The majority of those attending felt that the cover design was good and that the small number of advertisements was refreshing. It was also commented that the typography and layout were good. It was generally agreed that the editorials covered important topics of general interest although some were considered too long.

It was felt that the original papers were often not interesting enough, that there were too many data based papers, that the majority of summaries were too long and that bolder, clearer print should be used for the summaries. The papers on headache and on respiratory illness in childhood in the September issue proved interesting.

It was also agreed that the letters section was valuable, that the new digest section should prove worthwhile and that in general well-selected low-cost publications appeared in the book review section.

The grey edging to the news section pages was considered helpful and at one page or less the length of articles in this section was optimum for rapid reading. It was felt that national news could be more comprehensive but that the inclusion of faculty news in the body of the *Journal* was an improvement. It was agreed that more news of College contacts with medical and other professional bodies should be reported and that obvious political comment should be avoided. The news section should contain reports on College Council and committee meetings, advance notice of meetings hosted or organized by the College and of other important meetings of interest to general practitioners, and short reports on meetings of special interest.

Most comments centred on the interest and relevance of the original papers, some of which had limited appeal. It was felt that more narrative style papers should be published but that anecdotal, subjective accounts should be treated with caution. Occasional clinical review articles would be welcome and the introduction of selected short reports from general practice should be considered. The inclusion of continuing epidemiological surveys was mentioned but comparative drug trials were not generally felt to be helpful. It was commented that the authority of the *Journal* is probably undermined by the incorporation of review articles in the *RCGP members' reference book.*

Overall, it was felt that the quality of the *Journal* has much improved and that it can therefore plan to evolve further to a new position of stability.

J.B. CLOSE

Linden House
30 Upper Fairfield Road
Leatherhead
Surrey KT22 7HH

Readers' comments about the Journal are always welcome. Ed.

Disfigurement Guidance Centre

Sir,

We are a long established, ethical, well respected, always hard up but enormously active and useful national charity. We are hoping to establish a comprehensive research project on haemangiomata and I should be most grateful if any of your readers with a special interest in this subject would assist our endeavours.

I should be delighted to send details of our centre's work and a copy of our free disfigurement handbook on request.

DOREEN SAVAGE TRUST

Disfigurement Guidance Centre
52 Crossgate
Cupar
Fife KY15 5HS

Isolated general practice

Sir,

As a past trainee of the practice responsible for the Island of Berneray, I was pleased to read Dr MacNamara's support for the continuation of training in isolated general practices (News, October *Journal,* p.480). I feel that its value goes beyond producing principals familiar with the lifestyle of remote communities. 'The challenge of providing both traditional family and frontier medicine' does indeed increase one's resoursefulness and with a wider application this might reduce the congestion in our hospital outpatient departments. I am now a principal in a larger mainland rural practice and I do not feel that I have missed out on any aspect of general practice education as a result of training in the Western Isles. I thoroughly recommend that option to anyone considering their future route through vocational training.

D.W. GARDNER

The Surgery
Hill House
Aspatria
Cumbria

Behavioural problems in pre-school children

Sir,

The Association for Child Psychology and Psychiatry is funding a study group on health visitor based approaches to behavioural problems in pre-school children. The group is attempting to review the range of services that are being developed and to identify the implications for training, interprofessional collaboration and research.

We would welcome any material, observations or comments from those with experience of such work. It is our intention to disseminate the results of our review in meetings and journal articles from the end of 1988 onwards.

JIM STEVENSON

University of Surrey
Guildford
Surrey GU2 5XH

General Practitioner Asthma Group

Sir,

A group is being formed with the aim of improving the management of asthma in general practice. Any general practitioners interested in joining such a group should write to the General Practitioner Asthma Group at the address below. Further details will then be sent.

P.W. BARRITT
S.R. HILTON
D. JENKINSON
K. JONES
M.L. LEVY
C.R.F. SHERLOCK

PRISM
Pinewood Studios
Iver Heath
Bucks SL0 0NH

Request for medical publications

Sir,

As an Indian doctor I find the cost of the *Journal* subscription prohibitive but I need to refer to it in the preparation of a book on general practice. I would like to receive used copies of the *Journal* from a British doctor and I would send copies of the *Indian Journal in Family Medicine* in exchange if required or provide hospitality in India. Journals may be sent by surface mail.

G.C. MAHESHWARI

70/A I L Township
Instrumentation Ltd
Kota 324005
Rajasthan
India

Sir,

I am a medical graduate and have opened a clinic in my native village in Pakistan. Owing to the absence of modern medical facilities in rural areas we need to be more efficient but I cannot afford to purchase medical publications or audio-visual material. I would therefore be grateful for any medical publications or audio-visual material from doctors in the UK.

A.A. BUGHIO

C-13 SRTC Colony
Hyderabad 71000
Sindh
Pakistan