

Health Group Report

Our intentions to update our information on private practice have been lying semi-dormant since the last newsletter, but are now reawakening. Any Rip Van Winkles who are interested in turning them into reality should contact Tim Scott, 42 Woodland Terrace, Charlton, London SE7 8EW (Tel. 01 855 7429).

Six of us have submitted an abstract of a paper (under their own names) to the July 1981 Institute of Statisticians conference 'Statistics in Medicine'. The paper represents a revival of ideas we have previously discussed but not acted on. The clinical trial evidence for all drugs in certain categories introduced in Britain in a recent year will be reviewed to assess (a) the adequacy of the trial design and (b) the therapeutic innovation, if any, which the drugs represent. We are waiting to hear 'early in the new year' whether the paper is accepted, thus providing a deadline to spur us on. If it is, a meeting of the six plus any others interested will be arranged to plan the project in detail.

We have sold well over 1000 copies of 'The unofficial guide to official health statistics' and have recouped the bank balance we spent to have it printed. A revised version of 'In defence of the NHS' has now appeared in the International Journal of Health Services

Alison Macfarlane
David Jones

A note by, with or from David Jones

Having obtained Troika approval for publication of the article 'How useful are official health statistics?' under the collective authorship of Radical Statistics Health Group, it is sad to report neither the New Statesman nor RS19 could cope with collective authorship. Instead the article was attributed to me by RS19 and me and Alison by the New Statesman. Apologies to those apparently plagiarised

RACE GROUP REPORT

Publication of the Race group book "Britain's Black Population" (there is an order form in this newsletter) has enabled us to make contact with a number of interested groups and this we anticipate will lead to further work.

Approaches have been made to us by the Sheffield Anti Nazi League about producing some basic anti-racist materials for kids in or just out of school. The rise in unemployment in a city like Sheffield is a fertile breeding ground for fascist ideas and there is a small but growing British Movement here. We hope to help out in producing these materials.

Publication of the book was noted in the press (Guardian, December 8th and the Times, January 7th) and we were able to give some radio interviews, (Radio London and Hallam and BBC Radio Leicester and Sheffield). A Zimbabwean student of mine said that he heard it mentioned on the BBC World Service when listening to see what his mum would be hearing that day, back home. I'm not sure if he was pulling my leg. Anyone else listening to the World Service that day?

We have also received a number of invitations to speak to groups including the Social Services Research Group and a group of psychiatrists, psychologists and social workers at the University of Sheffield.

Current directions of the group are towards blacks and crime and health statistics.

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DD/SL

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