

SUPPLEMENT TO THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

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British Medical Association.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

Monday, July 21st, 1930.

A MEETING of the Council of the Association was held at the Association House, Tavistock Square, on Monday, July 21st, at 9 a.m. Dr. H. B. BRACKENBURY, Chairman of Council, presided, and the other members present were:

Professor A. H. Burgess (President), Dr. C. O. Hawthorne (Chairman of Representative Body), Mr. N. Bishop Harman (Treasurer), Sir Ewen Maclean (Past-President), Dr. J. Armstrong, Dr. F. J. Baildon, Dr. Harold S. Beadles, Dr. R. J. A. Berry, Sir Robert Bolam, Dr. J. W. Bone, Dr. H. C. Bristowe, Dr. J. D. Comrie, Dr. H. G. Dain, Dr. C. E. Douglas, Mr. W. McAdam Eccles, Dr. C. E. S. Flemming, Dr. R. Forbes, Dr. E. R. Fothergill, Dr. T. Fraser, Dr. F. J. Gomez, Dr. F. W. Goodbody, Dr. R. G. Gordon, Surgeon Rear-Admiral J. Falconer Hall, Dr. R. Wallace Henry, Dr. J. Hudson, Dr. R. Langdon-Down, Dr. E. K. Le Fleming, Dr. R. W. Leslie, Dr. E. Lewys-Lloyd, Dr. J. Livingstone Loudon, Sir Richard Luce, Dr. P. Macdonald, Dr. S. Morton Mackenzie, Dr. O. Marriott, Dr. J. C. Matthews, Dr. J. B. Miller, Dr. Christine Murrell, Mr. A. W. Nuthall, Dr. W. Paterson, Dr. R. C. Peacocke, Dr. W. J. Phelan, Dr. J. R. Prytherch, Dr. F. Radcliffe, Dr. C. G. C. Scudamore, Dr. E. H. Snell, Mr. H. S. Souttar, Dr. W. E. Thomas, Dr. G. Clark Trotter, and Mr. E. B. Turner.

Apologies for absence were received from Dr. W. Harvey Smith (President-Elect), Dr. Arnold Lyndon (Deputy Chairman of the Representative Body), Dr. G. A. Allan, Dr. G. F. Buchanan, Mr. T. P. Dunhill, Dr. D. E. Finlay, Colonel A. E. Hamerton, Dr. F. Q'Kinealy, Dr. N. J. Roche, Dr. John Stevens, Colonel Ashton Street, Dr. W. Watkins-Pitchford, Dr. J. F. Walker, and Sir William L. de Courcy Wheeler.

The deaths of Dr. James Hamilton, a member of Council from 1903 to 1907, and Dr. James Metcalfe, a member from 1911 to 1913, were reported, and the Chairman was authorized to forward a letter of condolence to the respective families.

The Council unanimously endorsed as a recommendation to the Representative Meeting the nomination of the Most Rev. S. P. Matheson, D.D., Archbishop of Rupert's Land and Primate of Canada, and Mr. T. B. Macaulay, LL.D., president of the Sun Life Assurance Company, Canada, as Honorary Members of the Association.

Roll of Biophysical Assistants.

A letter was considered from the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics stating that at the last meeting of the society's council the publication of the first roll of biophysical assistants was reported, and it was noted that,

with few exceptions, the persons admitted by the Society of Apothecaries to the roll were chartered masseurs or masseuses. The hope was expressed by the council of the society that every effort would be made to bring this register to the notice of the medical profession, and that its support and co-operation would be sought for the employment of these assistants. The British Medical Association was asked to assist in the circulation of the roll to the medical profession.

Mr. Souttar said that a very fine piece of work had been carried through in the formation of this roll. He suggested that when, as appeared likely from a subsequent recommendation, a circular letter was being issued to all medical practitioners in connexion with the National Ophthalmic Treatment Scheme, a reference to this matter might be enclosed.

The Journées Médicales at Brussels.

The Medical Secretary presented a report on the Journées Médicales at Brussels which he attended. He stated that throughout the proceedings the estimation in which the British Medical Association was held by Continental colleagues was shown in a manner most gratifying to its representative. One of the events was an address by the Medical Secretary himself on "L'assurance sociale en Angleterre au point de vue médicale." In informal conversations after his address the differences in economic conditions were brought home to him forcibly by the genuine surprise shown by the Belgian doctors when he explained that the 9s. insurance capitation rate in Great Britain did not include attendance on the families of the insured. With regard to the whole of the events in connexion with the Brussels meeting, Dr. Cox assured the Council that, whether regarded as a manifestation of courtesy to an important foreign medical organization or as a means of placing British experience at the service of a kindred body, any trouble or expense to which the Association was put would be handsomely repaid.

Gift by the Rhodesian Branches.

It was reported to the Council that the Mashonaland and Matabeleland Branches, which together covered Southern Rhodesia, had presented to headquarters a fine specimen of a rhinoceros' head, which had been placed in the Common Room. In presenting the trophy, the Branches said: "We

decided that a typical Rhodesian memento would be the head of a rhinoceros," and they asked the Council to receive it as a sign of their loyalty to the Association and their desire to have some representation of Southern Rhodesia in the Association's House. The Medical Secretary remarked that the idea of getting this specimen began when he himself was visiting Rhodesia. The Branches had evidently set themselves to secure a first-class example. The thanks of the Council were accorded to the Branches.

Inquiry into Tonsillar Disease.

Mr. Souttar, for the Science Committee, reported on the collective investigations which the Association had initiated. He said that the third such investigation, concerned with the incidence of cancer and its history after treatment, was now being conducted; about 4,000 practitioners would share in the investigation. Although the present year would be entirely occupied with the cancer investigation, it was important to keep these collective inquiries going, and therefore the Science Committee proposed that the next investigation should be into tonsillar disease and the after-history of tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy. After consulting with various laryngologists, a questionnaire had been drawn up, which it was proposed to use in this connexion. It was suggested that the inquiry should be conducted during the whole of 1931, and that the practitioners who took part therein should be asked to report on all cases of which they had records. Medical officers of all large schools and institutions in which there were numbers of children would also be asked to take part in this inquiry.

Dr. Lewys-Lloyd, Chairman of the Public Health Committee, pointed out that the Board of Education in 1927-28 set up a very representative committee, which issued in 1929 a valuable interim report on enlarged tonsils and adenoids and the methods and results of treatment. A further report was now, he understood, in course of preparation. The same committee was inquiring into tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy, and especially into the factors in the early history and conditions of children from birth which were associated with the occurrence of enlarged tonsils and adenoids. He wondered whether it was advisable to have two committees of the medical profession at work on the same subject at the same time.

Mr. Souttar said that he was unaware of this investigation, but in any case it was a very different thing from a collective investigation by a very large body of practitioners who, on their own initiative, were reporting on all their cases. He was willing, however, if the Council desired, to take back this proposal and reconsider the choice of subject.

Dr. Douglas hoped that the proposal would not be taken back. The Association in its collective investigations had already set going a very fine machine, which had led to quite remarkable results. It would be a loss of valuable time if this matter was referred back.

Dr. Flemming suggested that some means might be found of combining the two inquiries.

The Chairman of Council pointed out that the committee concerned with the Government inquiry could only have got its information as to school children from the activities of the education authorities. Was there any reason why that should not be checked or supplemented by the broader statistics arrived at in another way? There was no antagonism between the two sets of inquiries; indeed, the occurrence of the two together might be most opportune.

Dr. Lewys-Lloyd said that he was quite satisfied to have had the matter brought forward.

Mr. Souttar thought that it would be better to give the Science Committee permission to proceed with this inquiry, but the committee would most carefully take into account what had just been said.

It was agreed that the Science Committee should be authorized to undertake a collective investigation into tonsillar disease and the after-history of tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy.

Post-Graduate Facilities for Oversea Graduates.

Mr. Souttar further reported on a resolution by the Victorian Branch Council, which had already been referred to the Science Committee, urging the Council of the Association to create an organization which would provide full information and facilities

for oversea graduates wishing to do post-graduate work in Great Britain and on the Continent. The report of the Science Committee gave a brief account of the action already taken by the Association in regard to post-graduate facilities; the office collected, published, and made available for the help of members of the Association information as to such facilities throughout the world. Mr. Souttar also pointed out that it was expected that increased post-graduate facilities in London would be forthcoming as a result of action which had been taken by the Government arising out of the report of the departmental committee established by the late Minister of Health (Mr. Neville Chamberlain). The Government had taken steps towards the establishment of a big post-graduate centre in London, and, in view of that, it did not seem wise to make any other definite move until it was seen what had evolved from this official action. He therefore recommended that the council of the Victorian Branch be informed of the action taken recently by the Government towards the establishment of a British Post-Graduate Hospital and Medical School and of the information in regard to post-graduation work available at headquarters and placed at the disposal of graduates from oversea.

Dr. Fothergill drew attention to the fact that on the provisional organization committee set up by the Minister of Health to proceed with the action necessary to secure the establishment of the British Post-Graduate Hospital and Medical School at Hammersmith there was not a single representative of the profession from oversea. The Chairman of Council said that it was just possible that this committee appointed by the Government might ask the Minister of Health to sanction the appointment on certain subcommittees of members who were not members of the full committee, and this might furnish an opportunity for doing what Dr. Fothergill had in mind. In any case there were quite a number of members of the committee who had travelled in the Dominions and were well informed as to Dominion opinion.

Dr. Hawthorne said that those who had been in association with post-graduate work and study in London had, of course, been advocating for years the establishment of a large central hospital, but another point in which some of them were much interested was that the teaching interests in connexion with that school should be sufficiently broad to claim that the school was representative of British medicine, and that it was not merely a limited number of teachers who might happen to have appointments on the staff of the hospital. This was the only opportunity of those who were not on the committee to present to its members that particular point of view. The need that the platform of teaching should be comprehensive appeared to him to require emphasis.

The recommendation of the Science Committee was agreed to.

The Hastings Collection.

Mr. Souttar stated that the Hastings collection of books presented by the Worcestershire Medical Society in 1925 had been carefully examined, and it had been decided to re-bind 334 of these volumes which were of special value. In answer to a question, he said that these books would be kept together as a unit, which would stand as a memorial of the library formed by Sir Charles Hastings.

Association Scholarships and Grants.

The proposals with regard to the scholars and grantees for 1930-31 were reported on by the Science Committee as follows

Ernest Hart Scholar.

Edwin Charles Warner, M.D., B.S., M.R.C.P. (Miller General Hospital, London). Continuation of work on rheumatic disease and chorea in children. (Dr. Warner received a special grant of £100 for 1929-30 in connexion with the commencement of this investigation.)

Ordinary Research Scholars.

Ronald Winston Brookfield, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Liverpool). Continuation of studies on the physiology and clinical pathology of magnesium.

Edgar Samuel John King, M.D., B.S., F.R.C.S. (Melbourne, Victoria). Endometrioma of the ovary.

Science Grantees.

Eric G. Holmes, M.A., M.B., B.Chir. (Cambridge). Metabolism of nerve tissue.

Alfred R. D. Pattison, M.B., B.S. (Durham). An experimental study of the absorptive capacity of the peritoneum and its alterations in response to disease, with special reference to gastric and intestinal perforations.