

can check their own performance. If the patient cannot see sufficiently well, then other methods are needed. As well as appropriateness of teaching method, further aspects are important, such as safety and the layout of the physiotherapy area. It appears that the input in professional training is sparse on all these special needs.

The number of registered visually handicapped people is steadily increasing. Moreover it is well known that the registers only include a small proportion of those who could be registered if they wished. It is among elderly people that the majority of visually handicapped people are found and the percentage of elderly people in the population is growing fast. It seems that a training/information package designed to meet the needs of physiotherapists who treat visually handicapped people will fill a gap in professional resources and is urgently needed.

The Disabled Living Foundation would be grateful for any comments, problems, solutions, or other relevant information from either physiotherapists or from visually handicapped people together with those involved in their care or in the care of the elderly. Please write to: The Visual Handicap Adviser, Disabled Living Foundation, 380-384 Harrow Road, London W9 2HU. Telephone: 01-289 6111.

National development of video-programmes for patient education

The Forth Valley Health Board, with funding support from the Scottish Health Education Group, is developing, evaluating and assessing the use of patient education videoprogrammes in Scottish health boards over a period of four to five years.

Since 1974 Forth Valley Health Board have produced 10 videoprogrammes for use in patient education. Topics include leg ulcers, vasectomy, injecting insulin, sleep, diabetes, back troubles, constipation, infant feeding, care of the sick child at home and asthma in childhood.

Further details about the videos may be obtained from Dr C. McEwan, Forth Valley Health Board, 33 Spittal Street, Stirling FK8 1DX.

James Mackenzie Prize 1986

The James Mackenzie Prize is awarded every five years to a general practitioner in the British Commonwealth who has published or undertaken valuable work during the previous five years, the intention being to reward good clinical work, and particularly good research work, carried out in general practice. The trustees are now willing to consider the names of suitable candidates for this prize. Candidates should submit copies of their published work, or a clear and concise account of the work which has been undertaken by them and on which they wish to be judged, in a form that is suitable and ready for publication to the Chairman of the Awards Committee, Royal College of General Practitioners, 14 Princes Gate, Hyde Park, London SW7 1PU, not later than 31 August 1986.

The amount of the prize for the 1986 Award will be £2500.

New chairman for Health Education Advisory Committee for Wales

Dr Simon Smail, a Fellow of the Royal College of General Practitioners, is to succeed Mr Norman Whitehouse as chairman of the Health Education Advisory Committee for Wales and also as the Welsh representative on the Health Education Council (HEC).

Dr Smail is a senior lecturer in general practice at the University of Wales College of Medicine and lives in Cardiff. He has

represented general practitioners' interests on the HEC since 1980, and is currently chairman of its Coronary Prevention Planning Group. He is also chairman of the HEC Working Party for Health Education in General Practice and has been an active member of the Advisory Committee since its establishment in April 1984.

Some of the major issues facing the Committee which Dr Smail has outlined are the analysis of the responses to its report on dealing with alcohol related problems in Wales, discussion of the work of the acquired immune deficiency syndrome subgroup and the establishment of a working group on the health education needs for cancer screening.

Erratum

The April issue of the *Journal* contained a report on the first of the new management appreciation courses being run at the College. It was erroneously stated that these courses were organized jointly by the RCGP and the King's Fund. The courses are, in fact, run solely by the RCGP.

DIARY DATES

Residential weekend course in group analysis

The North London Centre for Group Therapy is holding a course for anyone with an interest in group dynamics wanting to experience the group-analytic approach. This will be an international weekend course with small and large group discussions from Friday 18 July to Sunday 20 July at the North London Centre for Group Therapy in London. The fee will be £135.

Enquiries should be made to the Secretary, North London Centre for Group Therapy, Priory Close, Southgate, London N14 4AW (Telephone 01-440 1451).

Motherhood and mental illness

The provisional programme has been drawn up for a conference which aims to advance the understanding, prevention and treatment of mental illness related to child-bearing. Sessions will include clinical aetiological aspects of postnatal mental illness; the detection and prevention of postnatal depression; biological aspects of the puerperium; education and training; and the place of voluntary and self-help groups.

Those wishing to attend should contact the Marcé Society Secretariat, Bell Howe Conferences, Kingsley House, 104 Loughborough Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7JH. The conference will take place at the Queen's Medical Centre, University of Nottingham, on 27-29 August 1986.

An introduction to training

A residential course has been organized for general practitioners intending to become trainers in the Northern Region. This course will also be of interest to partners of intending trainers and to partners in existing training practices. The aim is to introduce general practitioners to the objects of training and some of the methods used. Work will take place mainly in small groups.

The course will be held at Collingwood College, Durham, on 26-28 September 1986 at a cost of approximately £40.00 for full-board. Applications should be made to Mrs O. Thompson, Regional Postgraduate Institute for Medicine and Dentistry, 11 Framlington Place, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4AB (Telephone 091-232 8511). The closing date for applications is 14 July 1986.