
COLLEGE NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL PRACTICE, UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE

Dr Peter D. Champion, who is a member of the Royal College of General Practitioners, has been appointed to the post of Lecturer in the Department of General Practice. He will be leaving his practice in Brentwood, Essex, to take up his appointment in the summer.

IAN STOKOE MEMORIAL AWARD

The Ian Stokoe Memorial Award is open to any fellow, member, or associate of the Royal College of General Practitioners. The competition is to encourage high standards in the preparation of material for publication. The award will be made with special reference to the quality and aptness of the use of illustrations (graphs, figures, line drawings, tables, or photographic material). Priority will be given to material which has already been published, but consideration will also be given to material which has been used in a lecture given under the aegis of the College or of a faculty of the College. Other material on a theme which has not yet been published or used in a lecture will also be considered.

The closing date for this year's competition is 31 October. Further information and details can be obtained from Dr D. W. Holton, Secretary to the Scottish Council, Royal College of General Practitioners, Livingstone House, 39 Cowgate, Edinburgh EH1 1JR.

WEST OF SCOTLAND FACULTY

The Annual General Meeting of the West of Scotland Faculty was held at Helensburgh in October 1979, and was attended by the President, Dr E. V. Kuenssberg.

The current faculty Officers are: Provost, Dr D. A. Haldane; Chairman, Dr R. M. Macneill; Vice-Chairman, Dr R. L. K. Colville; Joint Honorary Secretaries, Dr A. R. McCutcheon and Dr A. L. Black; Honorary Treasurer, Dr G. Watson.

SOUTH-EAST WALES FACULTY

The following Officers have been elected for the South-East Wales Faculty: Provost, Dr Brian Wallace; Chairman, Dr Margot Richards; Vice-Chairman, Dr R. C. Humphries; Honorary Secretary, Dr G. F. Morgan; Honorary Treasurer, Dr P. A. Knoyle; Representative on Central Council, Dr Simon Smail; Deputy Representative on Central Council, Dr T. A. Reilly; Representatives on Welsh Council, Drs Wallace, Humphries, Richards and Morgan.

NINTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON GENERAL PRACTICE AND FAMILY MEDICINE

The American Academy of Family Medicine will be hosts for the Ninth World Conference to be held in New Orleans from 5 to 9 October 1980 and once again the Royal College of General Practitioners is arranging group travel

for those who are interested. The meeting will coincide with the Annual Convention of the American Academy.

In addition, the travel agents (VIP Travel Ltd, 42 North Audley Street, London W1) will be happy to arrange visits to other parts of the United States for those who wish to extend their stay.

Because of the present favourable exchange rate for the £, it has been possible to bring down the price for the return air journey, plus 7 nights at the conference hotel (bed only), to less than £450 per person. As this is an educational exercise, those who are going might wish to discuss with their accountant the possibility of charging this as an expense for tax purposes.

FUTURE COURSES

September 1980

19-21 Five Years on in Practice: Part 1

October 1980

27-31 Five Years on in Practice: Part 2

DEATHS

Fellows

D. E. Freeman,

Cahir, Co. Tipperary

Yeoh Hone Soo

Johore, West Malaysia

Members

Southworth, H.

Blackburn, Lancs.

Moore, A. W.

Belfast 5

Henig, L.

Pinner, Middlesex

Batty, A. M. F.

Rothley, Leicester

MEDICAL NEWS

WELSH NATIONAL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Dr Simon Smail, MRCP, has been promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer in the Unit of General Practice at the Welsh National School of Medicine.

Dr Smail is a member of the Council of the Royal College of General Practitioners and joint author of the book *Take Care of Yourself*.

UNIVERSITY OF BRUNEL

G. Teeling-Smith, Director of the Office of Health Economics, has been appointed an honorary Professor Associate in the Department of Economics at the University of Brunel.

Professor Teeling-Smith's activities will include teaching and the organization of seminars in health economics, both at Brunel and elsewhere.

HORDER MEMORIAL ESSAY

The Fellowship for Freedom in Medicine is offering a prize of £300 for the best essay by a medical or non-medical person on "How can the National Health Service of the 80s be reformed to encourage Personal Family Doctor Care?". The closing date is 30 August 1980, and further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Fellowship

for Freedom in Medicine, Stockbury House, Church Street, Storrington, Sussex RH20 4LD.

BALINT SOCIETY

A residential weekend is being arranged by the Balint Society at the University of Oxford on Friday 26 September, finishing at 13.00 hours on Sunday, 28 September 1980. General practitioner principals and trainees are being invited and the course will be recognized under Section 63. Applications and enquiries should be sent to Dr Cyril Gill, 11 Briardale Gardens, London NW3.

SOCIETY OF COMMUNITY MEDICINE

The Society of Community Medicine (formerly the Society of Medical Officers of Health) is holding a seminar on "More modern trends in child health", which will be held at the Royal Society of Medicine on 3 September 1980. Applications should be made to Miss W. A. Webb, Administrative Secretary, Society of Community Medicine, London W1N 4DE.

Another symposium on "Alcohol abuse" will be held on 24 November 1980 at the Barnes Hall of the Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London W1. Applications should also be made to Miss W. A. Webb.

BASICS

The Annual Report for 1978/79 and the beginning of volume 3 of its own journal both show that the British Association of Immediate Care Schemes is—mainly by the efforts of general practitioners—filling an important gap in the provision of medical care. In his second report the chairman, Dr Ken Easton, tells of an increase in all activities: meetings both national and international, committees at work on training, research, and the assessment of equipment, a growing journal, lecturers talking to students and doctors, and above all a determined committee which is pressing its aims on health authorities at all levels. The result is gratifying in financial terms, with the DHSS increasing its annual grant for 1979/80 to £20,000. In the best British tradition of improvisation, inspiration, and dedication, BASICS is undoubtedly giving the patients of this country extraordinarily good value for money.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Table 1. Funds allocated to the Health Education Council.

	£ million (actual)
1973-1974	1.491
1974-1976	0.946
1975-1976	1.634
1976-1977	1.414
1977-1978	2.918
1978-1979	3.537
1979-1980 (estimate)	4.354

Table 1 shows the funds allocated by the DHSS to the Health Education Council in the period 1973 to 1980.

Final decisions have not yet been taken on levels of funding for 1980/81 and subsequent years.

Reference

Family Practitioner Services (1980). 7, 89.

DOCTORS AND ALCOHOL

The Faculty of Community Medicine has recently produced a small pamphlet entitled *A Recommendation for Prevention of Alcohol Related Disorders*. This draws the attention primarily of community physicians to the need to encourage education about and prevention of the problems produced by excessive alcohol consumption in their local communities. In the initial paragraphs the pamphlet gives a short resumé of recent trends in the consumption of alcohol and alcohol-related disorders, and it concludes by drawing the Government's attention to ways in which fiscal and legal measures could be adopted to lessen the problem.

The pamphlet can be obtained from the Faculty of Community Medicine, 28 Portland Place, London W1N 4DE.

MATERNITY GRANTS

From 1982 mothers will receive maternity grants regardless of their National Insurance contribution record. Instead, there will be a six-month residential qualification.

Mrs Lynda Chalker, a government spokesman for Social Security, announced this during the debate on the Social Security Bill.

Under the present arrangements eight per cent of mothers are not eligible for maternity grants, and this includes just over half of all single mothers.

This policy was advocated in the editorial "Maternity grants—room for

reform" published in the *Journal* in February 1975.

Reference

CHC News (1980). Health News. No. 53, 4.

FINANCING THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

The Secretary of State for Social Services, Mr Patrick Jenkin, has announced that in the White Paper for 1980/81 the gross expenditure by health authorities will represent an increase of about 0.5 per cent in real terms over the expenditure originally planned for 1979/80. This figure is therefore the starting point for the cash limits of health authorities.

As for other central government expenditure, this cash limit provides for a 14 per cent increase in prices between 1979/80 and 1980/81 and in earnings from due settlement dates.

Separate provision has been made for increased pay arising from existing commitments, the staging of past awards, and specifically from the increases resulting from the Clegg report on nurses' pay.

The revenue cash limits are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Revenue cash limits by region.

Regional Health Authority	£ million
West Midlands	680.4
North East Thames	645.3
South East Thames	605.9
North Western	605.2
North West Thames	591.3
Trent	586.6
Yorkshire	496.3
South West Thames	475.6
Northern	441.0
South Western	427.5
Mersey	370.6
Wessex	351.1
Oxford	282.0
East Anglia	242.9
Total	6,801.7

FEES FOR STATUTORY MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

The Health and Safety Commission are reviewing the structure and level of fees for statutory medical examinations carried out by employment medical advisers and have published a consultative document *Fees for Statutory Medical Examinations: Draft Regulations* (price: 50p). Further copies can be obtained from Mr M. Hookham, Health and Safety Executive, EMAS A1, 25 Chapel Street, London NW1 5DT.