200 multiple choice questions; a feedback from the pre-test with reference to appropriate educational reading or resources; and finally, a post-test which will provide a reassessment of the areas covered in the pre-test which would allow the certificant to evaluate whether the education had been effective.

It is anticipated that the total programme will take about a year.

### Reference

Rice, D. I. (1979). Maintenance of certification. *Canadian Family Physician*, 30, 979-980.

## UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE

The Department of General Practice, University of Dundee, has moved to new premises in the grounds of Nine-wells Hospital. The address is West Gate Health Centre, Charleston Drive, Dundee DD2 4AD and the telephone number is Dundee 66313.

The Medical School Teaching Practice now operates from the same health centre and its telephone number remains Dundee 68422.

## CORRECTION

In the September issue of the *Journal*, Dr T. S. Eimerl was described as a General Practitioner, Sevenoaks; he should have been described as a Retired Medical Administrator.

In his letter on page 568 of the same issue, the first sentence in the fourth paragraph should have read: "Again, what do we know about the Manual intended to aid teachers of health workers to assess their performance as teachers?"

## ABORTION

The total number of terminations notified under the Abortion Act 1967 in England and Wales during 1977 was 133,004, which was a rise of 2.6 per cent. The abortion rate per 1,000 resident women aged 15 to 44 remained virtually constant—being 10.44 in 1977 and 10.46 in 1976. The number of terminations to non-resident women rose by 9.2 per cent.

## SRI LANKAN FAMILY PHYSICIAN

The first issue of the *Sri Lankan Family Physician*, the official publication of the College of General Practitioners of Sri Lanka, has recently been published.

## MEDICAL WOMEN'S FEDERATION

The Medical Women's Federation has prepared a leaflet on *Partnership Agreements in General Practice*, which is available from Tavistock House North, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9HX.

## GRAVES MEDICAL AUDIOVISUAL LIBRARY

The Administrator of the Graves Medical Audiovisual Library wishes to remind members of the Royal College of General Practitioners that they may take advantage of reduced rates when hiring or purchasing tape-slide programmes. Reduced rates also apply when using the Annual Hire Subscription Service, whereby tape-slide programmes may be borrowed for as long and as often as required during the year.

Further details may be obtained from GMAL, Holly House, 220 New London Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 9BJ. Tel: (0245) 83351.

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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## SHOULD WE LOOK FOR GONORRHOEA?

Sir,

In his response to the letters by Dr Hull and Drs Wright and Palmer (December *Journal*, pp. 714 and 719), Dr Timson (July *Journal*, p. 433) raised several interesting points.

Gonorrhoea is now being reported

more frequently from venereal disease clinics in Britain than at any time in the last 45 years, having risen from 17,538 cases in 1954 to 59,028 in 1977 (DHSS, 1979). The majority of women who have gonorrhoea are unaware of the fact. Seventy to 80 per cent are asymptomatic (Morton, 1977), which raises the question as to how such patients are diagnosed.

Nielsen and colleagues (1975) showed that 70 per cent of asymptomatic patients attend as a result of contact tracing, and complications bring a further proportion of patients to medical attention. Rees and Annels (1969) reported a 10.6 per cent incidence of salpingitis in gonorrhoea, and Barr and Danielsson (1971) reported a three per cent incidence of disseminated gonococ-