

COMPUTERS IN PRIMARY CARE

Occasional Paper 13

Computers are coming. More and more general practitioners are becoming interested in the possibility of computerizing various aspects of their record systems in general medical practice in the United Kingdom.

Computers in Primary Care is the report of a working party of the Royal College of General Practitioners which describes the possibilities currently available and looks into the future, discussing both technical and financial aspects.

The members of this working party have between them considerable experience of using computers in general practice. Together they summarize the experience and philosophy which they have acquired which enables them to put forward a series of conclusions and recommendations for the future.

Computers in Primary Care Occasional Paper 13, is published by the *Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners*, and is available now, price £3.00 including postage, from the Royal College of General Practitioners, 14 Princes Gate, London SW7 1PU. Payment should be made with order.

PATIENT PARTICIPATION IN GENERAL PRACTICE

Occasional Paper 17

Patient participation has been one of the more radical innovations in general practice in the last few years and has led to the formation of many different kinds of patient groups attached to practices all over Britain.

Patient Participation in General Practice stems from a conference held on this subject by the Royal College of General Practitioners in January 1980 and was compiled by Dr P. M. M. Pritchard, who was one of the first general practitioners to set up a patients' association. It brings together in one booklet a large number of current ideas and gives much practical information about patient groups.

Patient Participation in General Practice, Occasional Paper 17, is available now, price £3.75 including postage, from the Royal College of General Practitioners, 14 Princes Gate, Hyde Park, London SW7 1PU. Payment should be made with order.

illness? We feel that there should be some form of local policy either within the schools or within the communities to isolate the non-vaccinated and to introduce emergency immunization programmes.

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Words our patients use

- 'Pow-fagged'—to feel tired or weary (Lancashire).
- 'To be far welted'—to lie on one's back, apparently dead or unconscious (north Lincolnshire).
- 'Wabbit'—generally unwell (Tayside).
- 'Twisty'—generally unwell (Nottinghamshire).
- 'Beat'—unwell (of a part of the body) (Yorkshire).
- 'Plukes'—furuncles (north England).
- 'Oxter'—axilla (north-east and Scotland).
- 'My ears need puggling out'—'puggle' means to clear or clean out, usually of drains or ditches (Essex).
- 'I was tiffing about'—messing about when having nothing specific to do (Essex).
- 'Leaders'—tendons (Essex).
- 'He's allus bin a flimpy sort of a child and now he's hully queer and as yeller as a paigle'—he has always been a delicate child but now he is really ill and yellow as a buttercup (East Anglia).
- 'That push on my arm hav bin creating so. That dew perish me'—the boil of my arm is very painful, and it makes me feel ill (East Anglia).
- 'Oi got sich a wunnerful tizzick, it fairly rends me'—I have a terrible cough (East Anglia).
- 'My owd hid don't fare tew clever'—my head hurts, i.e. isn't feeling too clever (East Anglia).
- To be in 'morky fettle'—not to feel very well (Cumbria).
- 'I'm so fit I'm dangerous' (Cumbria).