

Can the experience we gained from a British course for general practitioners be transferred to Norway? The answer is 'Yes'—if we offer time and energy to learn how it should be done. To begin with, we must educate a group of general practitioners in the methods of organizing such a course. Members of local course committees must be given the opportunity to meet English colleagues, whether in Norway or in London, who can take the ideas back to their colleagues at home.

We all agreed that this was a very special course, such as we had never experienced before. It was special in several ways. First, in Norway, we general practitioners are used to sitting listening to words of wisdom from specialists. This is a passive way of learning which is not always relevant or helpful to us in improving our work. Secondly, in London we were more or less allowed to arrange the course ourselves. We chose problems from our own work which quickly proved to be valid for others in the group. We were also allowed to contribute towards solving the problems ourselves through our own experience. Thus the whole content became useful and relevant. We could relate all the ideas to our own practices, and were therefore able to take a lot more

home with us. This gave a wonderful feeling of value which for most of us had the effect of strengthening our self-confidence.

British general practice is a pioneer influence in Europe, and the Royal College of General Practitioners can take most of the credit for this. It has published many important publications and articles over the years and has been responsible for many of the improvements in postgraduate and further education for general practitioners.

Last but not least, I believe the College has enormous importance for the individual who has passed through the eye of the needle, which is what the College examination really means.

I found this course to be by far the best I have attended on general practice and I regard it as an important task to introduce the same system in Norway. Discussions about an examination must be opened with the Medical Association and in spite of opposition it will surely come with time, since it is the best means of control the profession has for safeguarding the competence of its members.

TORÉ KOKSVIK

OBITUARY

James Herbert Grove-White, MD, FRCGP

Jim Grove-White died in Cirencester on 4 August 1979 in his ninetieth year. Born in 1889, he was educated at Rugby School and Trinity College, Dublin where he qualified in 1912. In the same year he went as house surgeon to the General Hospital, Cheltenham.

In 1914, as a ship's surgeon he was overtaken by World War I and promptly joined the RAMC. He was soon with the British Expeditionary Force in France with the Cavalry Division in the retreat from Mons—thus qualifying as an 'Old Contemptible', which gave him a life-long interest in the Association of those old warriors.

In 1916, he transferred to the Indian Medical Service and was on the North-West frontier and in Persia. He was invalided from this service and after a spell in a Ministry of Pensions hospital, entered general practice in Cirencester.

Always interested in the administrative side of medicine, he was for many years Chairman of the old Panel Committee and later of the Local Medical Committee and Executive Council.

He was a founder member of the Royal College of General Practitioners and in 1954 was one of the few doctors who met in Bristol to discuss the possibility of forming a South-West Faculty. The other leading lights

at this historic meeting included Drs Hunt, Cameron, Stephens, McConaghey, and Cookson. When the Faculty was founded, he was elected its first Chairman and later its first Provost—which post he held for the maximum three years. He remained active on the Board until 1970.

In those early days he was a member of Council for four years and later was the faculty representative on the Board of Censors.

In the South-West he came to be regarded as the Father of the Faculty. At all times his natural and national charm was irresistible. If he came to twist your arm about anything, it was utterly futile to resist. It is possible that another Dublin man might have had a chance, but I never saw that happen.

The infant College owed much to men like him: men who had vision and the conviction and stickability to convince and convert—never an easy and always a thankless task.

In spite of his great age, he died virtually in harness, working until a few weeks before his death in the Cotswolds which he loved and knew so well. He was a great character and a great 'College' man and in the West Country he will be remembered with affection and gratitude.

JOHN MILES