

Completed nominations should be submitted by 21 August (for election to Fellowship at the Annual General Meeting, 1981) and 6 November (for election to Fellowship at the Spring General Meeting, 1982).

### ASTRA/RCGP RESEARCH AWARDS

Three annual prizes of £500, £250 and £100 are awarded to trainee general practitioners for research carried out during their period of vocational training. Closing date: 25 September 1981. Application forms and details from the Honorary Secretary, Scientific Foundation Board, The Royal College of General Practitioners, 14 Princes Gate, London SW7 1PU.

### PICTURES FOR PRINCES GATE

A number of fine engravings, prints and water colours have recently been presented to the College by Dr Stephen Pasmore, who retired in 1980 after a lifetime in general practice in West London. The pictures are mostly nineteenth-century views of parts of London close to the College; members will soon be able to look at them at Princes Gate, where they will be yet another reason for far-flung doctors to come and see what goes on at HQ.

### NEW READING AND FAMLI

In response to the publication of WONCA's new *Family Medicine Literature Index* (FAMLI), the College's librarian, Miss Margaret Hammond, recently circulated a questionnaire to the subscribers of *New Reading*, which has in the past five years been the library's own highly respected index to the literature of general practice. Of the results of the survey, Miss Hammond writes:

"Most answers indicated that subscribers prefer *New Reading*. We are

going to have a trial and error year in 1981. FAMLI is an important departure for the National Library of Medicine and WONCA. The British representatives—myself and Simon Barley—will be trying to influence FAMLI's content to be of more relevance to British general practitioners, and the RCGP library staff will be helping with indexing the British material.

"*New Reading* will continue more or less in its present format. We shall be more selective in our inclusion of foreign material, will include more cross-references and look again at some of our headings. We will try to deal with books and reports in a separate section, and we intend to send out additional topic sheets. Many constructive suggestions came from the 70-odd replies we received and we'll be examining these for their practicality throughout the coming year."

*New Reading* is available by subscription (£5 per year) from the Librarian at the College.

### WESSEX FACULTY OPEN MEETING

The First Annual George Swift Lecture will be given on Friday, 23 October 1981 in Lecture Theatre 1, South Academic Block, Southampton General Hospital. Dr George Swift will speak about 'Recollections and Reflections—General Practice since 1946'. Further details from Dr Dorothy Sanderson at the Postgraduate Medical Centre, Southampton General Hospital, Southampton SO9 4XY.

### COLLEGE WIVES

Mrs Elizabeth Horder, wife of the President of the College, has written to the wives of all male College members. Her letter draws attention to the possible isolation of general practitioners' wives and suggests ways in which this might be overcome. She floats the ideas of becoming more involved in College activities, such as the

College's gift scheme, a scheme for maintaining contacts with widows of College members and the creation of informal social contacts between wives themselves. She asks for feedback and we look forward to reporting on responses to her letter. Mrs Horder apologizes to the husbands of lady members for leaving them out.

### MRCGP EXAMINATION

The dates for the next MRCGP examination are as follows:

#### October/December 1981

Written papers: Tuesday, 27 October 1981.

Orals: In Edinburgh and London during the week ending 12 December 1981.

Closing date: 3 September 1981.

#### May/July 1982

Written papers: Tuesday, 11 May 1982.

Orals: In Edinburgh during the week ending 26 June and in London during the week ending 3 July 1982.

Closing date: Thursday, 11 March 1982.

The written papers will be held in London, Birmingham, Leeds, Manchester, Exeter, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Cardiff, Belfast and Dublin. These and other centres may be used as required, subject to 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 as follows:

	1981	1982
Application fee	£100.00	£125.00
Reapplication fee	£75.00	£93.75

Candidates withdrawing from the examination after the closing date for applications forfeit 40 per cent of the full fee. Application forms may be obtained from the Examination Administrator at the College.

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## MEDICAL NEWS

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### RESEARCH INTO BACK PAIN

Back pain in 1978 resulted in 18 million working days lost, £90 million in Social Security payments and some £900 million in lost production. The Back Pain Association provide £60,000 a year for research, and the DHSS and the

Medical Research Council will consider supporting any soundly based research into back pain, its treatment, studies on prevention or comparative trials of medical and other treatments. However, to date they have received only one research proposal, and that was in-

sufficiently developed to be acceptable.

The address of the Back Pain Association is Grundy House, Somerset Road, Teddington, Middlesex.

Source: Dr Gerard Vaughan, Speech to the Back Pain Association, 3 April 1981.

## PRIMARY CARE IN LONDON

The current health service reorganization is a last chance to get things right for London's patients, according to a report by a group of London CHCs and the Association of CHCs (*The Management of Health Services in London* from the Association of CHCs, 362 Euston Road, London NW1). The report identifies poor primary care as the capital's main problem and says that the new district health authorities should have the same boundaries as local government. It argues that the strategy of closing acute beds will not help, and the CHCs believe that the influence of the teaching hospitals continues to distort the planning of services. Health visitors should be integrated into the community medicine structure, says the report. It also suggests that, as acute beds are closed, hospital nurses should be offered retraining and posts in community nursing.

Source: *CHC News* (1981), 66, 4.

## MOLD COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

This new hospital is to be one of the community hospitals supporting the Wrexham District General Hospital. It is to be constructed on the land within the curtilage of the existing Mold Cottage Hospital, which will be effectively replaced. The total cost will be about £1.5m and construction will take two years. It will include a 20-bed general medical ward, a 20-bed geriatric ward, a 15-place day hospital, an out-patient department and full supporting services. Work is expected to begin in August 1981 on this, the first purpose-built community hospital in Wales.

## VISITING PROFESSORSHIP

Dr Julian Tudor Hart of Glyncorrwg, Glamorgan, has been appointed visiting professor at the University of North Carolina Medical School at Chapel Hill.

He is to work in the department of family medicine in August and September of this year.

## CHC SURVEYS

Of the 228 CHCs in England and Wales, 194 have responded to a questionnaire sent out by *CHC News*. The surveys were classified in alphabetical order, and indicate what services have been looked into and by which CHCs these have been done. The largest number were on maternity care, closely followed by those about the elderly; 28 were about general practice and primary care. A full list can be seen in *CHC News* for May 1981, pages 10-11.

## MSD FOUNDATION: NEW PROGRAMMES

The MSD Foundation supports medical education in the UK by producing audiovisual material for use with small groups of doctors. The following new programmes are now available:

105. *The Management of the Arthritic Patient in General Practice*. Videocassette. Part 1, 30 min; Part 2, 18 min. Diagnostic methods, early detection, management, chronic conditions. Includes project work.

201/6. *Consultation Selection A*. Videocassette. Part 1, 13 min; Part 2, 11 min; Part 3, 14 min; Part 5, 10 min. Recordings of four consultations, verbal and non-verbal behaviour.

201/7. *Consultation Selection B*. Videocassette. Part 1, 18 min; Part 2, 8 min; Part 3, 20 min. As above.

201/8. *Doctor at work—Dr Paul Freeling*. Videocassette. Consultations and techniques.

304. *Dorothy Parsons*. Videocassette. Dramatized programme on terminal illness: symptoms, feelings of relatives; community resources; hospital care.

305. *Darren Cooper*. Videocassette. 16 min. Dramatization. The child as presentation of family disorder; small stature; child abuse and maternal de-

pression; community resources; consultation with children.

406. *Safer Prescribing*. Tape/slide. Part 1, 14 min; Part 2, 10 min; audit; repeat prescribing; assessing information about drugs.

408. *Medical Records. The Third Party in the Consultation*. Videocassette. Extracts from consultations. Organizing and using record systems; record systems and the consultation.

501. *Upper Respiratory Tract Infections in Children*. Tape/slide. 15 min. Natural history and epidemiology; management; family anxiety; classifications. Four cases presented.

504. *Child Health Surveillance*. Videocassette. Interviews with mothers and doctors. Aims of surveillance; organization; skills.

All material available from the MSD Foundation, Tavistock House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9LG.

## MEETINGS AND COURSES

### Science and Medicine 1981

Royal College of Physicians of London, 11 St Andrew's Place, Regent's Park, London NW1 4LE, 11-13 November. Sessions on physiology, messengers and receptors, immunology, genes and proteins, electronics and ultrasound. For further details contact the Conference Secretary, address as above.

### Alcoholism

The FARE Annual Symposium, York University, 28-30 September. For further details contact The Administrator, FARE, Federation of Alcoholic Rehabilitation Establishments, 3 Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1X 7EE.

### Psychosexual Medicine

International conference organized by the Institute of Psychosexual Medicine, Brighton, 7-10 July. For further details contact Caroline Rodney, Medical Conference Organizers, 100 Park Road, London NW1 4RN.

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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## WORKING ABROAD

Sir,  
The members of the East Anglia Faculty Board would heartily agree with Dr J. R. D. Brown on his advice to doctors,

"Why not shed a little moss?" (February *Journal*). At the same time, we would like to draw the attention of general practitioners to the virtual cessation of the possibility of working abroad on a short-term or exchange

basis. Whilst this embargo does not apply to the EEC countries (but who has the language fluency?) and the 'Third World', throughout most of the English-speaking world an iron curtain has come down that effectively excludes