

area and their particular interests.

These faculty Research Registers will be valuable in providing a ready-to-hand observer network for the study of epidemic diseases. Arrangements may be made with the secretary of the faculty for the rapid notification of outbreaks of unusual illness to reach quickly all members of the faculty research register and perhaps those of neighbouring faculties. This warning system has already proved of value to the Epidemic Observation Unit.

Carried out slowly and with method, the work of faculty research committees will be of the greatest value in encouraging and helping those with the research habit of mind, rather than attempting to whip up interest in research among those who have no natural inclination towards it.

Officers of the faculty research committees are asked to keep in the closest possible touch with the College Research Committee, which should be able to help them from experience gained by other faculties. Much of this contact will necessarily be by post; but it is hoped that when occasion arises members of faculty research committees will be invited to attend meetings of the College Research Committee. It is proposed to arrange at least once a year, a conference of the chairmen and secretaries of the research committees of all faculties. The first of these conferences has been arranged for the 31st November, 1954, the day after the Annual General Meeting of the College.

PROGRESS REPORT

(1) The Epidemic Observation Unit.

Members will have received the Clinical Supplement to Research Newsletter No. 4 giving an account of "Shore Fever" and of its observation in different parts of the country. Much valuable experience has been gained in this study, and future outbreaks of conditions of this nature will no doubt receive even more accurate and consistent observation.

At the request of the Director of the Virus Reference Laboratory, members of the College as well as the Central Research Register were invited to collect specimens for virus studies during the prevalence of infective hepatitis in the South-Eastern counties of England.

(2) The National Morbidity Survey.

The planning of this survey has advanced considerably, and well over the hundred members required for the survey have volunteered to take part if requested. The selection of those who are to participate will be made by Dr. W.P.D. Logan (Chief Medical Statistician to the Registrar General's Department) according to the results of a questionnaire which has been sent to each volunteer. The card on which information will be recorded has been designed, and is quite simple. It will fit into the N.H.S. Medical Records Envelope.

(3) The Measles Investigation.

The comparative scarcity of measles this year has caused the number of case-cards returned to fall below that which was expected. No definite conclusions will be drawn until more than two thousand cards have been analysed. This may mean that the investigation will be prolonged into 1955, and that no report will be published until the end of that year.

STUDY GROUPS

The Respiratory Tract Diseases Study Group.

The planning of the investigation into acute manifestations of chest disease has been completed, and the record card is being printed. This card has been designed so as to fit, folded once, into either the N.H.S. Record Envelope or a jacket pocket.

This study group now has eighty members, and the distribution of members according to types of practice and distribution of population is known.