

sequently issued prescriptions on them and over his signature to various persons when not entitled to do so. The Committee was told that Dr. Mahmud was now in single-handed practice, his senior partner having died earlier in 1971. He had a list of over 2,000 patients and, according to his defence solicitor, nothing had occurred of which the Committee could disapprove since he was last before them. After a consideration in camera the President announced that the Committee had decided to conclude the case.

Restoration of Names to Register

During the meeting applications by PAUL ZAMMIT HAMMET and SOM DATT KARAMCHAND SONI for the restoration of their names to the *Register* after disciplinary erasure were successful.

Drugs by Deception

Dr. CONRAD HUNTER SMITH of Canterbury appeared on the charge that in September 1971 he had been convicted at a magistrates' court (after pleading guilty) of obtaining drugs by deception. He had been fined £100, eleven similar offences being taken into consideration.

Mr. A. P. P. HONIGMANN of Waterhouse & Company, Solicitors for the G.M.C., said that Dr. Hunter Smith's history of addiction to drugs went back to about 1948, about 15 years after he first qualified. At that time he was addicted to morphine. In 1952 he was convicted at a magistrates' court on four offences of unlawfully procuring morphine sulphate, and his licence to supply, possess, and prescribe dangerous drugs was withdrawn by the Home Office. A warning letter had been sent to Dr. Hunter Smith by the G.M.C. in April 1953.

His licence to prescribe dangerous drugs was restored in 1968, but further offences concerning the abuse of drugs led the Home Office to withdraw his licence in January 1970, though Dr. Hunter Smith was not

prosecuted. It was because the doctor could not prescribe dangerous drugs that the present conviction had arisen, Mr. Honigmann added.

The doctor had to get his partner to prescribe for patients when dangerous drugs were required, and the prescription would then be handed by Dr. Hunter Smith to the patient. On several occasions he presented to chemists the prescriptions he had obtained from his partner, and subsequently collected them himself and unlawfully diverted the drugs to his own use.

The Committee heard from local witnesses, including a policeman and a district nurse, of the high regard in which Dr. Hunter Smith was held by his patients. The doctor also addressed the Committee telling them that he had recently entered hospital, where he had quickly started to get better. He greatly regretted the discredit he had brought on the profession.

After a consideration in camera the President said that the Committee regarded the conviction with grave concern, especially in view of Dr. Hunter Smith's long history of drug addiction. However, having heard sympathetically of his decision to rehabilitate himself by means of suitable treatment, the Committee had decided to postpone judgement for twelve months.

Whereabouts Unknown

The Committee dealt with the case of Miss FRANCES MARGARET URSULA POWER, whose registration had been suspended in November 1970. In September 1969 she had been convicted of assaulting a police officer and sentenced to three months' imprisonment (suspended for 18 months). In September 1968, when requested to visit a patient whose condition required treatment, she had failed to do so, thereby neglecting her responsibilities.

Miss Power was not present and was not represented. Mr. G. J. K. WIDGERY, Solicitor to the Council, said that despite inquiries her present whereabouts were un-

known, and he submitted that it would probably be felt undesirable to conclude the case at this stage. Her period of suspension was due to expire on 28 December.

The Legal Assessor, asked by the Committee for his advice, pointed out that Rule 29(1)(b) of the Procedure Rules required the notice of the resumed hearing to be sent by registered post or by recorded delivery service at the address on the *Register* or at the last known address or any other address. The Committee decided that it would not be proper to proceed with the case. Though the Council's solicitors had made endeavours to seek out Miss Power and inform her of the date of the inquiry, this did not conform with the procedure laid down in Rule 29(1)(b).

Absent Abroad

The Committee resumed consideration of the case of NAGASAMY SETTI SRINIVASAN, whose provisional registration as a medical practitioner had been suspended in November 1970 (renewed in May 1971) after a conviction and sentence of imprisonment for theft, forgery, and fraud. The defendant had not been present when the Committee considered his case, was not present on this occasion, and was unrepresented, though he had apparently acknowledged receipt (in India) of the notice of inquiry.

The Committee decided to continue the hearing in camera and after consideration directed that Dr. Srinivasan's name be erased from the *Register*.

(A report on the remainder of the proceedings will appear in a future issue.)

Corrections

Hospital Junior Staff

In the introduction to the Memorandum on Extra Duty Allowances (*Supplement*, 4 December, p. 55) the name of Dr. R. J. Cryer, a member of the H.J.S. Group Council working party, was given incorrectly.

Association Notices

Diary of Central Meetings

DECEMBER

30 Thurs. Working Party on the Functions of the G.M.C., 10.30 a.m.

JANUARY

6 Thurs. Board of Science and Education, 9.45 a.m.
6 Thurs. Organization Committee, 11 a.m.
7 Fri. Hospital Junior Staff Group Council, 10 a.m.
12 Wed. Finance Committee, 2.30 p.m.
13 Thurs. Executive Subcommittee (C.C.H.M.S.), 10 a.m.
13 Thurs. Council Working Party to Prepare a Model Constitution for a Medical Advisory Committee, 2 p.m.
19 Wed. Council, 10 a.m.
20 Thurs. General Medical Services Committee, 10 a.m.
25 Tues. Joint Consultants Committee (at Royal College of Physicians of London), 10 a.m.
25 Tues. Scientific Programmes Panel (Board of Science and Education), 10.30 a.m.
31 Mon. Panel on Biological Advances and Technological Developments (Board of Science and Education), 10.45 a.m.

FEBRUARY

2 Wed. Scottish Joint Consultants (at 7 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh), 2.30 p.m.
7 Mon. Panel on Pharmaceutical Products (Board of Science and Education), 2 p.m.
8 Tues. Scottish Council (at 7 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh), 10.30 a.m.
11 Fri. Full-time Medical Teachers and Research Workers Committee, 11 a.m.
11 Fri. Panel on Artificial Insemination (Board of Science and Education), 12 noon.
11 Fri. Ophthalmic Group Committee, 2 p.m.
17 Thurs. General Medical Services Committee, 10 a.m.
17 Thurs. Central Committee for Hospital Medical Services, 10 a.m.
24 Thurs. Finance Committee, 2.30 p.m.

MARCH

13 Mon. Working Party on the Drinking Driver (Board of Science and Education), 2.15 p.m.
22 Wed. Journal Committee, 2 p.m.
22 Wed. Working Party on Married Women Doctors (Board of Science and Education), 2 p.m.
24 Fri. Staff Side, Committee C, Medical Whitley Council, 2.30 p.m.