

## 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.

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# INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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## 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.