

sultants to provide for replacements and a reasonable rate of expansion.

The Committee agreed that the question be submitted to the Interim Manpower Advisory Committee for consideration.

Davies Report

The Committee supported a recommendation of the C.C.H.M.S. that the Secretaries of State for Social Services and for the Welsh Office be recommended to defer the decision on acceptance or otherwise of the recommendations of the Davies Report (*B.M.J.*, 5 January, p. 4), until comprehen-

sive discussions with all the interests concerned among N.H.S. staff had taken place, and those discussions have been reported to the Secretaries of State. In other words, the report should be regarded as a "discussion document" for the foreseeable future.

Part-time Training for Women

The Committee also supported the policy of the Hospital Junior Staffs Group Council relating to part-time training posts for women doctors, and the proposal that the posts be subject to open competition. The Group Council also believed that it was

essential, if the staffing structure agreements were to be upheld, that all educationally accepted posts in the training grades, whether whole or part-time, should be subject to the scrutiny of the Central Manpower Committee.

The H.J.S. Group Council had proposed that the minimum periods for part-time training for women should be 50% of standard working hours, incorporating an appropriate allocation of emergency duties. Furthermore, the Group Council believed that all such posts should be advertised in the normal way and subject to open competition.

General Medical Services Committee

Dr. R. B. L. RIDGE was elected Acting Chairman of the General Medical Services Committee at its meeting on 16 May. The Committee sent good wishes for a speedy recovery to its Chairman, Dr. J. C. Cameron, who had been admitted to hospital.

During the course of a debate on the financial problems in the N.H.S. several Committee members deplored the serious effects on the health services in their localities of the cutback in Government expenditure announced last December. After hearing of the disquieting developments in the N.H.S. throughout the country the Committee resolved that: "The Committee expresses its profound anxiety over the recent cutback in N.H.S. expenditure and the consequences this will have on the staffing of the Service, in particular the nursing and other professional staff, whose remuneration has been allowed to fall behind to such an extent that the situation is already critical."

The ACTING CHAIRMAN reported that further oral evidence had been given to the Review Body on 22 April on behalf of general medical practitioners. The negotia-

tors were assured that adjustments would be made to practice expenses to take account of the effects of the April Budget. Dr. Ridge reported that a meeting was to be held shortly with the Secretary of State for Social Services to make representations about the Government's incomes policy on behalf of the whole profession.

Mr. WALPOLE LEWIN, Chairman of Council, commented that Mrs. Barbara Castle would be asked for an undertaking that as phase 3 seemed to have been relaxed provision should be made for the profession to go back after the Review Body had reported and make any further representations on pay it thought was necessary. He also reported that the B.M.A. would be seeing officials from the Department of Employment about the likely effects for the Association of the Trade Union Labour Relations Bill now going through Parliament.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN and Mr. LEWIN told the Committee of a meeting with Mrs. Barbara Castle on pensions at which the Association's representatives had strongly criticized aspects of the scheme (*Supplement*,

27 April, p. 33). She had offered further immediate discussions with officials on the details of the B.M.A.'s principal criticisms. That meeting had just taken place and the problems gone into very thoroughly.

The Committee was told that the Joint G.M.S. Committee/Department of Health Working Party on General Practitioner Records had finished its report but because of printing difficulties the Department had not sent it out. Nevertheless, the Committee hoped shortly to publicize to doctors the findings of the working party.

A fuller report of the proceedings of the G.M.S. Committee meeting will be published in a forthcoming *Supplement*.

Correction

Branch and Division Officers Elected

Dr. Z. R. Khan was incorrectly reported to have been appointed Honorary Secretary of the Norfolk of England Branch (*Supplement*, 11 May, p. 74). Dr. W. G. A. Riddle is the Honorary Secretary of that Branch, and Dr. Khan has been appointed Honorary Secretary of the Mid-Northumberland Division.

Association Notices

Diary of Central Meetings

MAY

- 29 Wed. Prizes, Research Awards and Fellowships Panel, 11 a.m.
- 30 Thurs. Negotiating Subcommittee (C.C.H.M.S.), 9.30 a.m.
- 30 Thurs. Scottish Council (at Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh), 10.15 a.m.
- 30 Thurs. Constitution Subcommittee (G.M.S.), 10.30 a.m.
- 30 Thurs. Geriatric Medical Subcommittee (C.C.H.M.S.), 11 a.m.
- 30 Thurs. Joint Negotiating Committee for Hospital Medical Staffs (Staff Side), 11 a.m.
- 30 Thurs. Joint Negotiating Committee, 2.15 p.m.
- 31 Fri. Board of Science and Education, 10.30 a.m.

JUNE

- 5 Wed. Council, 10 a.m.
- 6 Thurs. General Purposes Subcommittee (G.M.S.), 10 a.m.
- 7 Fri. Young Practitioners Subcommittee (G.M.S.), 10.30 a.m.
- 11 Tues. National Conference of Hospital Medical Staffs, 1974, 10 a.m.
- 12 Wed. and 13 Thurs. Annual Conference of Local Medical Committees, 10 a.m.

Branch and Division Meetings to be Held

Members proposing to attend meetings marked are asked to notify in advance the honorary secretary concerned.*

East Suffolk Branch.—At postgraduate centre, Ipswich Hospital, Thursday, 30 May, 8.30 p.m., meeting, Dr. J. F. Loutit, F.R.S.: "Living with Nuclear Reactors". (Buffet supper and wine, 7.30 p.m.).

Greenwich and Deptford Division.—At Woodlands, Vanbrugh Hill (nurses home), Saturday, 1 June, 7.30 p.m., R.M.B.F. ball.*

Guildford Division.—At Farncombe Manor Hotel, Friday, 31 May, dinner and dance.*

Reading Division.—At Royal Berkshire Hospital, Wednesday, 29 May, 8.30 p.m., a.g.m.

Shetland Division.—At nurse training school, Gilbert Bain Hospital, Saturday, 1 June, 3 p.m., B.M.A. lecture by Dr. J. Q. Matthias: "Modern Advances in the Treatment of Malignant Disease."

Wessex Branch.—At Newport, Isle of Wight, Saturday, Sunday, 1 and 2 June, annual meeting.*