

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 application forfeit 40 per cent of the full fee.

Application forms may be obtained from the Examination Administrator at the College.

MEDICAL NEWS

Future of Family Practitioner Committees

Dr Gerard Vaughan, Minister for Health, has announced his decision on the future of the Family Practitioner Committees. He has said that as part of the reorganization of the health service and the setting up of the new district health authorities it is necessary to consider the future of the Family Practitioner Committees should they be independent bodies or should they be part of the new district authorities? He believes that establishing Family Practitioner Committees as health authorities in their own right, with powers to engage their own staff, is most likely both to facilitate the development of primary care services and lead to increased efficiency in the administration of the family practitioner services. When time permits, the Government will legislate to introduce these new arrangements, but this cannot be fitted into the programme for the present session. Interim arrangements will be made since, for the time being, the present statutory position will remain. Dr Vaughan has said that the decision will in no way affect the Government's intention to reduce the proportion of total NHS resources spent on management by 10 per cent by the end of the financial year.

IPPF Budget

The International Planned Parenthood Federation has approved a budget for 1982 of \$50 million. More than \$34 million is to be disbursed in the form of direct grants for family planning activities in 90 countries, almost all in the developing world. The remainder is devoted to international projects.

The Practice Nurse: Training Needs

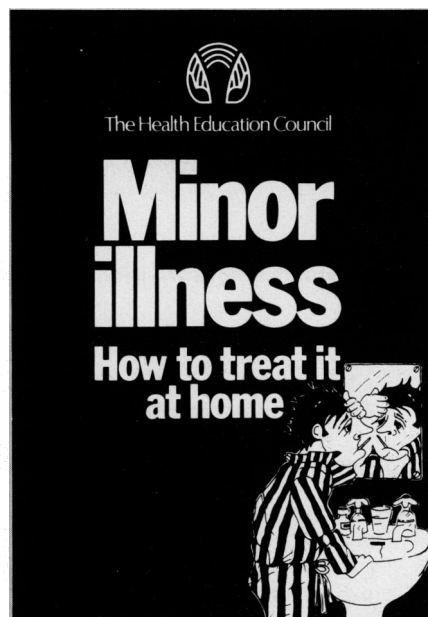
In 1980 representatives of the British Medical Association, the Council for the Education and Training of Health Visitors, the Panel of Assessors for District Nurse Training, the Royal College of General Practitioners and the Royal College of Nursing set up a Steering Group to examine the training needs of practice nurses and other nurses employed to work in the treatment room of general practice and health centre premises. The group wants to make recommendations in a report it hopes to publish in 1982, and is asking for comments and relevant material. These should be sent to the Secretary of the Steering Group, Mrs E. Everett, 85 East Street, Epsom, Surrey, KT17 1DT.

The New DHSS Ministers

Mr Norman Fowler, as Secretary of State for Social Services, has overall responsibility for the Department.

Dr Gerard Vaughan, Minister of Health, deals with policy issues on, and the day to day administration of the health and personal social services. He is assisted by two Parliamentary Under Secretaries of State, *Mr Geoffrey Finsberg* and *Lord Elton*, who deals with all Departmental business in the House of Lords.

Mr Hugh Rossi, Minister for Social Security, deals with policy issues on, and the day to day administration of social security, and has special responsibility for policies for disabled people. He is assisted by *Mrs Lynda Chalker*, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and by Lord Elton.



Booklet for Patients

Minor Illness, How to Treat it at Home is written by Professor David Morrell and is available free to GPs for issue to their patients. It can be ordered from the health education unit of the AHAs or from the Health Education Council, 78 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1AH (01-637-1881).

Meetings and Courses

MRCGP Examination

One-day course, Sunday 14 March, Hallwood Health Centre, Runcorn, 9.30-4.30. Details from Dr B. M. McGuinness, Chairman, Examination Course, Hallwood Lane, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 2UT.

Study day for overseas candidates. Royal College of General Practitioners, Saturday, 27 February. Section 63 approval sought. Further details from Miss Elizabeth Monk, Courses Secretary, RCGP, 14 Princes Gate, London, SW7 1PU.