

News and Notes

Diploma in the Philosophy of Medicine

Twelve doctors were successful in the final diploma examination for the Society of Apothecaries' Diploma in the Philosophy of Medicine (DPMSA), held in June 1982. The diploma, designed to indicate 'some familiarity with the methods of contemporary philosophical analysis as applied to problems within the theory and practice of medicine', involves 40 Saturday morning seminars attended over a two-year period and two examinations. The next course begins on October 2, 1982, and will be given by Ms Susan Khin Zaw, lecturer in philosophy at the Open University and honorary lecturer in philosophy at Bedford College, University of London, and by Dr Raanan Gillon, Editor of the *Journal of Medical Ethics*. Dr Michael Lockwood, who started the course in 1978, has resigned but remains an examiner.

The successful diplomates were:

Mr H Cannell
Dr D M Jenkins
Dr M A Nasser
Dr A M Nelson
Dr A Parrott
Dr S O Ruhi
Dr N J Sheehan
Dr V S Shukla
Dr R A Storrington
*Dr P D Toon
Dr P R Williams
Dr S M N Zaidi

*Denotes distinction

Dr A R Kagalwala successfully passed the diploma examination in 1981. Details of the course are available from: The Registrar, Apothecaries Hall, Blackfriars Lane, London EC4V 6EJ.

Re-retiring

The society said farewell at an informal party to Helen Horton who had been on its secretarial staff since 1974. She brought many skills to the society in its early years and witnessed the publication of the *Journal of Medical Ethics* and the establishment of Medical Groups throughout the country. It says something for her vigour that not until she retired from us was it discovered that she was 'retired' when she arrived.

Need for fair way to arrange nurses' pay

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, has asked nurses not to allow the Government's offer to get in the way of the opportunity now being given them by the Government for future fair determination of their pay.

He told nurses at the annual conference of the Royal College of Nursing in Harrogate: 'We are all so close in our aims that I believe it would be a great pity if any sense of grievance over the past treatment of nurses' pay was allowed to obstruct our efforts to get new arrangements for the future. If we can find a better way of handling pay in the future it will enable the profession to give its full attention to the really

important issues of maintaining and improving professional standards for the benefit of patients.'

He added: 'We must however make sure in future that we do not fall back into a see-saw pattern of steady relative deterioration, punctuated by occasional "catching-up" exercises such as the Halsbury Enquiry. That is why – for the first time – nurses are being offered by the Government a way out of this predicament – and that way out consists of developing new, permanent arrangements whereby nurses' pay can be settled each year. Discussions on this have already begun between Norman Fowler and myself and both sides of the Whitley Council. I would now like to chair a small working party from Department, management and staff to see how we can take matters further.'

Critical care symposium

A one-day international symposium on critical care medicine will be held at the University Hospital Sint-Rafaël, Leuven, Belgium on Saturday October 9. The afternoon session is devoted to the bioethical response to a life threatening situation. Speakers will include Professor G. Maertens, professor of ethics, Leuven University and Professor H Kuitert, professor of Christian ethics, Vrije University, Amsterdam. The subject of the morning session is the physiological response to a life threatening situation. Anyone wishing to attend should contact the Secretary, Emergency Department, University Hospital Sint-Rafaël, B-3000 Leuven, Belgium.