

Certificates for Aged Drivers

Dr. F. E. GRAHAM-BONNALIE (Exeter) moved:

That the issuing of certificates of medical fitness to aged drivers of motor-cars should not, primarily, remain the responsibility of the family doctor and that the whole position should be re-examined by those authorities responsible for the issuing of driving licences and by the insurance companies who undertake the financial responsibilities, and that in any event there should be a standard examination for them.

He said that insurance companies had said, among other things, that certificates given by family doctors were not always as helpful as they might be. The fault lay largely with the companies who were looking for a certificate of capability rather than medical fitness. The companies also said they would welcome independent medical opinion, which raised the question as to who was to form the opinion and to whom a dissatisfied applicant should appeal. The ultimate decision whether a person was to be issued with a licence to drive had to rest with the licensing authorities. If there was doubt aged drivers could be tested in the same way as learner-drivers.

Dr. I. M. JONES said that most of the action asked for had already been taken.

The motion was carried as a reference to Council.

Dr. F. BOOTH (Mid-Cheshire) moved:

That if a certificate is required by an insurance company, irrespective of age or condition, this should be given by an independent practitioner selected by the Company and that the onus should not be put upon the applicant's own medical practitioner.

Dr. I. M. JONES said that representations had been made to the Accident Officers Association, who had said they would not insist upon the examination being carried out by the patient's own doctor if that doctor did not wish to do it. They would, as far as they could, encourage it being done by an independent practitioner.

The motion was carried as a reference to Council.

A motion by Oldham, "That this Meeting strongly deprecates the fee charged for Wassermann and Kahn tests performed on babies prior to adoption," was carried as a reference to Council.

Congratulations to Private Practice Committee

A motion that the Private Practice Committee be congratulated on their continuing efforts on behalf of the whole profession was carried by acclamation.

[The report will be continued next week.]

Correction.—Dr. J. A. L. Vaughan Jones, chairman of the special *ad hoc* Committee appointed to consider the question of the compensation of the chief officers and chairmen of the major committees of the B.M.A., was reported (July 22, p. 43) to have told the Representative Body that his Committee had decided almost unanimously that it would be impossible to arrange a fixed scale of compensation. Dr. Vaughan Jones should have been reported as saying: "The *ad hoc* Committee unanimously and the whole Council almost unanimously had decided that it would be impossible. . . ."

The Chief Constable of Great Yarmouth has agreed to the introduction of the B.M.A.'s car badge scheme in his district. Application forms for badges from doctors practising in Great Yarmouth may now be obtained from the Secretary of the Association, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London W.C.1.

REPRESENTATIVES' DINNER

Some 480 representatives and their ladies and guests attended the Representatives' Dinner, held in the City Hall, Sheffield, on Wednesday, July 19. Dr. A. TALBOT ROGERS, Chairman of the Representative Body, presided.

The Guests

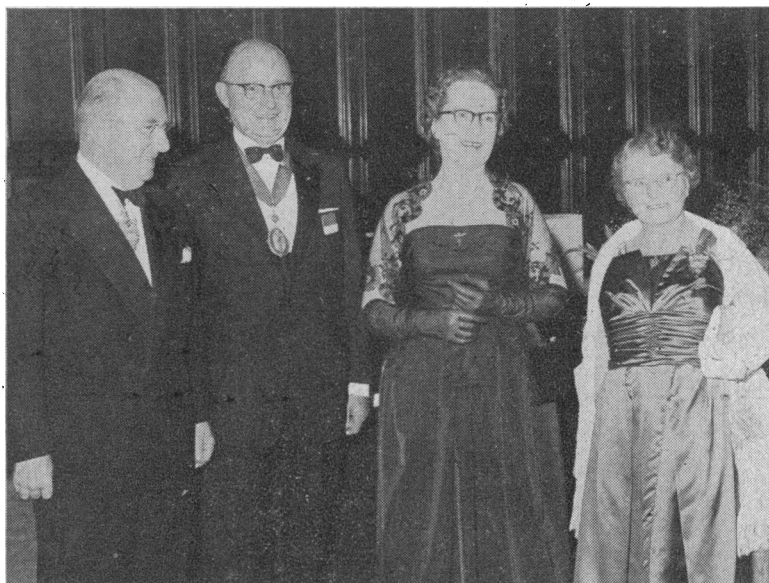
In proposing the toast the guests, Dr. S. WAND, Chairman of Council, extended a cordial welcome to the Rt. Hon. R. A. Butler, C.H., M.P., Chancellor of the University of Sheffield, and Mrs. Butler; the Lord Mayor, Alderman J. W. Sterland, and the Lady Mayoress; the Master Cutler, Mr. C. H. T. Williams, and the Mistress Cutler; the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sheffield, Dr. J. M. Whittaker, and Mrs. Whittaker; the Town Clerk, Mr. John Heys, and Mrs. Heys, and to the representatives of Overseas Branches. Dr. Wand also extended a warm welcome to the ladies, and paid a tribute to Dr. Agnes Nutt, the first woman organizer of an Annual Representative Meeting. In welcoming the Lord Mayor, Dr. Wand said that wonderful new town planning was taking place in Sheffield, and it was due in no small measure to the efforts of Alderman Sterland when he was chairman of the Town Planning Committee.

Referring to the guest of honour, Mr. Butler, Dr. Wand said that what struck him most about the Home Secretary was his great understanding and kindness. The fact that he had made a special journey from London, during a busy time in the House of Commons, to join representatives at their annual dinner and to return on the night train was a typical example of his kindness.

Chancellor and Home Secretary

Mr. BUTLER, in response, said it afforded him great pleasure in turn, in his official capacity as Chancellor of the University of Sheffield, to extend a welcome to representatives and their guests both on his own behalf and on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor.

The University of Sheffield was particularly proud of its medical school, said the Chancellor. It was founded



The Master Cutler, Mr. C. H. T. Williams; Dr. and Mrs. A. Talbot Rogers; and the Mistress Cutler, Mrs. C. H. T. Williams, at the Representatives' Dinner.