

To improve the standards of general practice.	37
To promote the aims of the College.	22
To support the status of general practice.	16
As a challenge or for self-assessment.	35
To be a trainer.	10.
Fuller analysis will be available later.	

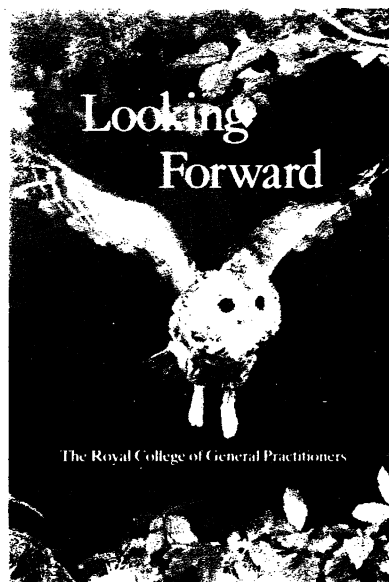
## Study Tour of China

The College has been approached by Study China Travel Ltd with a view to getting together a party of 10 doctors and their partners to go on a medical study tour of China from 3-23 October, 1982. The leader of the tour would be Dr P. E. Brown, MRCP, who has made many trips of this kind before. The cost would be about £1,650 per person. Anyone interested is asked to contact Olivia Hill at the College as soon as possible.

## New College Brochure

Every organization needs its public face, and a new brochure for intending members has long been a necessity for the College. Dr Clive Froggatt of Cheltenham has succeeded very well in the difficult task of writing something which is at once informative and interesting. The ten-page booklet gives a good idea of what we are about, with brief details of the College's work centrally and in the faculties. One page summarizes the College's activities and can be removed for sending to Princes Gate for further information.

Copies will be available from the Administrative Secretary at the College later in May.



The front cover of the new brochure.

## Katharina V. Kuenssberg Award

Applications are invited for the above travelling grant to enable young GPs, including those in training, to study general practice in Canada. The successful applicant would be expected to make arrangements to spend at least four weeks in a recognized training practice or department.

Applications would also be acceptable from young Canadian general practitioners wishing to study in the UK.

Applications must be received by the Honorary Secretary, Scientific Foundation Board, RCGP, 14 Princes Gate, London SW7 1PU by 1 July 1982. These should set out firm proposals for such a study with an estimate of the financial support required.

## MRCGP Exam Dates

The dates for the next MRCGP examinations are as follows:

### 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.

### May/July 1983

Written papers: Tuesday, 17 May 1983.

Orals: In Edinburgh during the week ending 2 July and in London during the week ending 9 July 1983.

Closing date: Thursday, 17 March, 1983.

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.

Candidates are advised that from the October examination 1982 onwards, the number of questions in the Multiple Choice paper will be reduced to 60.

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

## MEDICAL NEWS

### Face Lift for London Surgeries

A new advice centre to help doctors in Inner London improve the quality of their surgeries is to be opened on 1 May by the Medical Architecture Research Unit at the Polytechnic of North London.

The advice centre is funded by a grant from the King Edward's Hospital Fund.

Enquiries should be made to the Medical Architecture Research Unit Secretary at the Polytechnic of North

London, Holloway, London N7 8DB.  
Tel: 01-607 2789 ext 2216.

### Occupational Asthma Prescribed as an Industrial Disease

On 29 March 1982 occupational asthma was prescribed as an industrial disease for which disablement benefit may be paid under the industrial injuries scheme. Members may wish to

know something about the scheme so that they can give advice about claiming to patients whose asthma might result from their work.

The disease is prescribed for those whose work in the 10 years preceding the date of claim has exposed them to: isocyanates; platinum salts; acid anhydride and amine hardening agents (including epoxy resin curing agents); resin used in solder fluxes; proteolytic enzymes; animals or insects used for the purposes of research or education or in laboratories; and barley, oats, rye, wheat or maize, or meal or flour made from them in the course of sowing, cultivation, harvesting, handling, storage, milling or transport.

The medical questions arising on claims for occupational asthma will be

decided by the doctors of the pneumoconiosis medical panels. They will always be ready to discuss individual cases with GPs.

Copies of the DHHS's booklet on occupational asthma are available from Dr F. J. Darby, Chief Medical Adviser (Social Security), DHSS, Friars House, 157-168 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8EU.

## Meetings and Courses

*"In Practice"*. A residential two-day course for recently established general practitioners and their spouses will be held (under Section 63 auspices) at the Royal College of General Practitioners, 14 Princes Gate, Hyde Park, London SW7 1PU, on Friday and Saturday 25 and 26 June 1982.

The course will examine the problems and opportunities met in the tran-

sition from vocational training to becoming a full principal. This will involve active participation rather than passive learning, and some preparatory work will be needed.

In addition to the problems encountered by course members in their new situations, the course will look at performance review and clinical management planning.

Spouses will meet separately until the final plenary session.

Numbers will be restricted. Accommodation will be available at the College and/or the Rembrandt Hotel, 11 Thurlow Place, London SW7.

A course dinner will be given by the President on Friday 25 June 1982.

A limited number of tickets for the College Summer Concert on Thursday evening, 24 June 1982, will be reserved for course members: price £8 per person, including buffet supper.

*National Trainee Conference 1982*. Churchill College, Cambridge, 19-21 July. Details from Dr Peter Kaye, 38 Springfield Road, Cambridge CB4 1AD.

*Summer School on Alcohol Problems*. 14-20 August 1982, University of York, organized by the Alcohol Education Centre. Application forms from Jane Stott, Alcohol Education Centre, The Maudsley Hospital, 99 Denmark Hill, London SE5 8AZ.

*Seventh International Congress on Psychosomatic Obstetrics and Gynaecology*. Dublin, 11-15 September 1983. Theme: The Young Woman. Further details from Dr John Stronge, 12 Pembroke Park, Dublin 4, Republic of Ireland.

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# THE COLLEGE DIVISIONS

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## Education

THE Foundation Council of the College created an Academic Board charged with responsibility for both education and research. When in the mid 1950s the Academic Board split into the Education Committee and the Research Committee of Council, the price that was paid for the gathering momentum in education and research was an apparent divorce between those activities concerned with acquiring new knowledge about general practice, and those concerned with teaching it. There was another unintended consequence of this growing expertise. The idea grew up, and is still current, that only a minority of the College membership will be teachers and researchers. This idea unintentionally diminishes the scope and possibilities of a full professional life for all general practitioners.

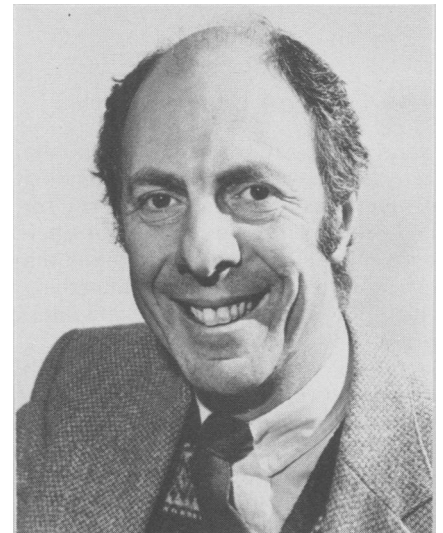
### Continuing Education

It was the development of vocational training which allowed general practice as an independent discipline to come of age. Until now, however, the continuing education of the established general practitioner has remained something of a Cinderella. For the most part, continuing education took place in the glamorous surroundings of the postgraduate centre. The mode of teaching was largely the lec-

ture/demonstration. The teacher/pupil relationship of consultant to general practitioner, so vividly described by Balint in the 1950s, was perpetuated. I write only of trends, and of course there have been a number of important exceptions. Balint seminars themselves remain perhaps the most important example of continuing education in general practice by general practitioners, and involve an approach which is at one and the same time education and research.

Continuing medical education emerges as a major challenge for the profession in the coming decade. Already the shape of that education can be discerned, and it is very different from much of the past activities funded by Section 63. Indeed, recent moves by the College and the GMSC to secure greater general practice control over the distribution of Section 63 funds is simply an expression of the organizational needs of this new wave in medical education.

The College working party document "What Sort of Doctor?" (November *Journal*, pp. 698-702) outlines an approach to the setting of standards for good general practice. It will, I believe, be as epoch-making for the next decade as *The Future General Practitioner* was for the last one. Like its predecessor, it is full of value judgments. But it suggests that these judgments must be constantly monitored in the light of experience, and changed in the light of experiment. It makes clear that the



*Professor Marshall Marinker, Chairman of the Education Division Executive*

boundaries between teaching, research and practice are artificial ones.

It is for Faculty Boards, other College groups, perhaps teachers' workshops and university departments of general practice to take up and develop aspects of this continuing education, based on a performance review. Like the best of the Balint groups and the teachers' workshops, performance review is designed to foster openness, mutual criticism and mutual support. What is perhaps new is the idea of locating continuing education in the practice premises themselves, and of introducing the discipline of rigorous thinking that was once thought to belong only to numerate research. The fostering of these activities will be the top priority of the Education Division Executive.