

BRIDGE said that the important administrative matter was the proposed "Central Council for Postgraduate Medical Education and Training in Great Britain." He thought that the Association should be preparing its evidence and considering how far it accepted the ideas of vocational training and registration. He also thought the Association should have very clear views on the composition, function, and relationship of the proposed body to the existing institutions.

Importance of Professional Bodies

Professor MEKIE said that the Ministry had already instructed regional hospital boards to proceed with certain forms of training of junior staff. If the profession was not careful it would find that the bodies which would be set up would be essentially Ministerial bodies. It must be stated that it was in the tradition of the profession that the professional bodies as well as the universities had a large part to play at both local and central levels in determining standards.

Referring to the assessment of training posts, he said that this should be in the hands of professional bodies, and should be determined on an educational basis. Assessment as a way of determining what man should go forward and what man should not was not acceptable to the profession. The advantage of an examination was that it was objective, and it set a standard.

It was quite clear that the number of training posts which were available should be

related to the potential careers which lay ahead, continued Professor Mekie. He thought that the profession should express an opinion on what the ratio of the posts to potential careers should be. He said that if a vocational register was introduced it would mean that in addition to the consultants who had always been regarded as the only people competent to take full clinical responsibility, there would also be trained specialists. The implications involved in this required careful consideration.

Subcommittee Appointed

The Committee decided to appoint a small subcommittee to consider the Report, and elected the President, Sir Ronald Tunbridge, Professor D. E. C. Mekie, Dr. W. W. Fulton, Dr. L. P. Grime, Professor J. H. Middlemiss, and Dr. A. W. Macara as its members. The subcommittee was given power to co-opt.

Point of Death

The Committee considered the definition of the moment of death and neurological death, and a memorandum on the subject by Sir Ronald Tunbridge and Mr. Myles Gibson.

The Committee was in agreement with a paragraph in the memorandum which stated "there is no doubt that when a patient has had cardiac arrest for more than 15 minutes, when spontaneous respiration does not occur in two successive periods of five minutes after

stopping artificial respiration, and when the E.E.G. tracing on more than one recording has shown a flat curve for five minutes, the probability that useful brain function will be re-established is extremely unlikely, but none of these statements or the combination give 100% medical accuracy."

After a discussion of the ethical and legal situation arising from transplant surgery the Committee also stated that certification of death should be by two doctors independent of the team undertaking the transplantation, and that one of those doctors should have been qualified for at least five years.

Diethylpropion

The Committee received a report that its working party on amphetamine preparations was disturbed by the Home Office's proposal to exclude diethylpropion from the provisions of the Drugs (Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1964, in which it was included at present.

The Committee agreed to the working party's recommendation that representations should be made to the Home Office to postpone a decision on diethylpropion pending further investigation.

Symposium on Resuscitation

The Committee appointed Dr. R. COVE-SMITH as its representative to attend a symposium on resuscitation to be held at the Royal College of Surgeons on 10 September.

Association Notices

Diary of Central Meetings

JULY

- 10 Wed. Alcohol and Road Accidents Committee, 2 p.m.
- 11 Thurs. Central Committee for Hospital Medical Services, 10.30 a.m.
- 11 Thurs. General Medical Services Committee, 10.30 a.m.
- 15 Mon. Working Party on Amphetamine Preparations, 10 a.m.
- 23 Tues. Joint Consultants Committee (at Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, 27 Sussex Place, London N.W.1), 10 a.m.
- 24 Wed. Planning Unit, 4.30 p.m.
- 25 Thurs. Scottish Joint Consultants Committee (at 7 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh), 10.15 a.m., followed by meeting with officials of Scottish Home and Health Department (at St. Andrew's House), 2.30 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.

Members proposing to attend meetings marked ● are asked to notify in advance the honorary secretary concerned.

EALING DIVISION.—At Acton Hospital, Sunday, 14 July, 11 a.m., annual clinical meeting.

MANSFIELD DIVISION.—At Board Room, Mansfield General Hospital, Friday, 5 July, 8.30 p.m., annual general meeting.

SCUNTHORPE DIVISION.—(1) At Berkeley Hotel, Thursday, 11 July, 8 p.m., annual general meeting followed by meeting open to all doctors at which Mr. J. Eyton-Jones will explain the "Implications and Workings of the New Abortion Act." (2) At Angel Hotel, Brigg, Sunday, 14 July, 12 noon, presentation to Dr. Lucy Baker and to Dr. A. Thomson.

NORTH-EAST ESSEX DIVISION.—At Essex County Hospital (senior common room), Tuesday, 9 July, 8 p.m., annual general meeting.

SHEFFIELD DIVISION.—At Kenwood Hall, Friday, 12 July, 12.15 for 12.45 p.m., annual luncheon to welcome new graduands and final-year students into the profession.●

SOUTH MIDDLESEX DIVISION.—Thursday, 11 July, visit to Festival Theatre, Chichester: "The Unknown Soldier and His Wife."●

WELSH COMMITTEE FOR HOSPITAL MEDICAL SERVICES.—At Hotel Metropole, Llandrindod Wells, Sunday, 7 July, 2.30 p.m., meeting.

Branch and Division Officers Elected

BURNLEY DIVISION.—Chairman, Dr. A. B. Lishman. Vice-chairman, Dr. R. J. Calvert. Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, Dr. M. H. Lea.

HENDON DIVISION.—Chairman, Dr. A. D. Manning. Vice-chairman, Dr. H. Maxwell. Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, Dr. J. W. McCarthy.

KINGSTON-ON-THAMES DIVISION.—Chairman, Dr. G. G. Pollock. Vice-chairman, Dr. Harvey Gordon. Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. J. V. O'Sullivan. Assistant Honorary Secretary, Dr. Granville Cohen.

PLYMOUTH DIVISION.—Chairman, Dr. T. S. Hoy. Chairman-elect, Dr. D. Shapland. Honorary Secretary, Dr. J. S. Gilmore. Assistant Honorary Secretary, Dr. J. Grier. Honorary Treasurer, Dr. J. N. Morris.

SOMERSET DIVISION.—Chairman, Dr. M. M. Johnston. Chairman-elect, Dr. M. J. Forth. Vice-chairman, Dr. B. J. Douglas Smith. Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, Dr. G. R. Stevenson.

STAFFORDSHIRE BRANCH.—President, Dr. R. E. M. Paterson. Vice-presidents, Dr. C. H. Catlin, Mr. J. C. Newbold. Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, Dr. R. W. Rae.

WORCESTER AND BROMSGROVE DIVISION.—Chairman, Dr. M. Knowles. Vice-chairman, Dr. J. O. Terry. Chairman-elect, Mr. F. S. A. Doran. Honorary Secretary, Dr. J. A. Rigby. Assistant Honorary Secretary, Dr. H. M. White. Honorary Treasurer, Dr. A. A. Vickers.

Corrections

In the Report of the Proceedings of Council (Supplement, 22 June, p. 219) the statement that the motion that the question be now put was seconded by Dr. J. Henneman was incorrect. He had seconded and had spoken to the amendment proposed by Dr. I. M. Jones.

In the report of the Conference of Local Medical Committees (Supplement, 8 June, p. 189) Dr. A. A. Clark was reported as saying that by 1980 there would be about 400 health centres in Scotland. This should have read that by 1980 there would be about 400 doctors practising from health centres in Scotland.