Letters to the Editor

From Dr Alim Abdul-Hamed Yacoub,
Department of Public Health, Preventive
and Social Medicine,
College of Medicine, Basrah-Iraq.

Dear Sir

Psychiatry in Saudi Arabia
Dr Austin Tate, in his recent letter to the
Saudi Medical Journal (July 1980, 1, 290),
referred to three papers concerning the
development of mental health programmes
in Saudi Arabia.

I am certain that the review of the nature
and progress being made in this field will be
of considerable interest and help to those
concerned in the planning and the delivery
of mental health services in the Middle East.

I should like to mention in this context
that there is a growing trend towards the
introduction of community-based mental
health programmes. The two essential and
innovative ideas behind such programmes
are:

(1) That psychiatric disorders can be cured
or improved with greater ease the less the
particular patient is dislocated in time and
space from his primary relationships.

(2) That effective techniques for the preven-
tion and treatment of psychiatric disorders
cannot be developed by mental health profes-
sionals alone; other professions, and to some
extent the general public itself, must be
involved in this effort (Karno & Schwartz
1974, Community Mental Health Reflec-
tions and Explorations. Spectrum Publica-
tions, Flushing, NY; p 4).

The development of community mental
health programmes can significantly contrib-
ute to the achievement of a broadly based
health care delivery as well as supporting
man's legitimate struggle towards the pro-
vision of 'health for all'.

Yours sincerely,
ALIM ABDUL-HAMED YACOUB
University of Basrah College of Medicine,
Department of Public Health, Preventive
and Social Medicine.
17 December 1980

From Dr Raj Kumar Gang,
PO Box 8347, Benghazi, Libya.

Dear Sir

On Writing a Medical Paper for Publication

I have had the opportunity of reading the
article 'On Writing a Medical Paper for
Publication' which appeared in the Saudi
Medical Journal, July 1980, 1, 257. I found
this article to be of great help to younger
scientists who are interested in research
work, as it covers all the important points
which an academic doctor should know
before starting to write a paper. I should like
to take this opportunity, through you, of
congratulating the authors on their excellent
and comprehensive paper, which provides
important guide lines to the academician
about the way to write a medical paper for
a scientific journal.

Yours sincerely
RAJ KUMAR GANG
Consultant Plastic Surgeon,
Faculty of Medicine,
University of Garyounis,
1 December 1980
Benghazi, Libya.
From Dr Helen Ross,
Al Qassimi Hospital,
PO Box 3500 Sharjah,
UAE

Dear Sir

Campylobacter Enteritis in Sharjah

In view of the work being done on campylobacter species in Europe and America at the moment, it may be of interest to record our experience in Al Qassimi Hospital, Sharjah, since we started trying to isolate the organism in July 1980.

In five months we have cultured 818 samples of faeces from children and adults. The results are as follows:

Salmonella spp. ........................................ 41
Shigella sonnei ........................................... 6
Shigella flexneri ......................................... 8
Shigella boydii .......................................... 5
Shigella dysenteriae .................................... 2
Enteropathogenic E.coli ................................. 2
Campylobacter spp. ..................................... 10

Two of the campylobacter isolations were from adult women; the other 8 were from children of 18 months or less. The youngest child from whom we isolated campylobacter was 2 weeks old. All patients had diarrhoea or abdominal pain, or both.

Yours sincerely,

HELEN ROSS
Consultant Pathologist
Al Qassimi Hospital,
Sharjah

24 December 1980