

Health Group Report

The Institute of Statisticians have accepted our abstract of a paper on drug evaluation and so we have started to generate something for Martin Eland and David Jones to present at their July conference. We are planning to review drugs recently put on the market for rheumatism and arthritis to assess the adequacy of the trial design and the therapeutic innovation, if any which they provide. The present idea is that we should then write a paper on the subject and submit it to journals.

Since the initial upsurge of interest in a project on private practice, little or nothing has been achieved. After some discussion, what we are now aiming to produce, to a six month self imposed deadline, is a pamphlet which could be used by trades union branches who were considering group schemes. In the wake of the EEPTU decision, it would seem important that good evidence on the efficacy or otherwise of screening programmes is available, as well as reference sources for information on private practice.

By the time you read this, it is unlikely that we shall have any of our original 2000 copies of 'The unofficial guide to official health statistics' left unsold. We have decided to have another 2000 printed, without altering the main text, but with the introduction and conclusions amended with comments about Sir Derek Rayner's plans for cuts in official health statistics.

Alison Macfarlane
Tim Scott

The report given at the AGM explained the unexpected turn of events during the preceding year which had resulted in the publication of the group's book, Britain's Black Population, in cooperation with The Runnymede Trust. The discussion revolved around publishing, publicity and the usefulness of the book. It was generally felt that more reviews would be a "Good Thing".

The group has sold 210 paperback copies at the prepublication and introductory prices. In addition, 1500 paperback copies and 245 cased editions were sold in the first four months (i.e. ending 31.3.81). Sales by the Runnymede Trust, if any, are not known (despite enquiry).

Contrary to the report given in RS20, the group as such has been inactive since we finally managed to get the book out of the way, though members have responded individually to specific responses to the book. At the AGM suggestions were made that the group could work in the area of nationalⁿity, health, immigration or crime, but there have been no group discussions of further group work, nor are there definite plans for any .

More information from Dave Drew 0742-20911 ext 397 or myself 021-327-0194. Copies of our book still available, price £3.50 + 60p p&p. Cheques to 'Radical Statistics Race Group' from D. Drew, Dept. Maths, Stats & O.R., Sheffield City Poly, Pond Street, Sheffield S1 1WB.