

the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industries on clinical trials should be sought. The symposium preceding the Annual General Meeting in November will be on research, and faculties have been asked to nominate speakers and projects.

Scottish Council

The Scottish Council of the College will be leaving Livingstone House soon. It was reported that discussions were taking place with a view to finding other suitable accommodation in Edinburgh, possibly in association with another medical Royal College.

SCOTTISH GENERAL PRACTITIONER RESEARCH UNIT

The new telephone number for the Department of General Practice, West Gate Health Centre, Charleston Drive, Dundee DD2 4AD is Dundee (0382) 644425.

MRCGP EXAMINATION

The dates for the next MRCGP examinations are as follows:

October/December 1980

Written papers: Thursday, 30 October 1980.

Orals: In Edinburgh and London during the week ending 13 December 1980.

Closing date: 4 September 1980.

May/July 1981

Written papers: Thursday, 14 May 1981.

Orals: In Edinburgh during the week ending 27 June 1981 and in London during the week ending 4 July 1981.

Closing date: 19 March 1981.

The written papers will be held in London, Birmingham, Leeds, Manchester, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Cardiff, Belfast, and Dublin. These and other centres may be used as required, subject to a minimum (and in some centres 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 re-application fee £25.00. There is no charge for members of the College who wish to take the examination.

Application forms may be obtained from the Membership Secretary at the College.

PRACTICE ORGANIZATION ROOM

It is intended to reconstruct the Exhibition Room during the summer and visitors are therefore asked to telephone 14 Princes Gate before coming to see the exhibition in case the room is not open.

The main theme of the exhibition is the doctor's office, with various suggested formats for appointments, recall systems, and registers on display. The receptionist's job description and her training are also reviewed, and a display of the practice nurse, her training and deployment, will be mounted during the summer.

The main cabinets contain a diagnostic bag, a display of diagnosis by flow chart designed for the Third World by Dr Ben Essex, and some instruments designed by doctors.

The Practice Organization Study displays facets of highly organized practices and the Practice Organization Committee would be glad to hear of any practice who would be willing to fill in our questionnaire to give details of their own systems.

DEATHS

Fellows

Professor P. S. Byrne
Milnthorpe, Cumbria
D. E. Freeman
Cahir, Co. Tipperary
J. C. Graves
Essex
R. H. Wiseman
Durban, S. Africa

Members

T. G. Band
Edinburgh 12, Scotland
M. L. Cattell
Cyncoed, Cardiff
G. C. Hildrey
Great Bardfield, Nr Braintree, Essex
K. Jack
Auckland, New Zealand
V. J. Nash
Barry, Glamorgan
J. M. Nowakowski
Kidlington, Oxford
Doris E. Oxford
London SE1
J. N. A. Pritchard
Camberley, Surrey
T. W. L. Roberts
S. Africa
H. H. Robinson
West Heath, Birmingham
R. H. Scott
Norwich, Norfolk
Harry Simmons
Leeds
G. S. Waite
Bakewell, Derbyshire

Associates

Susan M. Hammond
King's Lynn, Norfolk
Ng Kong Kai
Singapore
N. K. Ravat
Bombay

MEDICAL NEWS

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION GOLD MEDAL

Lord Hunt of Fawley is to be awarded the Gold Medal of the British Medical Association, one of the Association's highest honours. Lord Hunt was the first Honorary Secretary of the Royal College of General Practitioners and his outstanding contribution to the improvement of general practice is well known. He has also played an important part in helping the promotion of

Parliamentary matters, particularly the passage of the Medical Act 1978, which widely reformed the General Medical Council along lines proposed by the profession. Thirdly, Lord Hunt has for long worked to improve co-operation between National Health Service and private medical care.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

The degree of Ph.D has been awarded to

Dr Christopher Watkins, MRCGP, of the General Practice Teaching and Research Unit, St Thomas' Hospital Medical School. Dr Watkins' thesis was on "Experimental research into the quality of medical care delivered to patients suffering from chronic disease."

IMMUNOASSAY WORKSHOP

The third Workshop in this series is again being organized jointly by the

Guildford Supraregional Assay Service centre and the Department of Biochemistry of the University of Surrey, with the aim of acquainting experienced workers with new developments in immunoassay and its associated techniques. It will be held in the modern laboratories of the University of Surrey at Guildford from 31 August to 5 September 1980 and residential accommodation will be available on site. It will be limited to 45 participants.

The course fee is £110 with an additional £44 for accommodation. A bursary of £40 will be given to participants working in NHS laboratories which are not part of the Supraregional Assay Service.

Further details and application forms may be obtained from the Courses Secretary, Department of Biochemistry, University of Surrey, Stag Hill, Guildford GU2 5XH. Tel: 0483 71281 Ext. 492.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON INNOVATION OF CARE DELIVERY FOR HEALTH

The first International Congress on the innovation of care delivery for health will be held in Noordwijkerhout, The Netherlands, from 14 to 18 October 1980. The emphasis will be on self-care, mutual care, and professional care.

Further information can be obtained from the Congress Secretariat, Holland Organizing Centre, Lange Voorhout 16, 2514 EE Den Haag, The Netherlands.

EQUIPMENT FOR THE DISABLED

Equipment for the Disabled have recently produced a fourth edition of *Hoists, Walking Aids* which is of special interest to those looking after the disabled and the elderly in hospital, in the community, and at home. The booklet is available, price £2.40 from Equipment for the Disabled (Dept. EU), 2

Foredown Drive, Portslade, Brighton BN4 2BB.

CHURCHILL TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIPS

Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship awards have now been announced by the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust. Among the successful applicants is Miss Clare Crocker, aged 22, Practice Manager of the Silvertown Health Centre, Devon, who will be going to Holland to study improvements in doctor/patient communications.

GRAVES MEDICAL AUDIOVISUAL LIBRARY

The new catalogue is now available free of charge from Mrs Fay Fontana, Administrator, Holly House, 220-224 New London Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 9BJ. Telephone: Chelmsford (0245) 83351.

TRANSPORT STATISTICS

Methods of travel

Car travel formed 81 per cent of total travel during the years 1968 to 1978; bus and coach travel fell from 15 to 11 per cent, and rail travel fell from nine to seven per cent. Cycling stayed at one per cent and air travel at 0.5 per cent.

Use of energy

The total use of energy rose by only five per cent during the decade, whilst energy use for transport increased by 33 per cent. Transport thus accounted for 23 per cent of the total energy consumption in Great Britain.

Cars

The car population, which had risen from 900,000 in 1928 to 1,990,000 in 1938, from 2,002,000 in 1948 to 4,650,000 in 1958, rose from over

11,000,000 in 1968 to 14,417,000 in 1978.

Reference

Department of Transport (1980). *Transport Statistics Great Britain 1968-1978*. London: HMSO.

IMPROVED SURVIVAL FOR SOME CANCER PATIENTS

Recent analyses show that 58 per cent of men registered between 1971 and 1973 with Hodgkinson's disease were alive five years later, whereas only 19 per cent of the men registered in 1959 survived for five years. The proportion of people with leukaemia surviving five years was 18 per cent for the 1971 and 1973 registrations compared with only six per cent for the 1959 registrations. Cancer of the kidney and cancer of the larynx also showed improved five-year survival.

Reference

Office of Population Censuses and Surveys (1980). *Cancer Statistics: Survival*. Series MB1 No. 3. London: HMSO.

AUTOMATED RECORDS IN PRIMARY CARE

A symposium on automated records in primary care is being held in Oxford from 1 to 4 July 1980, organized by the Oxford Community Health Project. Further details and applications can be obtained from Dr John Perry, Medical Director, Oxford Regional Health Authority, Old Road, Headington, Oxford OX3 7LF.

CORRECTION

In the March issue of the *Journal* (p. 182) Dr D. G. Garvie's name was inadvertently omitted from the list of College members nominated to serve on the Joint Committee on Postgraduate Training for General Practice.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PATIENT PARTICIPATION

Sir,
Whilst Dr Peter Pritchard is undoubtedly the modern pioneer in the patient participation movement, there is an earlier description in the *College Journal* by Dr L. A. Pike (1965) of Birmingham of a not dissimilar initiative. It depends what you mean by 'participation', but his description of

the meetings he held with invited groups of his patients, ostensibly for the purposes of health education, suggest that a two-way process was involved. He certainly mentions the development of "small group discussions" and he evaluated the effect of these meetings on the patients' awareness of illnesses. A reference suggests that he began before 1959—somewhat in trepidation of the British Medical Association and his

colleagues locally!

Today's patient participation groups will presumably be better organized and informed but it is not the first time (with deference to Dr Pritchard and his colleagues) that we will have re-discovered a general practice innovation of this kind. Why does it not occur in the area of clinical knowledge as well?

B. L. E. C. REEDY