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MEDICAL NEWS

SOCIETY OF ADMINISTRATORS OF FAMILY PRACTITIONER SERVICES

Mr S. Edwardson, LL.B, DPA, FHA, has been elected President of the Society of Administrators of Family Practitioner Services.

COMPULSORY TRAINING FOR GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

Regulations making it compulsory for all doctors entering general practice to undertake vocational training were laid before Parliament on 18 December 1979. From 16 February 1981 a doctor wishing to provide the full range of medical services under the National Health Service will need to have obtained a certificate of prescribed or equivalent experience. The Regulations follow full consultation with the medical profession and other interested organizations.

The Regulations provide for implementation in two stages. From 16 February 1981 until 15 August 1982 the prescribed medical experience will be 12 months as a trainee general practitioner. From 16 August 1982 the prescribed experience will be three years' training consisting of at least 12 months as a trainee general practitioner; two periods of at least six months in educationally approved training posts drawn from a specified list of hospital specialties; and the remainder in educationally approved posts in a hospital specialty or community medicine. There is also provision for the experience to be acquired part time. Preregistration experience will not count towards the prescribed experience.

General practitioners already providing such services on 15 February 1981 will be exempt from the requirements to have obtained a certificate, and provision is made for certain other exemptions. Doctors who have provided such service in the past but whose names are

not included in a medical list on 15 February 1981 will be exempt provided that they return to general practice within nine years.

The Joint Committee on Postgraduate Training for General Practice has been designated by the Secretary of State as the body responsible for issuing certificates under the Regulations.

Reference

National Health Service (Vocational Training) Regulations (1979). Statutory Instrument No. 1644. NHS Act 1977, Sections 30, 31, and 32. London: HMSO.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BORDERLINE SUBSTANCES

The Advisory Committee of Borderline Substances comprises the following members:

Professor Barbara Clayton (Chairman), Professor of Chemical Pathology and Human Metabolism, University of Southampton; Mr C. Blythe, General Practice Pharmacist, Lanarkshire, Scotland; Miss D. Francis, Group Chief Dietitian, Hospitals for Sick Children, London; Dr R. B. Godwin-Austen, Consultant Neurologist, General Hospital, Nottingham; Professor H. A. Lee, Professor of Metabolic Medicine, University of Southampton; Professor J. Lloyd, Department of Child Health, St George's Hospital Medical School, University of London; Dr E. L. Rhodes, Consultant Dermatologist, Kingston Hospital, Kingston-upon-Thames, and St Helier Hospital, Carshalton; Dr D. M. Watkins, General Practitioner, South Glamorgan; and Dr D. M. Wilks, General Practitioner, London.

The Committee offers independent professional advice to both the medical profession and the Health Departments on whether certain 'borderline' preparations should properly be regarded as drugs and hence be accepted as a charge on the National Health Service if prescribed by a family doctor. Under the NHS Act, a family doctor may prescribe

only drugs, medicines, and certain appliances at NHS expense.

It is open to doctors whether, for example, as individuals or as members of medical service committees to manufacturers or to the Health Departments, to request the Committee to consider any substance or product. Those who so approach the Committee are asked to provide evidence in support of the contention that a product should be regarded as a drug. The Committee is always ready to reconsider any of its decisions in the light of new evidence. Any approach to the Committee should be made through the Secretary at Hannibal House, Elephant and Castle, London SE1.

GENERAL PRACTITIONER AND SOCIAL WORKER WORKSHOP

A meeting of the General Practitioner and Social Worker Workshop will be held at Owens Park, University of Manchester from 28 to 30 March 1980. The title will be: "I can't do without it doctor"—dependence on alcohol and prescribed drugs. Further details can be obtained from Miss H. J. Scott, 42 Binley Close, Shirley, Solihull, West Midlands B90 2RB.

CORRECTIONS: JANUARY ISSUE OF THE JOURNAL

In the January 1980 issue of the *Journal* colour was omitted from the figures in Dr Clifford Kay's James Mackenzie Lecture 1979. This had a particularly unfortunate effect on Figure 6, which is being reprinted in this issue (page 160).

The leaflet for the Spring General Meeting of the Royal College of General Practitioners was also omitted from the January issue through no fault of the North of England Faculty or the Cumbria Subfaculty. It was distributed with the February issue.

Both these errors are greatly regretted.