

INHERITED TENDENCY TO MALIGNANT DISEASE

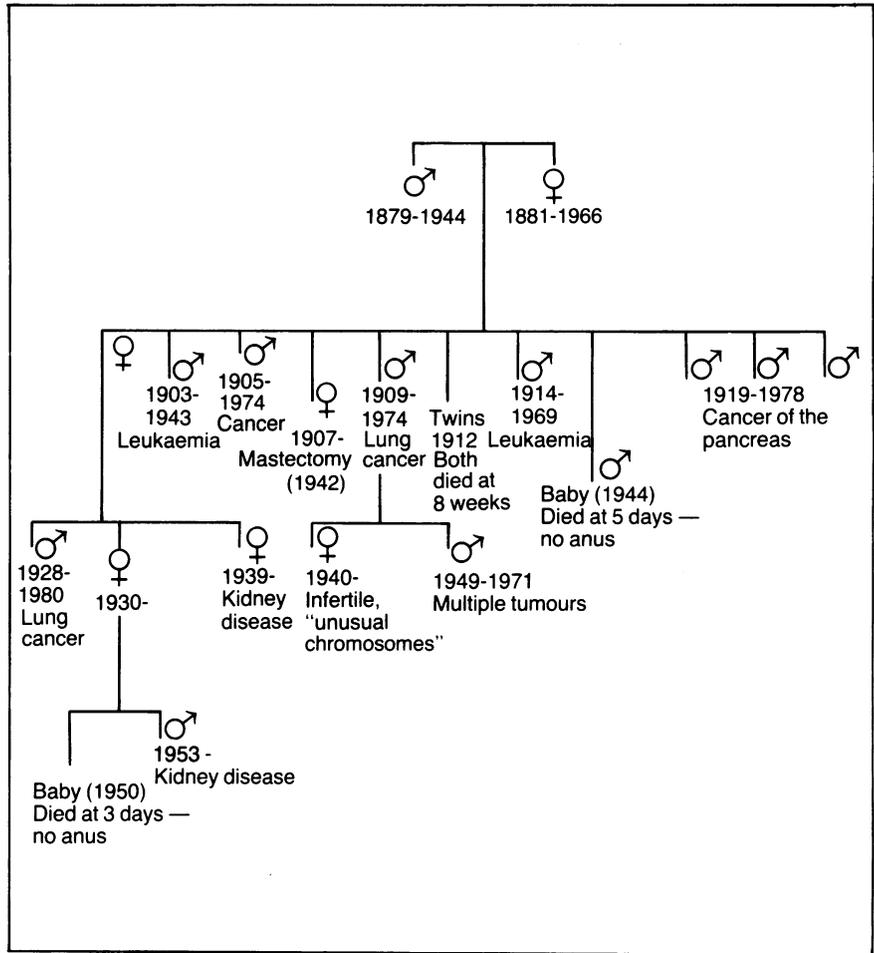
Sir,
I enclose a copy of a family tree presented to me by a patient who married into a family with an extraordinary history of malignant disease and congenital problems. She felt moved to do this as she lost her son and husband in rapid succession (1971 and 1974).

She has traced only the blood line, excluding those who married in. The record is couched in her own terms and there are presumably some other unaffected children, but it is still a disastrous record.

One wonders what advice should be given to anyone contemplating marrying into this family.

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Family tree with diagnoses as given by the patient.

GOBBLEDYGOOK

Sir,
A small piece on page 419 of the July *Journal* intrigued me. I have no gobbleddygook-English dictionary. May we have a translation next time please?

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BOOK REVIEWS

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE IN EUROPE — 1979

Leo A. Kaprio

Regional Office for Europe, World Health Organization
Copenhagen

40 pages. Price 5 Swiss francs

In September 1978, an International Conference for Primary Health Care was held in Alma-Ata, USSR, under the auspices of the World Health Organization. From this gathering in Kazakhstan the Regional Director of the European Office of WHO has taken some principles which he feels should apply to the development of health care in Europe. He recognizes the contrasts between the needs of the affluent and

industrialized North and the developing South but expands similar ideas with particular reference to Europe.

He begins with a review of the development of total health care systems which have reflected not only advances in medical knowledge but the increasing demands of a progressively more sophisticated culture. He regards the new concern with primary health care as a welcome counter, especially in Europe, to the detrimental effect of an over-emphasis on hospital-based care.

A clear look at the problems follows, with suggestions for future strategies.

The importance of encouraging research into the health needs and demands of a population as well as the more prestigious high technology is firmly argued. His recognition of the differences between basic health needs

and 'comfort requirements' may well give us pause in the NHS.

The change from 'medical care' to 'health care' is seen as essential. There is a clear argument for a general practice based multidisciplinary health care provision, and the renaissance of general practice which has occurred foreshadows this.

There is a great deal of thoughtful argument in this clear and well-written little book. It will not appeal to the parochial general practitioner, but is recommended for anyone interested in wider issues in Europe. It should be required reading for all concerned with health care planning at any level, from district upwards, and be available in all postgraduate centre libraries.

JOHN BENNISON