

Annual Dinner

The Annual Dinner of the British Medical Association was held at the Grand Hotel, Bristol, on 11 July.

Among the many distinguished guests received by the President (Mr. ROBERT V. COOKE) were the Duke and Duchess of Beaufort; the Lord Mayor of Bristol, Alderman the Rev. F. C. Vyvyan-Jones, and Mrs. Vyvyan-Jones; the Sheriff of Bristol, Mr. K. Lalonde, and Mrs. Lalonde; the Bishop of Bristol, the Rt. Rev. O. S. Tomkins, and Mrs. Tomkins; the Rt. Rev. J. E. Rudderham, Bishop of Clifton; the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bristol, Professor J. E. Harris, and Mrs. Harris; Mr. C. O. F. Rieger and Mrs. Rieger; the Dean of Bristol, the Very Rev. Douglas Harrison, and Mrs. Harrison; General Sir Robert Drew; the Chief Constable of Bristol, Mr. George Twist, and Mrs. Twist; Alderman Cyril Hebblethwaite; Colonel Sir Denys Hicks and Lady Hicks; Professor J. S. Heller and Mrs. Heller; Professor C. F. Powell and Mrs. Powell; and Professor T. F. Hewer and Mrs. Hewer.

"City and County of Bristol"

Proposing the toast "The City and County of Bristol," Lord COHEN OF BIRKENHEAD, President of the General Medical Council, said it was quite natural that a city, the nucleus of which was founded where the Frome and the Avon ran together, should be a great port of commerce and a port from which many explorers left to discover new lands. Among those were two who had a special interest for medicine—John and Sebastian Cabot. Lord Cohen said that members of his generation would remember Richard Cabot's differential diagnosis. He

was a descendant of the Cabots who left Bristol and landed in America, where they instilled that spirit of ethical superiority which characterized Balliol, which characterized Bristol, and which now characterized Harvard.

Bristol was a city of "firsts," continued Lord Cohen. It was the first city to have a free library; it was the first city to publish a newspaper outside London; it was the first city to have a savings bank; and it was the first city from which a steamship, the *Great Western*, sailed. Many great names were associated with Bristol, and of those connected with medicine the first must be William Budd, the greatest epidemiologist of his age. Then there were James Pritchard and John Addington Simmonds, the great progenitor of the medical school and university.

The University of Bristol was one of the most vigorous schools of teaching and research in this country, and was the envy of many universities throughout the country. Coupled with the toast was the name of the Lord Mayor. He was the first ordained priest to occupy the mayoralty, concluded Lord Cohen.

The LORD MAYOR congratulated Lord Cohen on the honour which had been conferred upon him by his colleagues, and congratulated the British Medical Association on being able to assemble in person four holders of the Association's Gold Medal out of a total of nine.

The Lord Mayor applauded the wisdom of the Association for electing Mr. Robert Cooke to the high office of President. It was the fourth occasion on which the B.M.A. had visited Bristol, and Bristol hoped that it would not be another 73 years before it came again.

"British Medical Association"

The DUKE OF BEAUFORT proposed the toast "The British Medical Association." He said that the B.M.A. had frequently been described as the doctors' Parliament, and, if so, it was a very remarkable one. The Medical Act of 1858 was almost entirely the work of the Association, and if it was a doctors' charter it could reasonably have been said to be no less a patients' charter as well. Since 1858 the Association had fought long, hard, and successfully for an improvement in the conditions of the medical service in poor law hospitals, the armed Forces, schools, and hospitals.

When the meeting of the Association was held in Bristol in 1863, the dinner was held in the Victoria Rooms. The *British Medical Journal* rather crushingly remarked at the time that the gallery was occupied by a number of ladies. They were not to be permitted to become members of the Association until 1892, in spite of the fact that Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell of Bristol registered in 1858. The speeches at that dinner in summary form occupied some 7,000 words in the *B.M.J.* "You organize things a bit better today," concluded his Grace.

The PRESIDENT, in response, said that the contribution made by the Duke and the Duchess to the life of Bristol and the whole of the west country was well known.

On behalf of the Association the President thanked many people who had contributed to the success of the meeting in Bristol.

"The Guests"

The toast of "The Guests" was proposed by the Chairman of Council, Dr. RONALD GIBSON, who extended a particularly warm welcome to the ladies.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bristol, Professor J. F. HARRIS, responded.

Association Notices

Sutton Coldfield Division: Change of Name

The Council hereby gives notice that the name of the Sutton Coldfield Division has been changed to the Sutton Coldfield, Lichfield, and Tamworth Division.

Election of Members of Scottish Council

Notice is hereby given that nominations for the election of three members of the Scottish Council by public health service members in Scotland must be forwarded in writing to reach the Scottish Secretary, 7 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh 3, not later than Saturday, 26 August, 1967. In accordance with the Schedule to the By-laws, as amended by the A.R.M., 1967, two of the three members elected by the public health service members in Scotland must be departmental medical officers. Candidates must be members of the Association.

Nominations must be on the prescribed form, copies of which can be obtained on application to the Scottish Secretary. Nominations may be by a regional public health committee in Scotland or by a public health service member.

If a contest occurs voting papers containing the names of duly nominated candidates will be issued by the Scottish Office, British Medical Association, to each public health service member in Scotland.

DEREK STEVENSON, *Secretary*.

Ballot on Special Distinction Awards for Consultants

The British Medical Association is conducting a postal ballot of all consultants and senior hospital staff and senior registrars to ascertain their views in respect of merit awards for consultants. Ballot papers were sent in June to consultants, S.H.M.O.s, and senior registrars in the United Kingdom, together with a covering letter, a memorandum of information, and a business-reply envelope. Any consultant, S.H.M.O., or senior registrar who has not received these papers and who wishes to participate in the ballot should inform the Secretary of the Association, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London W.C.1.

Diary of Central Meetings

AUGUST

23 Wed. Hospital Junior Staffs Group Executive Committee, 2 p.m.

Branch and Division Meetings to be Held

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

FURNESS DIVISION.—At Duke of Edinburgh Hotel, Monday, 31 July, 8 p.m., annual general meeting.

Correction

In the report of the Annual Representative Meeting (*Supplement*, 22 July, p. 88) Air Marshal Sir Richard Nelson was wrongly described as D.G.M.S., Royal Air Force. Air Marshal Sir George Gunn succeeded Sir Richard Nelson as D.G.M.S. in January 1967.