

### Chairman of Council

Dr John C. Hasler was elected Chairman of Council at the Annual General Meeting of the College on 9 November to succeed Dr Donald Irvine. Practising in Sonning Common, Oxfordshire, Dr Hasler has been active in the College since becoming a member of the Thames Valley Faculty Board in 1967. Since that time, he has served on the Education Division and was an examiner for the College from 1974–80, Honorary Secretary of Council from 1978–83 and Vice-Chairman of Council from 1984–85.



Dr John Hasler

John Hasler is particularly interested in vocational training, and is the Regional Adviser for General Practice Education and Training in the Oxford region and a member of the Joint Committee on Postgraduate Training for General Practice. Other major interests include the primary care team and improving doctor's performance during consultation with patients, work which he is carrying out in conjunction with Dr David Pendleton. He has written extensively on all these topics and has delivered both the George Swift Lecture in 1982 and the James Mackenzie Lecture in 1984.

At present Dr Hasler is involved with the preparations for the WONCA conference taking place in June 1986, and is Chairman of the Scientific Committee. His work here is complemented by his joint editorship with Dr John Fry of *2000: global challenges*, published by Churchill Livingstone.

Dr Hasler sees the main objective for the College over the next three years under his chairmanship as the implementation of the recommendations contained in the policy statement *Quality in general practice*.

### General Practitioner Research Club

ROGER JONES

*Secretary, General Practitioner Research Club*

A meeting of the General Practitioner Research Club took place at the University of York on 21 September 1985. The morning session was devoted to research methodology. Dr David Clayden, from the Department of Community Medicine, University of Leeds, provided an entertaining and informative overview of some of the fundamental statistical problems that are encountered in setting up and analysing research studies, with particular reference to general practice. The 42 members attending the meeting then divided into five small groups for detailed discussion of published research studies, the author leading the discussion within each group.

In the afternoon Mr Nick Bosanquet, from the Centre for Health Economics, University of York, gave a provocative review

of problems in health economics research. He stressed the importance of addressing economic questions both on the national scale and when considering individual research problems. Finally Dr Ann-Louise Kinmonth, Department of Primary Medical Care, University of Southampton, reported progress in a general practice study of the care of diabetic patients. Following a questionnaire survey of general practitioners, which produced a 93% response, she described her plans for an experiment in diabetic care, one important feature of which was the extended role of the practice nurse.

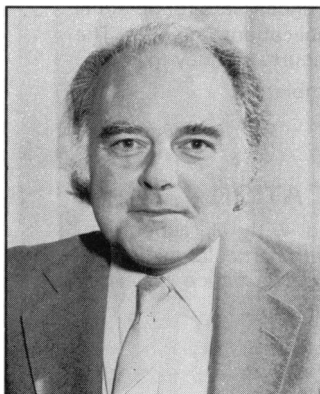
The meeting agreed that there should be an annual subscription of £5 for Club members so that its activities can be extended and also that a list of Club members and their research interests should be incorporated into *Research intelligence* published by the RCGP.

The next meeting will take place at the University of Warwick in the spring and further details of membership and of this meeting can be obtained from the Secretary, Dr Roger Jones, Aldermoor Health Centre, Aldermoor Close, Southampton SO1 6ST.

### Foundation Professor of General Practice, University of Nottingham

Dr E. Idris Williams has been appointed as Foundation Professor of General Practice at the University of Nottingham and took up the Chair on 1 October 1985. At Nottingham, general practice has previously been a sub-department of the Department of Community Health, and the creation of an independent Department of General Practice is an important development in the discipline's teaching and research activities within the University.

Professor Williams was previously Senior Lecturer in the Department of General Practice at the University of Manchester. A Manchester graduate, he entered general practice in 1959 after a series of hospital appointments. His experience includes two years practising on an overspill housing estate, five years as a single-handed general practitioner and 12 years as a senior partner in an urban group practice in Bolton. He proceeded to MD in 1973 and FRCGP in 1976. His research interests began within service practice and are particularly concerned with the care of the elderly in the community. He has published widely in this and other areas of general practice and has written a book on the care of the elderly in the community. His current research interests concern the interface between hospital and the community. Professor Williams is married with three children, one of whom is also a doctor.



Professor Idris Williams

## Well being videos

Twenty-two programmes from the Channel 4 *Well being* series, made with the advice and support of the Royal College of General Practitioners, have been made available on video under a unique annual licensing agreement to district health authorities and occupational health centres. Under the scheme, programme licences are sold for £150 plus VAT, which entitles the licensee to order any number of tapes for each licensed programme at £13 plus VAT per tape for use during the licence period.

The importance of this scheme is that the tapes can be made available free to general practitioners and health visitors within the licence area, and the tapes can be lent out, free of charge, to patients for viewing at home.

There has been widespread interest among district health authorities in the scheme, but active support for the project from general practitioners, in the form of making a direct approach to local health education officers, would significantly accelerate the project. Further information may be obtained from Mr Richard Nathanson, 25 Enmore Road, London SW15 6LL. Tel: 01-788 2718.

## The South West General Practice Trust

A new charitable trust has been formed with the object of supporting two Departments of General Practice, one at the University of Bristol and one at the University of Exeter. The Trust was formed by a group of general practitioners, with strong support from hospital specialists. There are 10 trustees, seven general practitioners and three consultants, under the Chairmanship of Lord Richardson, a former President of the General Medical Council.

The Trust will support both departments of general practice equally. It will make it possible to improve staffing, equipment and research and it is hoped to offer part-time fellowships to doctors who want to work in universities.

## The CASE programme: continuing education for general practitioners

There are now over 5000 general practitioners throughout the United Kingdom enrolled in the CASE continuing education programme. The series aims to cover systematically 20 major general practice topics over two years. Eight booklets have been produced and distributed to date: 1 — *Paediatric problems*; 2 — *Care of the terminally ill*; 3 — *Chest problems*; 4 — *Convulsions in practice*; 5 — *Living with diabetes*; 6 — *Clinical knowledge of general practitioners*; 7 — *Communicable diseases in practice*; and 8 — *Review issue (1-4)*.

Each booklet consists of a number of case histories illustrating problems encountered by general practitioners in their current clinical practice, a summary and discussion of the way 50 general practitioner colleagues deal with these problems, useful information and guidelines on management written by a subject specialist and an opportunity to revise the important messages in a modified essay question paper and receive an individual discussion of the responses.

Enrolment in the series is free of charge to all general practitioners and trainees. Dr Karen Adam, Project Co-ordinator, will welcome requests for enrolment and back issues. She may be contacted at: The CASE Programme, Centre for Medical Education, 2 Roseangle, The University, Dundee DD1 4LR.

## Understanding asthma

A film for asthmatic patients and their families, made by Allen and Hanburys Ltd, has won a British Life Assurance Trust award for outstanding educational merit in the health and medical fields. Earlier in the year it won a Gold Award in the British Medical Association's 1984 film competition.

The film aims to give sufferers and their families a better

understanding of asthma and the drugs which are available to treat it, while showing that the majority of asthmatics can lead fully satisfying lives; it also examines how to achieve greater patient involvement in the management of their condition. Since its release in 1984 the film has been shown widely at local branch meetings of the Asthma Society and more than 5000 copies of the accompanying booklet have been distributed.

The film is available on 16 mm film and VHS video, and further details about it may be obtained from The Asthma Society and Friends of the Asthma Research Council, St Thomas' Hospital, Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EH. Tel: 01-261 0110 or 01-928 3099.

## North Wales Sub-faculty: a meeting with members of parliament

An open forum was arranged at Colwyn Bay Community Hospital in September between three members of parliament for North Wales and a prospective parliamentary candidate and members of the North Wales Sub-faculty.

Discussions aimed at being non-party political, and topics included the primary care team, the role of the general practitioner in relation to consultant private practice, care in the community, advertising and patient information services and medical service committee procedures. An informal two-way discussion took place, and both sides found the meeting useful and instructive. Contacts were formed which can be developed in the future, and the faculty hopes to extend similar links with the media and other organizations such as community health councils.

## WONCA 1986

Over 320 abstracts have been submitted from over 30 different countries for consideration by the Scientific Committee for the 1986 WONCA conference. Fifty-one have been accepted as free standing papers, and the rest will be presented in poster demonstrations.

The provisional programme has been drawn up and the sessions are as follows: Monday 2 June — 'Maternal and child health'; Tuesday 3 June — 'Health education'; Wednesday 4 June — 'Nutrition'; Thursday 5 June — 'Community participation'. The conference closes on Friday 6 June with the RCGP Spring General Meeting.

Registration and hotel reservations must be made by 28 February 1986. Please note enquiries should be made to the Conference Secretariat at **Conference Associates WONCA, 27A Medway Street, London SW1P 2BD** and not as given in the December issue.

## OBITUARY

### Dr Vera Claxton

Dr Vera Claxton died on 26 August 1985 at Cuckfield Hospital, following a stroke. She was 84 years old and had only finally given up general practice a few years before she died.

Dr Claxton was born in Hampstead but educated in Brighton, where her family then lived. She went to the Royal Free Hospital Medical School, graduating in 1925.

She set up in general practice in Hove in 1927, starting with five patients. The practice flourished and she took first a woman partner then after the war a third partner. She was particularly interested in domiciliary midwifery and was for a time the medical officer to a home for unmarried mothers. She remained in the same practice all her life, returning to carry on a few surgeries after she had officially retired. She was greatly loved by her patients and admired by her colleagues for the excellence of her medicine.

She was interested in anaesthetics and became one of the consultant anaesthetists of the New Sussex Hospital for Women, a hospital for women, entirely staffed by women.

Vera was a founder member of the Royal College of General Practitioners and a loyal supporter of the Medical Women's Federation, of which she was in turn Secretary and President of the Sussex Branch. She served on the Committee of the Brighton and Hove Medico-Chirurgical Society and became its second woman President.

In her retirement she lived in the country in the cottage that had served as a refuge in her working days. She loved the garden and she tended it almost to the end. She continued to be interested and involved in Intercare (The International Association for Medicine, Nutrition and Health Education) and never lost interest in medical affairs.

Vera was the youngest of a large family, to whom she was devoted, as she was to her patients. She was a tremendously loyal, quiet and unassuming person and she will be greatly missed by her many friends. She is survived by two nephews.

D.I.H.

## DIARY DATES

### Conference on sports medicine

The Royal College of Physicians of London is holding a conference on sports medicine on 11 and 12 March 1986. Topics will cover exercise physiology, the consequences of exercise and sport, injury and sport in an abnormal environment and the problems and prospects of sport.

Further details may be obtained from the Assistant Registrar, Royal College of Physicians, 11 St Andrew's Place, Regent's Park, London NW1 4LE. Section 63 approval has been applied for.

### Small practices study day

A conference looking at equating good business sense with good patient care has been arranged by the Small Practices Association, and will take place on 25 January 1986 at the Frenchay Postgraduate Medical Centre in Bristol. Speakers will look at setting up in single-handed practice and at the business aspects of general practice with particular reference to single- and dual-handed practices.

Further details may be obtained from Judy Seward, Postgraduate Secretary, Frenchay Postgraduate Medical Centre, Frenchay Hospital, Bristol BS16 1LE.

Those who are interested in the activities of the Small Practices Association may obtain more information by writing or telephoning the Association at 21 Upper Lattimore Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 3UD, Tel: 0727-54114/65498.

### Call for papers — 'Motherhood and mental illness'

The Second International Conference of the Marcé Society will take place on 27-29 August 1986, the aims being to advance the understanding, prevention and treatment of mental illness related to child-bearing.

All enquiries and submissions of papers should be addressed to the Marcé Society Secretariat, Bell Howe Conferences and Seminars, Kingsley House, 104 Loughborough Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7JH. Tel: 0602-813078/282257.

### Reminder — MRCGP examination, May 1986

The closing date for applications for the next examination, to be held on 7 May, is Friday 28 February 1986.

## ASSOCIATESHIP of the Royal College of General Practitioners

Any doctor who is registered or provisionally registered with the General Medical Council may become an Associate of the College without having to pass an examination. Associates may take part in all College activities but are not able to describe themselves as MRCGP or to vote at general meetings. Together with Members and Fellows they undertake to uphold and promote the aims of the College to the best of their ability and, while in active practice, to continue as far as practicable approved postgraduate study.

The benefits of Associateship include:

1. A sense of belonging to an organization dedicated to improving the standards of care in general practice.
2. Membership of a local faculty of the College, and participation in its activities including education and research.
3. Access to the services of the College library. This is probably the most extensive library of general practice in the world and is staffed by librarians used to handling enquiries from general practitioners. *New reading for general practitioners* is produced quarterly for those who wish to keep up to date with the growing literature of general practice.
4. The *Journal* (the oldest journal of original general practice research), its associated publications and monographs.
5. Eligibility to compete for certain awards, prizes and fellowships available only to College Fellows, Members and Associates.
6. The use of College Headquarters at 14 Princes Gate, and in particular of the comfortable bed and breakfast accommodation it provides in central London at very reasonable rates.

Details of the entrance fee and current annual subscription are available on request by completing the form below. Reduced rates are available to several categories of doctor, particularly those undergoing vocational training for general practice.

To the Membership Secretary  
The Royal College of General Practitioners  
14 Princes Gate, Hyde Park  
London SW7 1PU. Tel: 01-581 3232

Please send me an application form to become an Associate

Name .....

Address .....

.....  
.....  
.....