

psychiatrists during your leisure time why not join us?

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Doctors in distress

Sir: As we near the end of the twentieth century it can be hard to believe that members of the medical profession might find themselves in need. As a profession we are reasonably well paid and jobs are relatively secure. We have the NHS Pension Scheme and we can take out insurance policies which, at first sight and at a price, appear to cover most eventualities.

Unfortunately, we have no special immunity to the tragedies that affect other mortals – accidents that cause permanent disability, illnesses that are still incurable, breakdowns or dependence after years of coping with pressure. These can strike at any time of life and hit families as well as colleagues. Younger doctors are often especially vulnerable.

Fortunately there is an organisation which has been helping doctors and their families for over 160 years and is still going strong.

The Royal Medical Benevolent Fund is the leading charity of its kind, providing financial assistance and support for members of the medical profession and their dependents who, through illness or other misfortune, find themselves in need. The amount of financial help is expected to exceed £900 000 this year and accounts for half of all annual charitable expenditure in this field.

Over the years the Fund has built up a high level of expertise in providing help when and where it is most needed. Three full-time professional case workers, supported by a national network of a hundred volunteer area visitors, ensure each application for help receives proper consideration. A monthly Case Committee meeting enables rapid decisions to be made to enable timely help to be provided.

If every doctor does a little to help the Fund then the Fund can do a lot to help those most in need. To find out more about how your contribution can make a difference contact the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund, 24 King's Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 8QN, telephone them (0181 540 9194) or view their Website, on www.rmbf.co.uk

Lesley Rees, *Chairman, Fund-raising & Publicity Committee, RMBF, 24 King's Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 8QN*



Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Important Reminder

With effect from 1 January 2000 there will be no separate subscription for participation in CPD for Fellows, Members and Affiliates: the costs are included in the College annual subscription. If you pay by Direct Debit you will have been notified of the amount to be debited in January 2000 in respect of your College subscription.

Advances in Psychiatric Treatment will *only* be available by separate subscription at a cost of £36 per annum, it will no longer form part of the CPD scheme. Enquiries about subscriptions should be made to the subscriptions department at the Royal Society of Medicine Press Ltd, tel: 020 7290 2929.

From January 2000 participation in CPD is *compulsory* for College Tutors, Examiners and all consultants who supervise SHOs or Specialist Registrars. If you fall into this category and you have not yet registered for CPD you should do so immediately.

Enquiries about CPD generally should be made to the CPD Unit.

tel: 020 7235 2351 extensions 112 or 108.