

the mouth for long enough. Its value should be placed into the pockets of those who, to their very great credit, have been and at this very moment are earning it.—I am, etc.,

March, Cambs.

GORDON L. MCCULLOCH.

### Maternity Service Regulations

SIR,—We are writing to express the grave disquiet of the members of our Division about the present interpretation of the Maternity Medical Services Regulations, as construed locally. This has already been the subject of a lengthy correspondence between the York Local Medical Committee, of which we are both members, and the G.M.S. Committee.

No one has any objection to the standards of treatment laid down in the regulations, as these constitute the normal criteria of good maternal medical care. What is disturbing many of our members is the interpretation of these regulations as being part of the legal obligations of a doctor to his patient.

An unfortunate impression has been created that the central executive of the B.M.A. has not realized the importance of this principle, and, for reasons not apparent to members at the periphery, has not pressed this issue strongly enough in negotiations with the Ministry. The disquiet of our members has not been allayed by the explanations given by the General Medical Services Committee. We have already received suggestions from several independent sources of a mass withdrawal of doctors from the obstetric list as a form of protest until the issue is completely clarified.—We are, etc.,

E. C. E. GOLDEN,  
Chairman.

ANGUS I. MACLEOD,  
Honorary Secretary, York Division, B.M.A.

SIR,—Following the statement by Dr. I. M. Jones in Council (December 16, p. 256) that five [post-natal] visits were below the optimum customarily paid by the mass of general-practitioner obstetricians, and were below what was desirable, may one ask (1) where the figures for the first sweeping statement were produced; (2) what he considers to be the optimum—and desirable—number of visits, which one presumes he himself carries out; and (3) does not the necessity for this number of visits indicate faulty selection of patients for home confinement?—I am, etc.,

Camborne, Cornwall.

A. J. REEVES.

SIR,—With reference to Dr. T. S. Clarke's letter (December 30, p. 276), I fully agree with him so far as he goes, but although the regulations may seem clear enough the interpretation of them is not necessarily as clear. So far as I have been able to gather, the enforcement of the regulation (E.C.N. 378) depends in its nature upon the interpretation of the words "reasonable grounds." One executive council is prepared to accept the doctor's opinion as to whether five visits were clinically necessary as being "reasonable grounds." It seems reasonable to suppose that if a fee is to be paid for certain services the nature of those services must be stipulated. If in this instance the word regulation is used instead of stipulation it still does not, in my opinion, amount to clinical direction.—I am, etc.,

Topsham, Devon.

F. E. GRAHAM-BONNALIE.

## H.M. Forces

### TERRITORIAL ARMY

#### ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

Lieutenant-Colonel (Brevet-Colonel) J. L. D. Roberts has been granted the acting rank of Colonel.

Major D. M. Coates, T.D., has resigned his commission, retaining the rank of Major.

### ROYAL AIR FORCE

Group Captain H. P. R. Smith, A.F.C., has retired at his own request.

## Association Notices

### Diary of Central Meetings

#### JANUARY

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|-----------|---|
| 10 Wed.   | Council, 10 a.m.  |
| 10 Wed.   | Spa in Medical Practice Subcommittee, Physical Medicine Group Committee, 11 a.m.                            |
| 11 Thurs. | Psychological Medicine Group Committee, 12 noon.  |
| 11 Thurs. | Psychological Medicine Group, Annual Conference, 2 p.m.   |
| 12 Fri.   | Joint Formulary Committee, 11 a.m.  |
| 16 Tues.  | Central Ethical and "Family Doctor" Committees, 10 a.m.   |
| 16 Tues.  | Medical Students and Newly Qualified Practitioners Subcommittee (Organization Committee), 2 p.m.            |
| 17 Wed.   | Training Subcommittee (Occupational Health Committee), 10 a.m.  |
| 17 Wed.   | Arrangements Committee (Oxford, 1963), 12 noon.   |
| 17 Wed.   | General Medical Services Committee, 2 p.m.  |
| 18 Thurs. | General Medical Services Committee, 10.30 a.m.  |
| 18 Thurs. | Subcommittee on Design of Dermatological Unit (Dermatologists Group Committee), 2 p.m.                      |
| 24 Wed.   | Medical Staffing Subcommittee (Central Consultants and Specialists Committee), 10.30 a.m.                   |
| 24 Wed.   | Committee on Transmission of Information to G.P.s, 2.30 p.m.  |
| 25 Thurs. | Central Consultants and Specialists Executive Committee, 10 a.m.  |
| 25 Thurs. | Maternity Medical Services Subcommittee (G.M.S. Committee), 10.30 a.m.                                      |
| 25 Thurs. | Medical Services Review Evidence Subcommittee (G.M.S. Committee), 2 p.m.                                    |
| 30 Tues.  | Staff Side, Committee B, Medical Whitley Council (at Royal College of Physicians of London), 10 a.m.        |
| 30 Tues.  | Joint Consultants Committee (at Royal College of Physicians of London) (to follow Staff Side, Committee B). |
| 30 Tues.  | Medical Whitley Council, 2 p.m.   |
| 30 Tues.  | Committee B, Medical Whitley Council, 2.15 p.m.   |
| 31 Wed.   | Obstetrics Education Committee, 10.30 a.m.  |
| 31 Wed.   | Private Practice Committee, 2 p.m.  |

### Branch and Division Meetings to be Held

*Honorary Secretaries of Branches and Divisions are asked to send notices of meetings to the Editor at least 14 days before they are to be held.*

**ABERYSTWYTH DIVISION.**—At Marine Hotel, Friday, January 12, 6.45 for 7 p.m., informal dinner; 8 p.m., Dr. Roderick Howell: "Dermatology—A Conspiracy of Silence."

**BARNET DIVISION.**—At Highlands General Hospital, Winchmore Hill, London N., Sunday, January 14, 10.30 for 11 a.m., demonstrations in Department of Physical Medicine on techniques useful in general practice.

**BRADFORD DIVISION.**—At Medical Societies' Room, Bradford Royal Infirmary, Wednesday, January 10, 8.15 p.m., Mr. E. Kenneth Palmer: "Dentistry and the National Health Service."

**CROYDON DIVISION.**—At "The Oaks" Day Hospital, 843 London Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey, Tuesday, January 9, 8.30 p.m., Dr. Stephen MacKeith: "Towards Better Co-operation."

**EAST KENT DIVISION.**—At Chez Laurie, Thanet Way, Herne Bay, Thursday, January 11, 7.30 p.m., dinner; 8.45 p.m., Mr. A. Dickson Wright: "Dictators and their Doctors." Ladies are invited.

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE BRANCH.**—At Board Room, Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, Thursday, January 11, 6.30 p.m., Mr. D. H. K. Soltau: "Surgical Complications of Pregnancy" (illustrated). Dinner will follow at New County Hotel, Gloucester.

**HASTINGS DIVISION.**—At Board Room, Royal East Sussex Hospital, Tuesday, January 9, 8.15 p.m., Sir John Peel: "Some Problems of the Domiciliary Maternity Service."

**READING DIVISION.**—At Royal Berkshire Hospital (Library), Reading, Tuesday, January 9, 8.30 p.m., Mr. J. P. Brooke-Little: "The Heraldry of Medicine" (illustrated). Ladies are invited.

**REIGATE DIVISION.**—At Reigate Hill Hotel, Thursday, January 11, 8.30 p.m., Dr. J. W. McLaren: "On the Changing Face of Radiology."

**TUNBRIDGE WELLS DIVISION.**—At Sevenoaks Hospital, Tuesday, January 9, 8.30 p.m., clinical meeting.

**Correction.**—The chairman of the Nuneaton and Tamworth Division for 1961-2 is Dr. E. M. Calvey and not Dr. H. J. Wright, as stated in the *Supplement* of November 4.