

Reports from Committees of Council

Awards and Ethical Committee. Council agreed to the Committee's recommendations that Dr John Hasler shall be the James Mackenzie Lecturer in 1984 and that Professor David Metcalfe shall be the William Pickles Lecturer in 1985.

Working Parties of Council

Preventive Medicine Implementation Report. Council received this report and recommended that it be published as an Occasional Paper, for which external finance had been found.

The next meeting of Council will be held on Saturday 11 June 1983 at 09.00.

Council Elections

A postal ballot of all fellows and members for the election of six members of Council will be held shortly.

Any member or fellow of the College is eligible for nomination and the former requirement of five years' membership has been removed. Nomination forms will be supplied by the Council Clerk, The Royal College of General Practitioners, 14 Princes Gate, Hyde Park, London SW7 1PU, on application.

The forms should be returned to the Honorary Secretary at the College between 14 August and 1 October 1983, signed by two fellows or members in good standing. The nominations must bear a statement of the candidate's willingness to serve on Council if elected, and must include brief particulars of offices held by the candidate in the College or its faculties.

Voting papers will be sent to all fellows and members with the agenda for the Annual General Meeting and must be returned to the Honorary Secretary at the College by 12 noon on

Saturday 5 November 1983.

The result of the ballot will be declared at the Annual General Meeting on 12 November 1983 and will be published in the *Journal*.

College Administrator



In his report to Council on 12 March 1983 Dr Donald Irvine reported that Mrs Sally Fountain had been appointed to the post of Administrator of the College, and that she will take up her appointment on 13 June 1983.

Mrs Fountain comes to the College from the Greater London Council where she was working as Assistant to the Director General and Head of the Programme Office. This work included the production of the GLC's Annual Budget and Plan as well as the Council's Annual Report. Whilst there, she introduced a computer-based management information retrieval system and was closely involved in the development of the Council's business communications system.

Mrs Fountain is a graduate of New-

ham College Cambridge. She is a Justice of the Peace and Honorary Secretary of the Middlesex branch of the Magistrates' Association.

Dr Paul Freeling

The University of London has conferred the title of Reader in General Practice upon Dr Paul Freeling. Dr Freeling is Head of the General Practice Teaching and Research Unit at St George's Hospital Medical School and was formerly Nuffield Tutor at the College. He is joint author of *Doctor/Patient Relationship* and *The Future General Practitioner—Teaching and Learning*, and is a member of College Council.

Prizes

Please see the January *Journal* for details of the following prizes:

Anne Hamilton Prize

Butterworth Prize

Alastair Donald Essay Prize

Undergraduate Essay Competition

The closing date for these four is 31 May 1983.

Please see the March *Journal* for details of the *Ian Stokoe Memorial Award* (closing date 31 July 1983) and *Welsh Council Essay Prize* (closing date 1 August 1983).

Katharina v. Kuenssberg Grant

The Scientific Foundation Board have awarded this grant to Dr Andrew Care from Bristol and Dr John Burns from Melrose to enable them to undertake work in the Department of Family Medicine, London, Ontario under the guidance of Professor Ian McWhinney. Both will take prolonged study leave from their NHS practices for this.

MEDICAL NEWS

Department of Family Medicine, London, Ontario

Professor Ian McWhinney is able to offer partial support to doctors from Britain who have support from the NHS and/or other sources so that they can participate in his programme of graduate studies and faculty development in family medicine at London,

Ontario. Further information and application forms can be obtained from Dr Michael Brennan, Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Family Medicine, The University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada N6A 5C1.

These programmes are offered to general practitioners who wish to improve their knowledge and skills in academic family medicine. Although

primarily intended for those planning a career in academic family medicine, the programmes will also be suitable for general practitioners wishing to improve or develop their academic and clinical leadership skills. The programmes are designed to fit the individual needs of the applicant and they vary in length from one semester to two university years.

50+ All to Play For

The Sports Council has launched a nationwide campaign to persuade Britain's 6.5 million 50 year olds to swap their carpet slippers for plimsolls and to abandon their firesides for the hillsides. Elizabeth Dendy, the director of the project, suggests how doctors might help it to achieve these objectives.



"50+ All to Play For" is the Sports Council's first Sport for All campaign within its strategy for the eighties, Sport in the Community. This age group has been selected not only because a mere one in four takes part in any physical activity but also because many are facing new circumstances, be they early retirement, redundancy, the stresses of a top job or children leaving home.

The aim is to make people aware that involvement in sport not only as a player but as a coach, referee or helper in a club is enjoyable and satisfying as well as contributing to health and physical wellbeing. The activity habit formed at this age can lead to a more active old age.

The Doctor's Role

Many agencies are cooperating to provide activities, mainly at a local level in leisure centres and sports clubs. General practitioners can play a vital role in this campaign. People who have been inactive for years are worried about possible health risks. A doctor's encouragement will allay their fears. They may also need convincing that sport, be it traditional games like bowls or tennis or activities such as walking, angling or ballroom dancing, has something to offer them: enjoyment, interest, involvement, relaxation and social contacts as well as exercise. Just as important, they have a lot to contribute in the form of experience, expertise

and enthusiasm.

General practitioners can also point people in the right direction to the leisure centre or library where they can pick up leaflets about the campaign. The publicity material is lighthearted and colourful, and explains how to get going and how to choose a sport. Each contains a caveat about health: start gradually and gently and consult your doctor if you are in doubt about your fitness. This was approved by the Council's Fitness and Health Advisory Group.

There are seven promotional leaflets. First the introductory *50+ All to Play For* which answers some of the



basic questions, such as those about possible health risks and how to get started. Then, to promote involvement in activities specially suited to people in their 50s, six others entitled *In the Swim* (swimming), *Out and About* (rambling, cycling, orienteering and golf), *On the Water* (angling and boating), *In the Park* (jogging, running, tennis and bowls), *At the Centre* (table tennis, badminton, keep fit, billiards, dancing and snooker) and *Lend a Hand*.

Colourful and informative wall calendars are available (to brighten up surgeries) and a 13 minute audiovisual in VHS video, aimed at the consumers. The material is readily available from all Sports Council Offices.

It goes without saying that any general practitioners who are inspired to join in will be very welcome. Indeed, the whole campaign seeks to stress that apart from the enjoyment and physical benefits to be derived from playing sport, there are also social advantages—not least the chance to get out of the house and make new friends.

The London Office of the Sports Council is 16, Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0QP.



The Abbott Prize for Medical Writing

The Medical Writers' Group of the Society of Authors was established in 1979. Its principal objectives are to represent its members in all matters affecting their interests as medical writers; to promote the highest professional standards in medical writing; to hold meetings from time to time for the discussion of matters of common interest and to provide, through the Society of Authors, advice to members on the special problems of medical authorship.

Together with Abbott Laboratories Limited, the Medical Writers' Group of the Society of Authors is offering a prize of £1,000 in each of the next three years. This will be awarded to the author or authors of the medical book which, in the opinion of the judges, has made the greatest contribution to understanding in any particular field. The criteria by which entries will be judged will be ease and clarity of presentation as well as scholarship. The 1983 prize will be awarded to a medical text book written in English and published in the

UK during the calendar years 1980, 1981 or 1982.

Details of the prize can be obtained from the Medical Writers' Group, Society of Authors, 84 Drayton Gardens, London SW10 9SB, and entries must be submitted no later than 30 June 1983.

BMA Handbook for Trainee Doctors in General Practice

The British Medical Association has recently published this new handbook which has been written especially for general practitioner vocational trainees. It aims to provide a ready source of explanation of the various, sometimes complicated, terms of service of general practitioner trainees working in the NHS. It includes information on becoming a principal in general practice, an outline of the vocational training regulations and recommended model trainee contracts. The fees and allowances relevant to the trainee general practitioner are also discussed.

Other topics included in the handbook are the role of the family prac-

itioner committee and the local medical committee, partnership agreements, practice finance, self-employment and pensions.

The handbook is distributed free on request to all general practitioner trainees who are members of the BMA. Any trainee BMA member who has not received the handbook should write to Mrs Christine White, Membership and Regional Services Department, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP. The handbook is not available to nonmembers of the BMA.

"Periodic Abstinence for Family Planning"

Because of renewed interest in this type of contraception the International Planned Parenthood Federation has produced a booklet for health workers on this subject. This reviews the different types of methods that are now being used by many couples with varying degrees of success. It can be obtained from the IPPF, 18/20 Lower Regent Street, London SW1Y 4PW. (Tel: 01 839-2911) The price is £1.75.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

New Leeuwenhorst Group

Although the Leeuwenhorst Group has had a big impact on general practice in Europe over the past decade, few people are aware of its origins. It emerged from the European Conference on Teaching in General Practice, which was held in the Leeuwenhorst Conference Centre in Holland in 1974. The immediate past President of the College Dr John Horder, and Dr Nils Bensen from Denmark took the initiative in forming the Group.

The description of the work of a general practitioner produced by the Group is the best known of its publica-

tions and has been adopted by our College and other bodies as a definition of general practice. The Group has also published other statements on teaching and learning in general practice. These have explored the potential contribution of general practitioners to undergraduate medical education and have considered continuing education for general practitioners.

At the third European Conference on Teaching and Learning in General Practice held in Antwerp and Beerse in Belgium in September 1982, the original group disbanded and a new group was formed. It had its first full meeting in December 1982, again in Beerse, and

has decided to look at the present state of teaching and learning in general practice in Europe and to describe current activity in evaluation, not only of the performance of general practitioners, but also of methods of teaching and learning about general practice.

The first secretary of the Group is Dr C. J. Watkins, Senior Lecturer in General Practice at St Thomas' Hospital Medical School London, and the chairman is Professor Cor Spreuwerberg of Holland.

The next meetings of the Group will take place in Edinburgh in June, and at Princes Gate in London in October.



The members of the third European Conference on Teaching and Learning in General Practice.