

This idea is at complete variance to American experience in the field. For example, Brookhaven Memorial Hospital, the local hospital in Patchogue, has 100 beds and 32 bassinets for newborn. There are 92 physicians on the staff, of whom over 50 are general practitioners. Of the 1,600 deliveries a year the great majority are performed by general practitioners. Every general practitioner in the district has hospital privileges, the amount of work that he can do being governed by his ability in any particular field. For example, the care of medical cases is unsupervised, as is normal obstetrics; however, the care of complicated deliveries, such as mid-forceps, etc., is restricted to specialists and to those general practitioners who have demonstrated their ability in the field.¹ The above situation in American hospitals is the rule, not the exception, as in England. Conditions in American hospitals are not chaotic.

In the light of the above it would seem advisable for the Hull University authorities to have second thoughts on the restriction of the number of doctors allowed to visit their sick-bay.—I am, etc.,

Patchogue,
N.Y., U.S.A.

M. G. JACOBY.

REFERENCE

¹ Jacoby, M. G., *Brit. med. J.*, 1956. 2. 596.

B.M.A. Division or L.M.C. ?

SIR,—With reference to Dr. E. J. Parr's letter (*Supplement*, February 13, p. 61) in which he says, "If the B.M.A. wishes to represent the G.P.s it should try to ascertain their views and so dispel some of the apathy persisting among the G.P.s." May I ask him if he has ever heard of "the wheel" (described by Dr. R. P. Liston, *Supplement*, June 20, 1959, p. 287)? And, if not, why not?—I am, etc.,

Exeter.

F. E. GRAHAM-BONNALIE,
Honorary Secretary, Exeter Division.

Merit Awards for G.P.s

SIR,—Recent correspondence has demonstrated the difficulties which make any scheme for merit awards for active general practitioners impossible. May I suggest that the name of every practitioner leaving the N.H.S. on death or retirement should be considered for a merit award? It could take the form, if granted, of increased pension, increased retiring allowance, or increased death allowance.—I am, etc.,

Leicester.

L. DUNCAN PORTEOUS.

Car Essential

SIR,—On page 60 of the advertisements in your issue dated January 30, 1960, there was an advertisement by the Somerset County Council for an assistant county medical officer of health. After stating the salary scales, the advertisement went on: "Possession of the D.P.H. or D.C.H. would be an advantage. The duties will be mainly concerned with the services of school medical inspection, and maternity and child welfare. Possession of a motor car is *essential*" (my italics).

The ladder in the public health service appears to be more difficult to ascend than Lord Moran's. To be duly qualified, to have adequate experience and satisfactory testimonials is, apparently, insufficient. In this county, at any rate, it seems that even the "advantage" of possessing special diplomas would not outweigh the lack of means to own a motor car. It is an odd criterion of suitability for a professional post.—I am, etc.,

London, N.18.

H. T. CHILTON.

Correction.—In the provisional programme for the Annual Meeting, Professor A. W. Wilkinson's initials are wrongly given as R. H. in the section of surgery (*Supplement*, February 13, p. 55).

Association Notices

ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that nominations of candidates for election as members of Council, 1960-1, (a) by the following Branches and Divisions, (b) by public health service members, and (c) by women members, must be forwarded in writing so as to reach me not later than Saturday, March 19, 1960. Candidates must be members of the Association.

Forty Members by Branches and Divisions in Great Britain and Northern Ireland

<i>Group</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>	<i>No. of Members of Council to be elected by Group</i>
1.	North of England Branch; Tees-side Branch	2
2.	East Yorkshire Branch; Yorkshire Branch	3
3.	North Lancashire and Westmorland Branch	1
4.	Divisions in Cheshire: Birkenhead and Wirral; Chester; Crewe; Hyde; Macclesfield and East Cheshire; Mid-Cheshire; Stockport; Wallasey. Glossop Division ..	1
5.	Lancashire Divisions of Merseyside Branch: Liverpool; St. Helens; Southport; Warrington. Isle of Man Branch	1
6.	Lancashire Divisions of South Lancashire and East Cheshire Branch: Ashton-under-Lyne; Bolton; Bury; Leigh; Manchester; Oldham; Rochdale; Salford; Wigan ..	1
7.	Derbyshire Branch; Nottinghamshire Branch; Lincolnshire Branch; Leicestershire and Rutland Branch	2
8.	Midland Branch	1
9.	Staffordshire Branch; Worcestershire and Herefordshire Branch	1
10.	Berks, Bucks, and Oxford Branch: Northamptonshire Branch	1
11.	Cambs and Hunts Branch; Norfolk Branch; Suffolk Branch	1
12.	Middlesex Divisions of Metropolitan Counties Branch	2
13.	Marylebone Division	1
14.	City Division; South-west Essex Division; Stratford Division; Tower Hamlets Division	1
15.	Hampstead Division; St. Pancras Division; Westminster and Holborn Division	1
16.	Chelsea and Fulham Division; Kensington and Hammersmith Division; Paddington Division	1
17.	Camberwell Division; Greenwich and Deptford Division; Lambeth and Southwark Division; Lewisham Division; Wandsworth Division; Woolwich Division	1
18.	Bedfordshire Branch; Essex Branch; Hertfordshire Branch	1
19.	Surrey Branch	2
20.	Kent Branch	1
21.	Sussex Branch	1
22.	Wessex Branch	1
23.	Bath, Bristol, and Somerset Branch: Gloucestershire Branch; Wiltshire Branch	2
24.	South-western Branch	1
25.	North Wales Branch; Shropshire and Mid-Wales Branch	1
26.	South Wales and Monmouthshire Branch	1
<i>Scotland</i>		
27.	Aberdeen Branch; Dundee Branch; Northern Counties of Scotland Branch; Perth Branch	1
28.	Edinburgh and South-east of Scotland Branch; Fife Branch	1
29.	Glasgow and West of Scotland Branch (Glasgow Division)	1
30.	Glasgow and West of Scotland Branch (County Divisions); Border Counties Branch; Stirling Branch	2
<i>Northern Ireland</i>		
31.	Northern Ireland Branch	2