

# Enter *The Journal's* caption competition

The photograph below shows the President, the immediate Past President and the Secretary and Registrar with the new Royal Charter. The man in the portrait is William Allen, the first president of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. Send in your caption and the funniest, as selected by our panel of judges, will win a set of British Society for the History of Pharmacy mugs, made from bone china. Entries should be on a postcard, marked "Caption competition" and should include your name, address and daytime telephone number. They should be sent to The Editor, The Pharmaceutical Journal, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN. The deadline for entries is 5 January and the winner will be announced in the 8 January issue. The editor's decision is final.



## What UK pharmacists can do for pharmacists in other countries

**John Bell**, immediate past president of the Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association, reminds us about Pharmaid and other worthy projects

The Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association (CPA) aims to help professional organisations of pharmacists deliver improved health outcomes at community level and strengthen national health infrastructures. Nowhere is this more critical than in developing countries in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean, where the impact of diseases such as HIV and AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis places enormous burdens on limited health, medical and hospital services.

The CPA is working to build capacity within health systems in these countries. Over the past five years, 400 health care workers have graduated from the CPA's distance learning course on managing drug supplies and 40,000 pharmacopoeias and reference texts have been distributed through

its Pharmaid scheme. The CPA has also implemented consumer health education programmes in malaria prevention and management and held interactive workshops in good pharmacy practice and HIV and AIDS.

Pharmaid owes much of its success to the generosity of UK pharmacists, who donate their superseded Martindales and British National Formularies. However, the scheme costs over £10,000 each year to run and funding from donors and sponsors is minimal. Our malaria fact card projects cost approximately £5,500 per country to implement. Increased funding would accelerate these important activities.

Every CPA project is evaluated and reports prepared for funding bodies. By international

standards these activities are cost-effective and governments have incorporated them into public health campaigns and health initiatives.

Individual pharmacists in the UK and other developed countries, can support their colleagues in the developing world by becoming personal members of CPA (only £10 each year) or by making a donation, or both. A pharmacist or a group of pharmacists could sponsor a student to undertake the distance learning course in drug supply management (it costs £80 to train each student) or hold a fund raising event to help establish a malaria fact card project in another country.

For further information contact Betty Falconbridge, CPA Administrator on 020 7572 2364 or visit the CPA website at <http://commonwealthpharmacy.org/>