

Council of the College has convened a working party which consists of five members of the Irish Council from the four faculties. Also an external adviser—a past Chairman of the College, Dr A. Donald—has been appointed to help with the formation of the new body.

TEQ Paper, October 1982

These are the questions from the traditional essay question paper from the October 1982 MRCCP Examination. All were to be answered in two hours.

1. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of community hospitals in which general practitioners are responsible for the care of their own patients.
2. Discuss the factors to be considered in implementing a screening programme in general practice for the early detection of neural tube defect in pregnancy.
3. Write short notes on:
 - a) the epidemiology of suicide;
 - b) the factors which influence a patient's compliance with drug therapy.

The New College Lectern

The proceedings of the September meeting of the College Council were interrupted briefly and pleasantly by the presentation of the lectern pictured here. It was made by Dr Kenneth Trigg, of Merstham, Surrey, mainly of assorted mahoganies. (The front piece was once part of the old organ case of the Church of All Souls, Langham Place.) The light wood, from which the coat of arms is carved, is a piece of lime, and the tools to do the carving had to be so fine that Dr Trigg made them himself from specially shaped scraps of steel. He worked mainly with the aid of an old binocular loupe, too battered, he told us, to be any longer of service in the surgery.

The lectern was presented first of all to the South London Faculty when Dr



Photo: Dan Crowley

The new College lectern

Trigg finished his term of office as Provost. The Faculty, having few occasions to use it, asked its maker to present it on semi-permanent loan to the College, where it will be kept in the Long Room.

Diploma in Community Child Health

Many recent reports have drawn attention to the need for greatly improved health services for children in the UK. In particular, there is concern about the preventive aspects of health care which largely affect children at home, at school and in the community generally. Much thought has been given to how such services should be provided, and in particular to the training of those doctors who will provide the service.

General practitioners, community health doctors and hospital-based paediatricians are all involved in providing such a service. Training is being improved and proposals have been made for the introduction of planned training programmes; some involving secondment to formal courses such as that provided at the Edinburgh School of Community Paediatrics. However, at present there is no entirely satisfactory diploma examination to assess the ability of a candidate who has attended such training courses. The diplomas of DCH and MRCP (UK) tend to expect

from the candidate a degree of knowledge of hospital paediatric medicine greater than that required for preventive work in the community. It was therefore decided that a new diploma examination to be called the Diploma in Community Child Health (DCCH) should be established. The DCCH is designed principally to assess the capacity of a doctor for work with children in the community.

Following an initiative by the Paediatric Committee of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh (RCP Edin), a joint Working Party was established with the Royal College of General Practitioners and the Faculty of Community Medicine. The report of this Working Party has been accepted by all three bodies, and a Joint Board of Management for the DCCH has been appointed.

The examination, which will be administered by the RCP Edin, will be in four parts:

1. Written case reports
2. Written papers
3. Questions on audio-visual material including videotapes
4. Oral examinations

Detailed regulations for the DCCH will be published later, but present proposals are:

1. To hold the first examination in autumn 1983.
2. To hold the examination in Edinburgh, although arrangements may be made to hold it elsewhere in the UK should the number of applicants justify this.
3. To set the entry fee at £100, and for successful candidates the diploma fee at £25.

News and Views

From now on, please send all communications for the *Journal's* News and Views pages, including letters to the editor which are intended for publication, to Dr Bill Styles, News and Views Editor, The Grove Health Centre, Goldhawk Road, London W12 8EJ.

MEDICAL NEWS

DHSS Publications

Maternity Care in Action: Part 1—Antenatal Care

The first report of the Maternity Services Advisory Committee was published in the autumn. It considers how

improvements can be made to maternity services, and suggests ways of making antenatal care more personal and satisfying to pregnant women. The report recommends that more effective use should be made of the skills of

midwives and general practitioners, and suggests that every Health Authority should establish a local Maternity Services Liaison Committee to review the quality of services that are provided.

Child Abuse: A Study of Enquiry Reports 1973 to 1981

The aim of this study was to identify common themes in reports of eighteen enquiries into cases of child abuse over the past ten years, and to identify lessons for professional practice. The

study highlighted how ignorance or misunderstanding of the functions of other professions can hamper effective work, and emphasized the need for arrangements that facilitate the exchange of information. The study also emphasized how often allegations of

abuse by members of the public turn out to be well-founded. It recommended that such allegations should always be taken seriously and investigated urgently.

Copies of the study can be obtained from HMSO—price £2.95.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The International Medical Commission

In September 1980 a group of doctors, nurses and lawyers met in Geneva to consider the creation of an International Medical Commission concerned with human rights. They identified a need for an independent body with sufficient influence and respect within the medical profession to be a rallying point for action in defence of human rights, to provide mutual support and to uphold high ethical standards. A preparatory committee was set up to pave the way for the Commission which will be formally established this year. This Committee is based in Geneva and its chairman is Dr Arnt Meyer-Lie of Sweden.

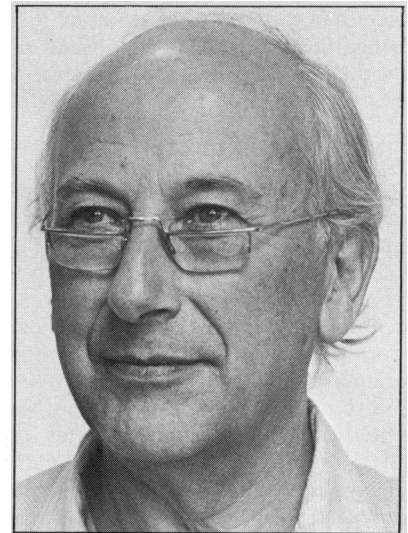
The aims of the International Medical Commission will be to secure the active support of doctors and other health workers throughout the world in the promotion and protection of human rights, and to encourage their personal involvement and commitment in a spirit of solidarity across national,

political and other boundaries.

Its work will be directed towards three objectives:

1. To secure observance of human rights principles in all interactions in health systems and other systems.
2. To promote observance of accepted codes of medical ethics in a changing world.
3. To promote the right to health for all.

A detailed statement of the activities of the Commission can be obtained from the Preparatory Committee for the International Medical Commission, PO Box 105, 1225 Chene-Bourg, Geneva, Switzerland.



Professor Jan van Es

Professor Jan van Es

We are pleased to report that Jan van Es, who recently retired as Professor of General Practice at Utrecht, has recently received the Orde van De Nederlandse Leeuw, which is the Dutch

equivalent of a knighthood. This will be welcome news to Professor van Es's many friends in the UK. He was made an Honorary Fellow of the College in 1967, and was a member of the original Leeuwenhorst Group, founded in 1974.

REPORT

Patients and the College

Report of a Working Party of the Communications Division—For Wider Consultation.

“The College, both centrally and peripherally, needs to develop closer links with patients so that their needs can be heard more clearly.”

Council Minute 43(c). March 1981

Introduction

IN recent years the voice of users has featured increasingly in the provision of health services. One example has been the evolution of patient participation groups in general practice, described in Occasional Paper 17. John Horder, writing in the Introduction, said: “It reflects poorly on medical care, as we provide it, that patient participation should need promotion. It betrays a world divided into consumers and providers, when the alternative is for the

consumer to be the first provider: a world in which the providers plant a protective hedge round their garden, where no hedge is needed, a world where expertise flowers, a special language is talked, and trained people enjoy special privileges and feel different; the weeds in the hedge are misunderstanding and mistrust.”

In this paper we have used the words ‘patient’ and ‘doctor’, because we could not find others more appropriate. Nevertheless there is the danger that these words will be identified with certain traditional values, where the patient

The members of the Working Party are Anne Crerar, John Hasler, John Horder, Sue Jenkins, Ray Jobling, Peter Pritchard, Jean Robinson and Bill Styles.