

firmed again that the committee is an advisory body and that in its recommendations on criteria for the appointment and re-appointment of trainers in general practice evidence should be sought regarding clinical competence. There are many ways in which this evidence can be obtained, one of which might be the possession of the MRCCP. At no time has the Joint Committee recommended the mandatory requirement of the MRCCP for trainers. The Joint Committee emphasized again the autonomy of regional sub-committees in general practice, who are responsible for the appointment of trainers under their own criteria.

Obituary

Surgeon Captain Peter de Bec Turtle, OBE VRD BM FRCCP DPH RNR(Rtd).

On 6 October 1983 a great congregation filled the School Chapel of Haileybury College to give thanks for the life of Peter Turtle.

Dr Turtle qualified in 1936 (Oxford and St Thomas' Hospital) and joined his father in general practice. He joined the RNVR in 1936 so the outbreak of war in 1939 saw him in action. He served with ships of the Royal Navy on convoy duties through hazardous seas and, after the war, felt privileged to have returned safely when so many of his colleagues had died on active service.

After the war he entered private practice in London with duties at the King Edward VII Hospital for Officers. He was appointed Hon. Surgeon to HM the Queen. In 1954 he became Resident Medical Officer to Haileybury College, a post he held for 20 years. Not only did he care professionally for the boys and staff of the school, he became immersed in many aspects of school life. His outstanding skill as a shot made him an obvious coach for the school shooting team and his skill as an actor made him a welcome character on the school stage.

Peter Turtle played his part in the wider community. He was an Officer

of the Order of St John of Jerusalem and a member of the Advisory Council of the Hertfordshire and City British Red Cross Society.

He was one of the main architects of the Medical Officers of Schools Association, serving as its Secretary during its formative years and President from 1974-1977. He was awarded the OBE in 1975.

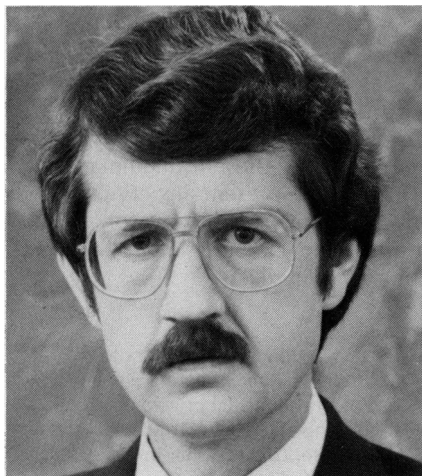
Dr Turtle was a founder member of the College and an active member of the Northern Home Counties Faculty in which he served as a Board member. He was elected a Fellow of the College in 1977.

Although he retired in 1974, he remained active in his work with the voluntary organization. Despite his range of activities in the community, Peter was a man who delighted in his family and his home. He died in his sleep on 17 August 1983 at the age of 72. He is survived by his wife and their two children and two grandchildren to whom we extend our sympathy in their loss.

D.S.H.C.

MEDICAL NEWS

Leicester University



Dr Brian McAvoy

Dr Brian McAvoy has been appointed to the Senior Lectureship in General Practice in the Department of Community Health at Leicester University from 1 February 1984. Dr McAvoy attended the University of Glasgow where he graduated BSc (Hons) in Pathology in 1970 and was awarded the degree MBChB (Hons) in 1972. Following house officer posts in the Western Infirmary Glasgow, he joined the Southern General Hospital vocational training scheme in Glasgow and during

this time he obtained the MRCP (UK) and MRCCP.

In 1976 he undertook a teaching fellowship in the Department of Family Medicine at McMaster University Medical School, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Since 1977 he has been a principal in a rural dispensing practice in Byfield, Northamptonshire and a part-time lecturer in general practice at Leicester University.

He has written chapters on role-playing, hereditary diseases and myocardial infarction, and published articles on patient management, hospital referrals and rural general practice.

His wife, Pauline, is also a general practitioner and part-time lecturer in general practice at Leicester University, and they have two young children.

Traveller mothers and children

'The health of traveller mothers and children in East Anglia' is a report of research carried out under the auspices of 'Save the Children'.

A summary of results showed that of the 265 mothers of Traveller families interviewed in the area bounded by the East Anglian Regional Health Authority, 66 lived on permanent sites, 91

were on authorized temporary sites and 95 on unauthorized temporary sites. These families contained a total of 994 children of which 254 were aged five years or under and 192 were aged between six and ten years. In the same area 39 general practitioners and 33 midwives and health visitors were sent questionnaires.

Developmental examinations had not been received by 66 per cent of young children (under five years). Immunizations against poliomyelitis, diphtheria and tetanus had not been completed in over 90 per cent of these children.

Recommendations are numerous and include that personal health records should be carried by each person to improve continuity of care, that there should be employed outreach health visitors specifically responsible for Travellers and that a more simple registration system and easier access for temporary treatment should be available.

A conference on the subject is planned early in the year to be held at the King's Fund Centre. Further details are available from M. Whitlam, Deputy Director UK Child Care, Save the Children, 17 Grove Lane, Camberwell, London SE5 8RD.