

Correspondence

A Study of Research Conducted by British General Practitioners

Sir,

The work of Lees and Cooper (1963) has given useful information on the scope and importance of some recent studies in the field of general practice. Many of the observations on which they commented were carried out by workers who were not themselves engaged in general practice, or who were heavily subsidized.

Since the start of the National Health Service, there has been a great urge to develop research in general practice conducted by general practitioners. The Gillie Report (1963) stresses the value of both individual and group research to practitioners themselves, as well as suggesting that there are topics which are best studied in the field of general practice.

Recently the Research Foundation of the College of General Practitioners has made a grant available for a study of the research conducted by British general practitioners. It is hoped that this work will show not only what has been done so far, but also what has been attempted though not completed, and what still needs to be done.

At present we are undertaking a retrospective study of published work. There is, however, no guarantee from the title that the work is by a general practitioner. We are therefore seeking the courtesy of space in your columns to invite general practitioners, including those who have retired, to send references of research material which has been published since the start of the Health Service. These references should be sent to us at this address.

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REFERENCES

- Central Health Services Council (1963). *The Field Work of the Family Doctor*. London: H.M. Stationery Office.
Lees, D. S., and Cooper, M. H. (1963). *J. Coll. gen. Practit.*, 6, 233.

Lord Moran's Ladder

Sir,

We must find a more flattering image for ourselves than as casualties at the foot of a ladder. I suggest one from biology: we are the primitive cell.

Historically all specialities originated in general practice, differentiating as skills increased. No one can specialize until he has first had a general