

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