
COLLEGE NEWS

RETIREMENT OF HONORARY LIBRARIAN

Dr D. Craddock has recently retired after 10 years as Honorary Librarian at the College. In June a dinner was given in his and Mrs Craddock's honour by the President and Mrs Horder. Also present were the library staff and others closely associated with the library's work.

SPRING MEETINGS

The Spring Meetings for 1984 to 1989 are to be hosted by the following faculties: 1984, Leicester; 1985, Essex; (1986 WONCA); 1987, S.E. Scotland; 1988, Severn; 1989, S.E. Thames.

DISCUSSION GROUP

The Hammersmith Group of general practitioners meets on the second Monday of the month at the Postgraduate Medical Centre, Charing Cross Hospital. Meetings start at 20.00. In the past they have been attended by College members, non-members and non-medical colleagues such as councillors and lawyers, and have been lively and informative. There are similar discussion groups in other areas of the Faculty.

If the course organizers of other Faculties would like to contact us for exchange of views and experience, please contact Dr Helen Sapper, 19 Lavington Road, London W13, or our Faculty Education Committee. All general practitioners, even from outside the area, are welcome to attend these meetings.

MRCGP EXAMINATIONS

The dates for the next MRCGP examinations are as follows:

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.

October/December 1982

Written papers: Tuesday, 26 October 1982.
Orals: In Edinburgh and London during the week ending 11 December 1982.
Closing date: 2 September 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 a 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:

Application fee	£125.00
Re-application fee	£ 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.

NIGHTLINE TELEPHONE NUMBERS

The College switchboard is open from 08.30 - 19.00, not 08.30 - 20.00 as reported in the August *Journal*. Calls made after 19.00 are received by Ansa-phone.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

If you change your address, please let us know. Notice of any change should be sent to Mrs Gerlint Price, Registration Officer, The Royal College of General Practitioners, 14 Princes Gate, Hyde Park, London SW7 1PU.

MEDICAL NEWS

MEDICAL RECORDS

Dr Ian Tait of Aldeburgh, Suffolk, has recently been awarded the degree of MD by the University of Cambridge for his thesis on the history and function of medical records. Half of his work was historical research into the evolution of the medical record and the way in which it parallels the scientific clinical method. It gives fascinating examples of notes from St Bartholomew's Hospital in the 1880s which are indistinguishable (abbreviations and all) from those written today. The second half of the thesis

documents the development of the system which Dr Tait and his partners worked on, with trials, for 10 years and which he wrote up in the *British Medical Journal* in 1977, 2, 683-688. The thesis, a copy of which has joined the collection in the College library, is dedicated to Dr Tait's former partner, Dr John Stevens.

THE BUSINESS OF GENERAL PRACTICE

In 1979 the weekly magazine *General Practitioner*, in conjunction with the

GMSC, published a short guide to the business of general practice. Of the many sources of information about income, expenditure, fees and allowances, tax, partnerships, superannuation and training payments, few rival this for accuracy and convenience. The success of the first edition, which instantly became almost impossible to get hold of, amply justifies the appearance of a second. It has been circulated to practising general practitioners and a limited number of copies is still available from the GMSC Secretariat at BMA House (a 9" by 6" SAE would be helpful).

EDWARD JENNER'S HOUSE

The Jenner Trust, formed in 1966 to celebrate one of the most famous general practitioners of all time and to ensure public awareness of his contribution to society, has joined with the British Society for Immunology to buy Jenner's house in Gloucestershire. The two bodies have launched an appeal for £500,000, with which they will develop the house into a museum, an education centre and a hall for the villagers of Berkeley, where Jenner was the doctor for 51 years. The secretary to the appeal is Dr A. R. Sanderson, PO Box 35, East Grinstead RH19 3UT, West Sussex.

FIRST AID AT WORK

New regulations governing first aid at work are to come into force in July 1982. The regulations apply to all workplaces covered by the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974), including hospitals, schools and other premises which were brought within the scope of the health and safety legislation for the first time by the 1974 Act. All employers will have to make sure that there is first-aid equipment and, depending on the size of the organization, at least one first-aider or "appointed person" to look after someone who is injured or becomes ill at work. Employers will also have to inform their employees about what arrangements have been made.

The Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations (SI 1981 No. 917) are available from HMSO, £1.10, plus postage.

ACCIDENTS AT WORK, 1980

According to the Health and Safety Executive, total reported accidents in 1980 are down (272,822 compared with 318,873 in 1979); so are fatal accidents (564 in 1980, 615 in 1979). There was no drop in the number of reported instances of industrial disease. The fall in reported accidents was very widely spread and applied to all major manufacturing industries and most other industries, although there was an increase in agricultural accidents. It is not clear how far the drop in reported accidents at work is due to better enforcement of the

health and safety legislation or to the decline in numbers at work.

MEDICAL SOCIOLOGY IN BRITAIN

Contributions are being solicited for the fourth edition of this book, which is to appear in 1982. It is a register of persons, projects, publications and research centres engaged in social science research in health and illness. It is a standard reference work in the area. Contributors are asked to send brief details of their completed research, the research that they are doing at the moment, proposed research, their academic or other affiliations and any relevant publications. A proforma will be sent on request. The proformas must be in the editors' hands by the end of 1981, and can be obtained by sending a self-addressed C5 envelope to Brian Clarke, SIBS, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL.

NO COMMENT

"A research study published in July 1981 by the Advertising Association shows that a ban on alcohol advertising would be 'wholly ineffective in combating alcohol abuse'. Instead it would 'deny the 40 million moderate drinkers in the UK the right to product information'.

"This is one of the principal conclusions of *Advertising and Alcohol Abuse* by Mike Waterson, the Advertising Association's Director of Research. It is based on a two-year analysis of existing research evidence on alcohol consumption and abuse.

"Mr Waterson says that 'alcohol abuse is related to a variety of socio-cultural, genetic and psychological factors which cannot be in any way related to advertising expenditure levels'.

"He points out that 'estimates for the number of problem drinkers in the UK vary widely, but even the highest estimates also demonstrate that 98 per cent of drinkers (or about 40 million people) are not problem drinkers. There are no grounds for objecting to moderate drinking, since insurance statistics and research evidence suggest that the moderate consumption of alcoholic beverages

is actually physically beneficial (teetotalers die younger).'

"Mr Waterson says that denying moderate drinkers 'the right to product information and wider choice, because of a very small percentage of users who abuse the product, would obviously be a serious interference with the basic freedom of the individual.'

"He points out that 'alcohol advertising is directed at selling individual brands, and does not encourage people to drink ever larger quantities of the product. The consumer is invited to change from one brand of drink to another, not to drink more.' "

From a press release issued by the Advertising Association.

MEETINGS AND COURSES

Incontinence

One-day symposium, 16 October. Walton Conference Centre, Southern General Hospital, Glasgow. £4.00, including lunch. Further details from Eric Glen, FRCS, Walton Urological Teaching and Research Centre, Southern General Hospital, Glasgow.

Staffing and Communication in General Practice

CIS study day, 15 October. Royal College of General Practitioners, 14 Princes Gate, Hyde Park, London SW7 1PU.

APPOINTMENTS

Ian Capstick has been appointed to the new post of Medical Director of St Peter's Hospice, Bristol. He took up this post in August 1981. Dr Capstick was formerly a general practitioner in North Yorkshire.

John Fry, who is in practice in Beckenham, Kent, has been invited to do a second term of three years as advisor in general practice to the Chief Medical Officer. He has also been appointed as Jephcott Visiting Professor 1981-82 to the Department of Community Medicine at Oxford.