

## **OVERSEAS NEWS**

### **THE AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS**

#### **Annals of General Practice**

The *Annals of General Practice*, published by the Australian College of General Practitioners, continues to reflect the high standard of practice in Australia. Part 1 of Volume VI (June 1961) contains the usual assortment of interesting articles, eight of the contributions being by members or associates of the Australian College.

There is an interesting account of the people of the Hebrides, as seen through the eyes of a visiting Australian doctor who did a six-weeks locum there. After this follow articles on rheumatism and its treatment by phenylbutazone, a case of rheumatoid arthritis, two cases of red-back spider bite, some experiences with librium, the report of a study of trypsin treatment, the need to train future graduates for research, the late Sir Gordon Gordon Taylor, the proceedings of the first Australian conference on postgraduate education (general practice section), considerations on the practice of medicine, reasons for the attractiveness of country practice, and accounts of college news.

Published with the *Annals*, as a supplement, is the report of the Infective Hepatitis Survey conducted by the New South Wales Faculty. This report runs to 53 pages, and is a careful and detailed account of the disease as it is generally seen. No less than 289 cases were collected and the results given under epidemiological aspects, geographical distribution, seasonal incidence, incubation period, mode of spread, clinical features, prognosis, and value of standard liver function tests. The authors are to be congratulated on their efforts.

The *Annals of General Practice* is to be published quarterly in future. This will be done by a publishing firm, free of cost to the College, in return for the advertising rights; but the College retains the right to veto any unethical or unsatisfactory advertisement. Under these arrangements the Australian College expects to maintain regular quarterly production of the *Annals*, without the financial loss which was formerly incurred.

#### **New President of the Australian College**

Dr Hamilton Stuart Patterson of Ipswich, Queensland was nominated to succeed Dr W. A. Conolly as President of the Australian College of General Practitioners. The formal election took place

at the annual general meeting of that college on 28 October 1961.

### **Dramatized Case Histories**

At the general-practitioner convention held at Melbourne, Australia, in October 1960, an interesting session was in the form of a dramatized trial. The first scenes illustrated the attention given by a general practitioner to a wounded patient, and then a coroner's court scene showed how the patient subsequently developed tetanus and died. A final scene enacted the proceedings before the supreme court in a trial for negligence based on the previously illustrated facts.

A verbatim account of the drama is published in *Annals of General Practice* (1961, 6, 101) and makes gripping reading. This form of case presentation has a realism which makes it quite fascinating, and although the work involved in such an undertaking is great, it deserves to be copied. The lessons to be learned from it cannot but have made a deep impression on the minds of all who were present.

### **Fellowship for Research**

The F. H. Faulding Company have generously offered to donate a sum of £500 per annum for a fellowship for research in general practice. The first award will probably be made in 1962, and meanwhile funds are to be made available for a seminar on group practice.

---

## **ABSTRACT**

### **GENERAL PRACTITIONERS AND HOSPITALS**

Sir George Schuster, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., C.B.E., M.C., the chairman of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board, spoke to the section of General Practice of the Royal Society of Medicine on 17 May 1961 on the subject of co-operation between the hospital services and general practitioners. He saw three ways in which the general practitioner could chiefly help the hospital; first by ensuring that entry into costly hospital beds was restricted to those who really needed them; secondly by being so proficient that it would be possible to discharge to their homes after a short stay those patients who could be looked after adequately at home; and thirdly, by working in the hospital part-time at a level between that of house officers and consultants.

Sir George thought that general practitioners should have access to departments such as pathology, radiography, electrocardiography, and physiotherapy, and he made out a case for diagnostic centres. He also suggested the addition to suitable group practices of health visitors, nurses, and other facilities. There was a need, he said,