

I consider that this evasion, by recourse to obvious nonsense, of the serious considerations published and put forward by myself and other critics of far greater distinction constitutes a deliberate insult. There are now, however, a good many people who will not be satisfied until the matter is brought before the bar of an honest and impartial scientific inquiry.—I am, etc.,

Bangor.

C. G. DOBBS.

### Royal Commission's Report

SIR,—It was with dismay that I read your leading article (April 9, p. 1119) on the Royal Commission Report. It would appear to me that it would be most naive for the medical profession not to settle the financial side rapidly if the Government is willing. It is now almost 60 days since the Report was issued. At the present interest rates this would seem to have cost the profession as a whole about £180,000, and each further day of delay costs almost £3,000.—I am, etc.,

Droitwich.

G. B. LEYTON.

### POINTS FROM LETTERS

#### Emergency Dental Treatment

Dr. A. P. D. MONTGOMERY (West Malling, Kent) writes: On two occasions recently I have been called late on a Saturday evening to see a child suffering from severe toothache. One of these children had been taken all round Maidstone on the Saturday afternoon looking for a dentist, but found none available. Is this situation common to the country as a whole, or are we particularly unlucky in and around Maidstone? Toothache can be a most unpleasant pain. A doctor is expected without delay to attend to a pain affecting any other part of the body; but no one is available to attend to toothache from midday on Saturday until 9 a.m. on Monday.

#### By-passing the G.P.

Dr. W. J. STEFMAN (Ashby-de-la-Zouch) writes: A few weeks after I had refused to confirm an insurance claim for payment of fees for two specialist consultations that took place without my knowledge a business executive removed himself and family from my list. This would seem to be a new twist of the old story—free drugs, certification, and now insurance. I wonder whether the consultants are aware of this result of by-passing the G.P.?

## Association Notices

### Diary of Central Meetings

#### MAY

- 11 Wed. Working Party on "Future of Occupational Health Services," 10.30 a.m.
- 11 Wed. Hospital Junior Staffs Group Council, 11 a.m.
- 11 Wed. Journal Committee (at St. Albans, Herts).
- 11 Wed. M.S.R. Evidence Subcommittee, G.M.S. Committee, 2 p.m.
- 12 Thurs. Subcommittee on Investigation of Prescribing, G.M.S. Committee, 11 a.m.
- 13 Fri. Ophthalmic Qualifications Committee, 1.15 p.m.
- 13 Fri. Ophthalmic Group Committee, 2 p.m.
- 17 Tues. Annual Conference of Representatives of Local Medical Committees (first day).
- 17 Tues. Orthopaedic Group Committee, 2 p.m.
- 18 Wed. Annual Conference of Representatives of Local Medical Committees (second day).
- 18 Wed. Tuberculosis and Diseases of the Chest Group Committee, 2 p.m.
- 19 Thurs. Special Representative Meeting, 10 a.m.
- 20 Fri. A.R.M. Agenda Committee, 12 noon.
- 24 Tues. Non-professional Group Committee, 2 p.m.
- 25 Wed. Conference of Consultants and Specialists, 10 a.m.
- 31 Tues. Library Subcommittee, Science Committee, 11.30 a.m.

#### JUNE

- 2 Thurs. Psychological Medicine Group Committee, 2 p.m.
- 9 Thurs. C.C. and S.C. Executive, 11.30 a.m.
- 15 Wed. Annual Representative Meeting (at Torquay), 2.30 p.m.
- 16 Thurs. Annual Representative Meeting (at Torquay), 9.30 a.m.

- 16 Thurs. G.M.S. Committee, 10.30 a.m.
- 17 Fri. Annual Representative Meeting (at Torquay), 9.30 a.m.
- 18 Sat. Council (at Torquay), 9 a.m.
- 18 Sat. Annual Representative Meeting (at Torquay), 10 a.m.
- 20 Mon. Annual Representative Meeting (at Torquay), 10 a.m.
- 20 Mon. Annual General Meeting (at Torquay), 11.30 a.m.
- 20 Mon. Extraordinary General Meeting.
- 20 Mon. Adjourned Annual General Meeting and President's Address (at Torquay), 3.15 p.m.
- 20 Mon. Council (at Torquay), 5.30 p.m.

### Branch and Division Meetings to be Held

DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY DIVISION.—At Cally Hotel, Gatehouse, Sunday, May 15, 3 p.m., annual general meeting. Address by Dr. W. W. Fulton: "A Family Doctor Looks at Medicine in the U.S.A. and Canada."

EAST HERTS DIVISION.—At Hertford County Hospital, Friday, May 13, 8.30 p.m., B.M.A. Lecture by Lord Taylor of Harlow: "Future of General Practice."

GLOUCESTERSHIRE BRANCH.—At George Hotel, Winchcombe, Thursday, May 12, 6.15 p.m., annual general meeting.

GOOLE AND SELBY DIVISION.—At the White Elephant, Snaith, Thursday, May 12, 7.30 p.m., annual general meeting.

GREENWICH AND DEPTFORD DIVISION.—At Green Man, Blackheath Hill, S.E., Tuesday, May 10, 8.30 p.m., A.G.M.

HALIFAX DIVISION.—At Board Room, Royal Halifax Infirmary, Wednesday, May 11, 8.30 p.m., business meeting.

HARROGATE DIVISION.—At Majestic Hotel, Harrogate, Friday, May 13, 8.30 p.m., Dr. E. E. Claxton (Assistant Secretary, B.M.A.): "Background to Medicine in Asia and Africa."

HASTINGS DIVISION.—At Royal East Sussex Hospital, Tuesday, May 10, 8.15 p.m., annual meeting.

KENSINGTON AND HAMMERSMITH DIVISION.—At St. Mary Abbot's Hospital, Marlow Road, W., Friday, May 13, 8.30 p.m., Dr. Richard Asher: "Things are Not What they Seem" (illustrated by lantern slides).

KINGSTON-ON-THAMES DIVISION.—At Nurses' Home, Kingston Hospital, Wolverton Avenue, Tuesday, May 10, 8.30 p.m., A.G.M.

LEEDS DIVISION.—At the Mansion, Roundhay, Friday, May 13, 8 p.m., May-time supper dance.

MANSFIELD DIVISION.—At Masonic Hall, Mansfield, Wednesday, May 11, dance.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH.—At B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C., Tuesday, May 31, 3 p.m., A.G.M.

NORTH MIDDLESEX DIVISION.—At Firs Hall Ballroom, Green Lanes, N., Thursday, May 12, 7.30 p.m., buffet supper dance.

SHELDON DIVISION.—At Zetland County Sanatorium, Lerwick, Saturday, May 14, 2.30 p.m., B.M.A. Lecture by Dr. T. N. Morgan: "Advances in Therapeutics."

SOUTH-EAST ESSEX DIVISION.—At Rochford General Hospital, Sunday, May 15, 10.30 a.m., clinical meeting.

SOUTH STAFFS DIVISION.—Thursday, May 12, 2.30 p.m., visit to Banks Park Brewery, Wolverhampton. Meet at Ravensholt Hotel, Summerfield Road, near West Park, 2.20 p.m. Wives are invited.

SOUTH-WEST ESSEX DIVISION.—At Whipps Cross Hospital, Wednesday, May 11, 8.30 p.m., clinical meeting. Lecture by Professor John Wilkinson: "Recent Advances in the Treatment of Blood Diseases." Questions and answers will follow.

SOUTH-WESTERN BRANCH.—At Oldway Mansion, Paignton, Saturday, May 14, 2.30 p.m., 115th annual meeting. Inaugural address by Dr. S. Noy Scott: "Forty Years in General Practice," followed by address by Dr. S. Wand (Chairman of Council, B.M.A.): "A Résumé of Current Events." 7.15 for 7.45 p.m., annual dinner and dance at Imperial Hotel, Torquay.

STOCKPORT DIVISION.—At Davenport Club, Heath Road, Cale Green, Stockport, Tuesday, May 10, 8.30 p.m., address by Dr. R. M. Young: "Practical Aspects of the New Mental Health Act."

SWANSEA DIVISION.—At Swansea Hospital, Monday, May 9, 8.15 p.m., Special General Meeting to discuss Annual Report of Council.

WINCHESTER DIVISION.—At Polygon Hotel, Southampton, Saturday, May 14, 7.30 for 8 p.m., annual dinner-dance.

BARNET DIVISION.—At 3, Galley Lane, Barnet, Thursday, May 12, 8 p.m.

BURTON-ON-TRENT DIVISION.—At Stanhope Arms, Bretby, Tuesday, May 10, 7.45 p.m., dinner, followed by A.G.M.

EAST DENBIGH AND FLINT DIVISION.—At Blossoms Hotel, Chester, Thursday, May 12, 8.30 p.m., annual general meeting.

WIGAN DIVISION.—At Lewis's Restaurant, Wallgate, Wigan, Thursday, May 12, 8 p.m., A.G.M.

**Correction.**—The chairman of the Guernsey and Alderney Division of the B.M.A. is Dr. J. C. Bulstrode and not Dr. B. P. Webber, as stated in the Supplement of March 26 (p. 182). Dr. Webber is honorary secretary of the Division.