

variety of audit rather than the "how often right or wrong" type.

Copies of letters were made on behalf of hundreds of National Service Medical Officers; most business firms do it. A practice medical secretary employed to type letters about patients should make copies of what is typed.

G. A. C. BINNIE

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DRUG DEPENDENCY

Sir,
Most of the people who attend Families Anon, all relatives of drug-addicts, have found that their general practitioners, although sympathetic to their problem, have little knowledge of referral agencies or treatment centres apart from the hospital-based drug dependency clinics (and these may have long waiting lists). General practitioners also appear to feel helpless in trying to support families of addicts. This, sadly, is common to many professionals, including probation officers and social workers.

Our introductory letter reads as follows:

"We would like you to know that a self-help group called Families Anon is meeting every Tuesday, from 7.00 to 8.30 pm at 84 Margaret Street, London W1.

It is the function of Families Anon to meet the needs of the relatives and friends of drug users. The group offers support and, where appropriate, advice and information to its members.

Please assist us by making our group known as widely as possible to those whom we may be able to help (and who may help us).

We can be contacted through Release on 01-289 1123. New members will also be welcome at our meetings, without prior appointment."

FAMILIES ANON

84 Margaret Street
London W1.

FOOD FOR THE COLLEGE FUND

Sir,
I can think of little which is more

detrimental to good health than sitting around a restaurant table ingesting a great many calories and saturated fatty acids. A great many pharmaceutical companies invite doctors to partake in this habit.

I have recently begun to be highly selective in which invitations I accept, but rather than refuse all invitations completely, I have suggested to drug companies that they may like to make a donation on behalf of the Royal College Appeal fund. A great many practitioners refuse to accept such invitations on principle. I think it may be constructive to request that such money that the pharmaceutical companies wish to spend might be directed towards this charity rather than refuse completely. So far I have been able to channel £25 from CIBA and £2 from a medical survey group into College funds in this way.

A. P. PRESLEY

25 Park Road
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INFORMATION WANTED

Sir,
The Central Information Service for General Medical Practice has been established for over three years. It provides information for all general practitioners—not just for members of the Royal College of General Practitioners.

We are frequently asked for evaluated information on equipment and are anxious to build up a file on this subject. It would be helpful therefore if doctors who have experience of, for example, ECG machines or Sonicaid, could write giving us details of performance so that other general practitioners could benefit from their experience.

JOAN MANT

Central Information Service for General Medical Practice
14 Princes Gate
London SW7 1PU.

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS

Sir,
The WONCA Classification Committee (consisting of 15 doctors from different countries) has developed a draft volume of inclusive and exclusive definitions of

rubrics in ICHPPC-2. The Committee plans to carry out field trials of these definitions and is looking for volunteer doctors interested in coding. The trials will involve the volunteers in: (a) looking through the definitions and saying whether they think the volume would be useful; (b) using the definitions for a short time and deciding whether or not doing so is too time-consuming; and (c) deciding whether they would wish to use the definitions for coding overall or only for specific purposes. It is hoped that the trials will take place in mid-1981. Any doctors wishing to take part should contact me at the address below. The committee is also searching for printing errors in ICHPPC-2 (OUP £5), and I should like to hear about any such mistakes discovered by other users.

The Committee is also working on an international glossary of general practice terminology and, in conjunction with WHO, on a classification of reasons for contact.

The value of the reasons for contact classification and of ICHPPC-2 is that they are both internationally compatible and mutually compatible. Both also allow for the use of 'vague' diagnoses, and so avoid labelling illnesses for the sake of finding a code number.

Dates for trials of the reasons for contact classification are not yet finalized, but anyone interested in taking part should contact me. I shall keep interested doctors informed of developments.

W. M. PATTERSON
Journal Representative
Member of WONCA Classification
Committee

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1 Glenlockart Bank
Edinburgh 14.

COLLEGE ACCOMMODATION

Sir,
In reply to Dr D. S. Browne's letter (November *Journal*, p. 701) I should just like to say how much my family and I appreciate the hard work as well as the kindness and courtesy of the College staff, which make a stay at Princes Gate so pleasant.

I am sure there are many people, both at home and abroad, who would echo these sentiments.

JANET HENDERSON

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