

to learn how to apply these methods of disciplined thinking. To me one of the major rewards of academic life including Deanship has been the opportunity to meet a variety of scholars inside and outside medicine, to draw upon their ideas, reason and feelings, and to see the effect upon them of my own thoughts and experience. I seem to see (but hope I am wrong) an anti-academic movement in general practice today which saddens me; for example I have seen and heard pejorative remarks made about higher degrees in general practice—needless to say by those who have never successfully undergone the hard prolonged discipline that an MD or PhD requires. It is my own view that such a degree is rightly required for virtually every senior university appointment in a major discipline—and that academic general practice ought to conform.

Et al.

Sitting on appointments committees, meeting the University Grants Committee, introducing visiting lecturers, welcoming delegates to conferences, examining applications for defrosting of vacant posts, dealing with students in a variety of difficulties, approving exciting developments in collaboration with other institutions, trying to recognize the growing points in research, teaching and service, twice yearly meetings with the other Scottish Deans and the Chief Medical Officer of the Scottish Home and Health Department, these are but some of the Dean's duties and privileges. For me one of the highest lights has been to promote the graduands in medicine at the summer ceremony when, after due presentation by the Dean in the ancient, sonorous Latin phrases, the ability and industry of our students are literally crowned with the degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery; at that moment all the cares dissolve and 'joy is unconfined'.

My Other Job

I am of course also Professor of General Practice, albeit with a department much reduced by the last three years of squeeze on university budgets. Though I still teach, the combined effect of reduced staff and the time demand of Deanship has been to halt our research programme—a sad end to our record of original work.

Has being Dean enhanced academic general practice locally or further afield? Perhaps the prudent answer should be that others must judge whether the association has been beneficial. Certainly I can claim to have agreed to become Dean in the belief

that no harm and some good might result; I like to think that the association may have added just a little to the national stature of the discipline but I must (not for the first time) temper that with the warning that academic general practice still has some way to go before it can match the reputation of the older medical members of the university family. That process, advocated in 1917 by Sir James Mackenzie, will continue to depend on

high quality scholarship and research and their illuminating effect on teaching—nothing less will do. Had Sir James been given the chance to teach medical students he would without doubt have done so in the context of his own outstanding research. Had he been made a Dean of Medicine I am sure that he would have been for me as sure a model of deanship as he has always been a model of good general practice.

OTHER MEDICAL SCHOOL NEWS

Leicester

Dr Robin C. Fraser, MD, FRCGP has been appointed Professor of General Practice at the University of Leicester in succession to Marshall Marinker. Dr Fraser, who is 43, graduated from the University of Aberdeen in 1963 and entered general practice in Leicester in 1966. In 1974 he was awarded the degree of MD for his study of referrals to hospital from general practice.

He has been on the academic staff of Leicester University Medical School since it accepted its first students in 1975. Until early 1980 he was a part-time lecturer in general practice and latterly he has been a full-time senior lecturer. Dr Fraser is a former honorary secretary of the RCGP Research Committee and is a current member of the Research Division Executive. He is a founder member and honorary secretary of the General Practitioner Research Club.

His research interests include the general practitioner-hospital interface, population registers in general practice and the implementation of medical audit. He has published many articles in *The British Medical Journal*, *The Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners* and other journals. He took up his new post on 1 October.

Southampton

Recent appointments in primary medical care, Alder Moor Health Centre, Southampton

Dr Charles Freer has been appointed as senior lecturer from 1 September 1983. Dr Freer was in general practice in Glasgow before becoming a lecturer in the Department of Community

Medicine, Glasgow University. For the last two years he has been a member of staff in the Department of Family Practice, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA. His recent research interests have included the use of health diaries and the care of the elderly.

Dr Ian Gregg who was formerly Director of the Department of Clinical Epidemiology in General Practice at the Cardio-Thoracic Unit London has joined the Primary Care Group as a senior research fellow. He has a long standing interest in respiratory illness in general practice and has published widely on the natural history and management of asthma.

Dr Ann-Louise Kinmonth and Dr Peter Burke have been appointed as lecturers in Primary Medical Care. Dr Kinmonth previously held the posts of research fellow and paediatric registrar in the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford and has recently been a trainee assistant in Berinsfield, Oxford. She has completed a thesis on the care of diabetic children and is planning to evaluate the primary care of children with chronic and disabling conditions.

Dr Burke is a graduate of University College, Dublin and has, until recently, been a vocational trainee in Holmes Chapel Health Centre, Cheshire. His research interests include doctor/patient communication and preventive medicine in general practice.

Dr Bruce Thomas has been appointed as clinical teacher in Primary Medical Care at Alder Moor Health Centre. He has recently retired from full-time practice, having been a principal in Waterlooville, Hampshire for 30 years. He is a graduate of Liverpool University and was awarded an MD for his studies of temporarily dependent patients in general practice.