

The Balint Society Prize Essay

The Council of the Balint Society will award a prize of £250 for the best essay submitted on the theme: 'WHO NEEDS BALINT?...'

The prize winner will be announced at the 16th Annual General Meeting in June 1986. Details are obtainable from Dr P. Graham, 149 Altmore Avenue, East Ham, London E6 2BT.

New Zealand College of General Practitioners

The Council of the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners wishes to encourage holders of the MRCGP

practising in New Zealand, to become Members of their College also. The possession of MRCGP carries limited exemption from written parts of the New Zealand examination, although doctors do require to have spent 12 months in general practice in New Zealand and to have undertaken a successful practice visit.

Erratum

Essex Faculty Spring Meeting at Cambridge March 29-31

The booklet included with the November 1984 issue of the *Journal* had an error on the booking form for this meeting. Sunday lunch at Churchill College is available to all and not just delegates, as stated.

OBITUARY

Dr Bob Williams

Dr Bob Williams, general practitioner in Abertillery, Gwent, died by his own hand shortly before Christmas 1983 at the age of 36 years. This ended a long depressive illness dating from the time of the Falklands War.

Bob was born in Stoke-on-Trent, and was educated at Hanley High School, Trinity College Cambridge, and St Thomas's Hospital London, qualifying in 1971. He gained wide postgraduate experience in Britain, New Zealand, Australia, and finally as research registrar with Dr Julian Tudor Hart in Glyncoirwg South Wales, where he met and married Dr Ann Delahunty, a trainee in the same practice. In 1978 he took over a valley practice in Abertillery, where he put a big heart and too self-critical soul into the creation of an altogether new standard of excellent personal and population care. Patients' records were reorganized from top to bottom; his parents were recruited to the creation of an age-sex register; screening and follow-up of the entire adult population for hypertension were firmly established; regular home visiting of the housebound and elderly, and an elected patients' committee were started and maintained. In the heavy snows shortly after his arrival he entered local folklore by doing

his home visits on foot with climbing boots, his medical bag in a backpack.

Bob was a committed Christian and socialist, beliefs which in him were fused in a single philosophy. With Ann he made time to found and maintain a local group of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, to serve on the management committee of the constituency Labour Party, and to put much quiet work into the Royal College of General Practitioners and the Medical Practitioners' Union.

His immense sense of personal responsibility was blocked and finally turned against him by what may to him have appeared to be a sheer wall of Philistine power and brutality. That this final pessimism was unjustified was proved by his patients' Council which maintained continuity while Ann, with their still unborn first child, struggled to pull things together again. Over a year later, he is survived by her, their daughter Bethan, and all the immensely worthwhile innovations he created in the Abertillery practice.

J.T.H.