

we were delighted to welcome them and the President to Dublin in May. It seems that it will be possible for Associates, Members and Fellows of the Royal College resident in the Republic to retain dual membership at minimal cost, and to offer members of the Irish College associateship of the Royal College at an attractive rate. The possibility of dual membership is a reciprocal one, and it is our hope that many members of the Royal College resident in the United Kingdom will also become members of the Irish College.

There are problems; there will be difficulties. In the first instance, as was the case when the Royal College was founded, membership of the new college will be open to all established general practitioners. Existing members of the Royal College, especially those who have become members by examination, will feel that in some sense their

hard-earned qualification is in danger of being devalued. Existing faculties of the Royal College in the Republic have decided, quite properly, to remain in being until the new college is firmly established and look forward to the day when the Irish College has its own examination. In relation to the examination and many other aspects of the academic task, the new college will remain heavily dependent upon Princes Gate.

The ties of kinship are strong and it is our hope that this young and increasingly vigorous new college will take its place as a sister college, making its own special contribution to our discipline of general practice.

JAMES McCORMICK
Professor of Community Health

William Pickles

WILLIAM Pickles stands with Sir James Mackenzie as one of the two great general practitioner authors in Britain before the Second World War. His *Epidemiology in Country Practice*, first published in 1939, was a classic example of original research carried out entirely within the setting of general practice. A limited edition was published in 1972 as a facsimile of the original and the proceeds were given to the then current College Appeal Fund. The 1,000-copy limited edition in its turn went out of print and this important book has not been available for some years, either to principals or to trainees.

The College has therefore decided to publish this classic book again in its own series so that it will once again be readily available.

Will Pickles of Wensleydale

Professor John Pemberton was a friend and colleague of William Pickles and his biography *Will Pickles of*

Wensleydale was first published in 1970, going into a second edition in 1972. It is the definitive biography of William Pickles and describes his career in a most pleasing and readable way. Professor Pemberton knew William Pickles and his home and practice well.

This book too has been out of print for several years but now, with the agreement of Professor Pemberton, the College has republished it by photo-reproduction and publication has been arranged to coincide with the republication of Pickles' own book.

These two books, which separately and together contribute to the history of general practice, can both be warmly recommended.

The books are available from the Publications Sales Office, Royal College of General Practitioners, 8 Queen Street, Edinburgh EH2 1JE. *Epidemiology in Country Practice* is priced at £5.50, *Will Pickles of Wensleydale* is £10.50, and if ordered together the two books can be bought at the reduced price of £13. All prices include postage, and payment should be made with order.