

the wording of the recommendation because it seemed so easy for a Government to load such an inquiry with people of its own choice. The resolution before the Representative Body had been that a Royal Commission should be set up. The C.C. and S. Committee thought that some sort of inquiry into the N.H.S. would soon be forced upon the Government, and such an inquiry should have the full status of a Royal Commission. His Committee felt that the attention of any commission should be drawn to the whole system of the management of the Health Service from top to bottom. There could not be efficiency under the present system where in the hospital field there were large bodies of not particularly experienced people managing large sums of money. The Health Service lacked top management of the highest calibre. The public still believed that they could get what they needed, when they needed it, where they needed it. This was no longer the case, and enormous sums of money would be necessary to achieve such a goal. Mr. Langston supported the idea of a Royal Commission composed of individuals of the highest calibre.

### Prescription Charges

Dr. OUTWIN did not believe that the profession was in favour of prescription charges. Such charges should not be confused with the charges which were made in New Zealand and Australia, where the charges represented the full charge of the service rendered at the time. To delegate these charges to a token payment was not in the interests of the future relationships between doctor and patient.

Dr. NOBLE said that both the recommendations caught the mood of the profession

at the present time. Two years ago he had opposed proposals for a Royal Commission because he did not think the profession was prepared. But now the profession was prepared to start considering these matters on a collective basis. Another organization now had the name for giving the lead in these matters. If the Association procrastinated, it would lose its leadership. The Association could draw the profession together on this issue, because it concerned the whole profession—the teachers who provided the trained doctors, the hospital doctors, and the general practitioners. The Association should make public the fact that they were passing these recommendations today. The Association must give the impression of taking the lead in regard to a full investigation into the financing, running, and the future of the Health Service.

Dr. A. B. GILMOUR pointed out that if the profession asked for the setting up of an

independent inquiry it would be a long time before it was actually set up, and the Forward Planning Unit, recently established, would have the opportunity of collecting evidence and formulating plans. Dr. CAMERON said that even if the Prime Minister was sympathetic to the setting up of a Royal Commission it was unlikely to happen in less than a year.

Dr. OUTWIN moved an amendment that Council should not ask for the reintroduction of prescription charges, because practitioners did not want to become tax collectors. The amendment was defeated.

The C.C. and S. recommendation, paragraph 4, was amended to read: "The provision of drugs for private patients on the same terms as N.H.S. patients."

Both recommendations were then carried by Council.

(The remainder of the report of Proceedings of Council will be printed next week.)

## Junior Members Forum

The Junior Members Forum will meet at Manchester University on Saturday, 22 April, and Sunday, 23 April 1967, under the chairmanship of Dr. M. A. Wilson, York. Official representatives to the Forum are drawn from the hospital service, general practice, public health, university teaching staff, armed Forces, industrial medicine, research, and administration. In the case of both the hospital service and general practice, Great Britain and Northern Ireland are divided into 21 electoral regions. For the purpose of the Forum the term "Junior Member" is defined as "any member within twelve years of pro-

visional registration and under the age of 40." Nominations for election of representatives are now being invited from Divisions, hospital junior staffs regional groups, and other bodies within the Association. In addition, individual junior members of the B.M.A. may submit nominations for election; such nominations should be made and seconded by junior members, with the consent of the nominee, and sent to the Secretary of the British Medical Association, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London W.C.1, not later than Monday, 6 February.

## Association Notices

### Diary of Central Meetings

#### JANUARY

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|----|--------|--|
| 10 | Tues.  | Committee on Medical Science, Education, and Research, 10.30 a.m.                              |
| 10 | Tues.  | Forensic Medicine Subcommittee (Private Practice Committee), 2 p.m.                            |
| 11 | Wed.   | Annual Meetings Committee, 10.30 a.m.  |
| 11 | Wed.   | Joint Formulary Committee, 10.30 a.m.  |
| 11 | Wed.   | Private Practice Committee, 10.30 a.m.   |
| 11 | Wed.   | Public Health Committee (Scotland) (at 7 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh), 2 p.m.                |
| 12 | Thurs. | Organization Committee, 11 a.m.  |
| 12 | Thurs. | General Medical Services Committee (Scotland) (at 7 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh), 11.15 a.m. |

### Branch and Division Meetings to be Held

- ARMAGH AND WEST DOWN DIVISION.—At St. Luke's Hospital, Tuesday, 10 January, 8.30 p.m., lecture by Dr. W. B. McConnell.
- BARNSTAPLE DIVISION.—At Glossop Anneke and Nurses' Lecture Room, North Devon Infirmary, Wednesday, 11 January, 8.30 p.m., clinical meeting. (Preceded by supper, 7.30 p.m.)
- BRENT DIVISION.—At Kingsbury Maternity Hospital, Honeypt Lane, London N.W., Tuesday, 10 January, 8.30 p.m., clinical meeting: "Obstetrics and Neonatal Problems." Speakers, Mr. R. A. W. Feakes and Dr. H. Barrie.
- CITY OF EDINBURGH DIVISION.—At 7 Drumsheugh Gardens, Friday, 13 January, 8.15 p.m., Dr. T. T. S. Ingram: "Development of Speech in Childhood."
- COVENTRY DIVISION.—At Chace Hotel, Tuesday, 10 January, 7.30 for 7.45 p.m., supper meeting and Chairman's address: "Some Paediatric Problems."
- CROYDON DIVISION.—At Medical Centre, Mayday Hospital, Tuesday, 10 January, 8.30 p.m., Dr. J. C. Batten: "Breathlessness and its Assessment."
- DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY DIVISION.—At Lecture Room, Cresswell Maternity Hospital, Sunday, 8 January, 3 p.m., Dr. G. Watt: "Virus Diseases in General Practice."
- ESSEX BRANCH.—At Nurses' Lecture Hall, Oldchurch Hospital, Romford, Saturday, 14 January, 3 p.m., annual general meeting, Dr. D. L.

Gullick (Under Secretary, B.M.A.) will address the meeting. Ladies are invited.

GLoucestershire BRANCH.—At Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, Gloucester, Thursday, 12 January, 6.30 p.m., clinical meeting. (Followed by dinner at Monk's Retreat, Fleece Hotel.)

KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES DIVISION.—At Kingston Medical Centre, Tuesday, 10 January, Dr. D. Friedman: "New Technique for the Treatment of Phobic Symptoms."

NOTTINGHAM DIVISION.—At Portland Lecture Hall, University of Nottingham, Friday, 13 January, 8.30 p.m., B.M.A. lecture by Professor A. D. M. Greenfield: "Medical Education for A.D. 2015."

NUNEATON DIVISION.—At Chase Hotel, Tuesday, 10 January, 8.30 p.m., Mr. J. Leigh Collis: "Hiatus Hernia." (Preceded by dinner, 7.30 p.m.)

PORTSMOUTH DIVISION.—At Medical Centre, St. Mary's Hospital, Friday, 13 January, 7.45 for 8.15 p.m., dinner; 9 p.m. (approx.), Dr. Evan Jones: "Heart Murmurs."

REDBRIDGE DIVISION.—At King George Hospital, Wednesday, 11 January, 8.30 p.m., Mr. I. McIntyre: "Planning for the Future, with special reference to New Revised N.H.S. Superannuation Scheme."

ROCHDALE DIVISION.—At Crimble Hotel, Tuesday, 10 January, 8.45 p.m., business meeting to receive report of exploratory Health Centre Committee.

STIRLING BRANCH.—At Airthrey Castle Maternity Hospital, Saturday, 14 January, social evening. Guest speaker, Mr. H. H. Donnelly.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS DIVISION.—At Nurses' Lecture Room, Kent and Sussex Hospital, Wednesday, 11 January, 8.30 p.m., special general meeting, Dr. I. M. Jones: "Independent Medical Services."

WALTHAM FOREST DIVISION.—At Medical Education Centre, Whipps Cross Hospital, Wednesday, 11 January, 8.30 p.m., discussion to be opened by Dr. E. W. Wright: "Infant Welfare and the Handicapped School Child."

WEST BROMWICH DIVISION.—At Sandwell Hotel, Friday, 13 January, 8 for 8.30 p.m., supper followed by Dr. Derek Stevenson (Secretary, B.M.A.): "B.M.A. Policy for Underdoctored Areas."

### Correction

**Hospital Staff.** In the account of the negotiations with the Ministry of Health on current problems of hospital staff (*Supplement*, 31 December, p. 248) the name of the Joint Consultants Committee was wrongly printed as the Junior Consultants Committee.