

committees more intimately concerned with the actual details of different courses.

The value of clinical assistantships in postgraduate education is debatable. Theoretically, in so far as they provide access to a wider range of cases than obtains in a single practice, they should be invaluable. Difficulties are created by the need for definite attendance at set times, the variable nature of the teaching, conflict with fellow general practitioners who sometimes dislike colleagues seeing their patients, and possibly a reluctance on the part of regional hospital boards to make the necessary re-arrangements that their introduction to hospital demands. Further consideration to this subject is needed.

Finally, one of the most potent sources of postgraduate education arises in the friendly relationships that often exist between consultants and general practitioners. It is up to us to maintain close liaison with the staffs of hospitals in our areas. Arrangements can then be made on a friendly, if not official basis, to "sit in" on the various out-patient clinics and so enhance one's knowledge by casual comment as well as specific instruction.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Chronic Bronchitis Investigation

Good progress is being made. A successful meeting of 30 members was held in April when a working party was formed—this consists of Drs. John Fry, J. P. Horder, D. W. Lewis, W. Shiells and C. W. Ward. The following consultants were invited, and have accepted to serve on this working party—Drs. C. W. Fletcher (Postgraduate Medical School, London), N. C. Oswald (St. Bart's and Brompton Hospitals) and D. D. Reid (Reader in Medical Statistics, London School of Hygiene).

The working party has met on two occasions and a short term investigation to assess the incidence of symptoms of chronic bronchitis in a given age group (50—55) by means of a standard questionnaire is being prepared and a pilot survey has been started in four practices; a long-term study into the natural history of the condition is also being prepared. The two studies will be undertaken concurrently.

We are hoping to start some time in 1957. Although there are now almost 100 members in the group we still need representation from the industrial N.W. and N.E. of England, the West and N. and S. Wales.

Would those interested please contact Dr. John Fry, of 36, Croydon Road, Beckenham, Kent.