

in practice," which were being called in question by the mover on an unwarrantably narrow premise, he refused to do so until everyone else had spoken.

Much valuable time was thus taken up by a succession of speakers who proceeded on "red herring" lines and introduced personalities into a debate which should have been confined to principles. One speaker, whose name I do not know, even had the affrontery to infer that I had a personal motive in presenting the motion. This sort of thing is unworthy of the dignity of our Association, especially when it is dealing with the laws by which the Association is governed.

It may be perfectly true that certain eminent members of Council whose eligibility to sit for their present constituencies is questionable would not have been able to stand again for those particular constituencies if the Council had, on examination as suggested by Harrow, thought fit to recommend Harrow's proposals in their entirety.

The Council, however, would have been under no obligation to adopt the Harrow suggestions and could have brought forward in 1953 its own recommendation for the rewording of the by-law after considering in detail all aspects of the matter.

The eminent gentlemen to whom I have previously referred, and whose names were dragged into the debate by those who spoke for the amendment, ought not to have to resort to circumvention of the spirit in which By-law 59 was adopted in order to acquire eligibility to stand for Council. Proper provision should be made by appropriate wording of the by-law to accommodate such cases, and it would have been open to the Council to recommend such provision if the Harrow motion had gone to it as my Division intended.

At Dublin, however, the Representative Body, misled by the personality red herrings, shut its eyes to any possibility of unswerving implementation of the principle it had itself laid down only a year ago and voted overwhelmingly in favour of retaining a half-baked by-law which actually condones circumvention of that principle. It thereby utterly flouted the legal maxim of *Verba intentioni non contra debent inservire* and stultified the principle itself.

The Harrow Division, Sir, is ever in the van of the battle for freedom, but it is not prepared to extend the connotation of that word to include freedom to infringe the spirit of the Association's laws. Nor is it prepared to turn a blind eye to practices which many people consider questionable when such practices are detected. Principles and policies should not be confused with personalities and hard cases. Either the principle of this matter should be properly implemented and the by-law governing it rewarded, or the principle should be swept away and a by-law produced which allows eligibility without circumvention.—I am, etc.,

J. B. WRATHALL ROWE,
Representative, Harrow Division.

Salaries of Hospital Doctors

SIR,—In a letter under this heading (*Supplement*, June 28, p. 345) is registered an objection "to the apparent lack of interest of the Association in the vital interests of a large proportion of its members." This is the opinion of all junior members of hospital staffs I have encountered, a regrettable lack of faith in our Association.

A further example of injustice was noted in a leading article, "Income Tax and Spens" (*Journal*, April 26, p. 913). The disparity between Schedule D and the salaried doctor under Schedule E was stressed, and thus the B.M.A. is aware a problem exists. Why, however, is this article concerned mainly with consultants, and no mention made of the more severely hit registrars and house officers? When one is sitting for higher examinations, paying fees for courses, involved in heavy travelling expenses, purchasing the latest editions of textbooks, paying examination fees, etc., and not one penny allowed in allowances, it is a heavy burden one faces in the absence of capital savings.—I am, etc.,

London, E.

A. FOLKSON.

POINTS FROM LETTERS

Corrections

Dr. Z. P. FERNANDEZ (Leeds) writes: May I correct two numerical errors in my letter (*Supplement*, July 19, p. 73)? If 500 doctors paid off a £6,000 purchase at 5% interest in ten years, my

estimate of £19.8m. neared the B.M.A. betterment claim of £16.5m., instead of £9.8m. as printed. The other correction is in para. 4, line 5. Number of doctors in this category—i.e., 1,000 to 3,000 list—is 7,608, not 3,608 as printed.

In the *Supplement* of July 12 (p. 44), under the heading "Domiciliary Consultation Arrangements," the speaker who moved the amendment should have been reported as Dr. John Clayre, not Dr. J. G. McDowell.

Association Notices

MEDICAL HYPNOTISM

Petition for the Formation of a Group

The following petition for the formation of a Group of Medical Hypnotists within the British Medical Association has been addressed to the Council:

We, the undersigned members of the British Medical Association, engaged in the practice of hypnotherapy, hereby make petition for the formation within the Association of a Group of Medical Hypnotists, the Group to include medical practitioners who use hypnosis for medical purposes.

We are engaged in a specialized branch of professional work which is becoming of increasing importance, and the number of medical hypnotists in one Division is too small adequately to present the medico-political problems of our specialty. We are therefore of the opinion that the formation of a Group of those who practise hypnotherapy would be an advantage, not only to the specialty but also to the Association. We feel that at present hypnotism is not adequately represented within the existing framework of the Association, since in addition to its value in psychological medicine it has a very wide range of usefulness in general medicine and surgery, besides the special branches such as paediatrics, obstetrics, gynaecology, dermatology, and anaesthetics.

GORDON AMBROSE, Carshalton Beeches.

A. G. DAVIES, London, W.

DAVID DAVIS, Glasgow.

S. F. GILBERT, Manchester.

M. P. LEAHY, London, W.

W. MALONE, West Dulwich.

G. F. NEWBOLD, South Woodford.

J. A. O'CONNOR, Woodford Wells.

ANTHONY OWEN-FLOOD, London, N.

CYRIL G. A. SADLER, London, W.

KURT SAX, Belfast.

K. C. P. SMITH, Bristol.

S. VAN PELT, Hove.

I. MOSTYN WILLIAMS, Bethesda, N. Wales.

W. B. WRIGHT, Glasgow.

ARMED FORCES COMMITTEE

Election of Direct Representatives

The constitution of the Armed Forces Committee provides for a retired medical officer from each of the following branches of the Services to be included in its membership: Medical Branch, Royal Navy; Royal Army Medical Corps; Medical Branch, Royal Air Force; Medical Branch, R.N.V.R.; R.A.M.C. (T.A.); Medical Branch, R.A.F.V.R.

There are six vacancies to be filled for the 1952-3 session. Nominations are now invited from members of the Association, at present serving on the active lists of each of the above six branches and corps, of a retired medical officer (who must also be a member of the Association) of their own branch or corps as a candidate for election.

Nominations, on forms to be obtained from me, must reach me by Saturday, August 23. Voting papers will be issued where more than one candidate is nominated.

A. MACRAE,
Secretary.

Branch and Division Meetings to be Held

BORDER COUNTIES BRANCH.—A.G.M. arranged for Sunday, July 27, postponed until September.