

and Professor D. K. O'Donovan (professor of medicine, University College, Dublin) replied.

The Council of the College is extremely grateful to all those whose arrangements made this college weekend in Dublin such an outstanding success, especially the chairman and officers of the Irish Council.

THE FAMILY'S ILLS

THERE is no observer better placed to study family illness than the family doctor, and it is a matter for surprise that the science of genetics has been meagrely supported by general practitioners. All of us in practice see examples of the occurrence of different illnesses among members of a kinship which lead us perhaps in a passing thought to guess at a possible association soon to be forgotten in the press of subsequent events. It may be for lack of a recording system capable of fixing our ideas, at the time at which they occur, that so few of our opportunities are taken.

The "F" book method of recording family illness, described by DR KUENSSBERG¹ goes further, for in its application associations between diseases which might remain unrecognized except by the accident of inspiration are brought to the notice of the observer. The method has the qualities which are required of a satisfactory system. It is easy to operate and the decisions to be made and recorded by the doctor are few and precisely defined. The secretarial exercises of entry, summation and primary analysis are simple and logical, enabling quick confirmation or refutation of the surmise which may begin at morning coffee—and otherwise go no further.

Problems of interpersonal relationships are an increasing factor in a crowded island. Phenomena such as mass hysteria, teenage Beatle-reactions are probably extensions of the situations which we observe in patients at home. *Folie a deux* is accepted by the psychiatrists as a more-than-coincidental occurrence. The interplay of the emotions of husband and wife or mother and child brings patient after patient to see us under circumstances in which we can sometimes glimpse a pattern, but in which we more often grope unguided.

¹J. Coll. gen. Practit, 1964, 7, 410.

How many of the degenerative diseases are inherited, or are shared because shared environmental factors operate on members of a household or a group alike.

The development and use of methods of morbidity recording oriented in this way will place another tool in our hands, and it is possible to foresee general practice permeated with observers each using a method of recording which suits their own research interests best, and yet gives information which can be compared with that recorded by other family doctors. The 'F' book must take its own place with the 'E' book and the 'W' book and with other methods of evaluation of general practice material as yet ungraced by an initial in inverted commas. From its first foundation the research committee of the College has welcomed the design and perfection of new instruments to bring precision of recording to general practice, and the addition of each new tool to the craftsman's bag is a source of contentment and gratification to us all.

COLLEGE ACCOMMODATION

There are four double and four single rooms on the top floor and two flats and two flatlets on the third floor of 14 Princes Gate, London, S.W.7. One flat is allocated to the president.

The flats and flatlets have their own private bathrooms and toilets and in addition there are three bathrooms on the top floor.

Double rooms (if shared) 25s. 0d. each per night including breakfast

Single rooms 30s. 0d. per night including breakfast

Large flat £25 per week excluding breakfast

Flatlets £20 per week or £4 per night including breakfast

The College has a club licence and members may purchase drinks. Subject to prior notice breakfast can be provided at a charge of 5s. 0d.