

## Correspondence

Because of heavy pressure on our space, correspondents are asked to keep their letters short.

### Deputizing Services

SIR,—I have read Dr. C. J. G. Franklin's letter (July 23, p. 51) and that of Drs. R. G. Wigoder and H. G. Jeffs (August 6, p. 65). I am frankly at a loss to connect them. The former is a simple statement of a point of view, whilst the latter has no purpose beyond an unwarranted attack upon the integrity of the local consultants. If it were not for this, I should feel that the letter deserved nothing but to be ignored.

Drs. Wigoder and Jeffs are certainly entitled to any private view they wish to hold, but I must hasten to apologize lest any of our consultant colleagues should feel that their attitude is held more widely by G.P.s in the area. In their letter they ask if any member of the local medical committee has attempted to obtain the services of a consultant at the week-end, bank holidays, or after 7 p.m. The short answer is simply, yes; indeed, I have often found that the easiest time to obtain a domiciliary consultation is after 9 p.m. when many consultants are to be found at home. As with the general practitioner, the consultant tends to lead a busy day. In out-patients and in the wards he may be less readily available for one reason or another, but at the times that Drs. Wigoder and Jeffs suggest I can say that I have never had serious difficulty in obtaining a consultant opinion. This I believe to be true of most of my colleagues who practise in this area.—I am, etc.,

London, S.E.6.

R. LL. MEYRICK.

SIR,—Drs. R. G. Wigoder and H. G. Jeffs (August 6, p. 65) raise an important issue when they ask for a 24-hour all-the-year-round service of consultants (in every specialty, presumably?). I know of no statute law or regulation which compels consultants to provide such a service, though it is common practice for specialists to participate in on-call rotas for emergencies in hospital, at least in general surgery, orthopaedics, gynaecology, and E.N.T. Inquiry at one or other local hospital should generally provide the information of who is on call. I frequently get called out on Sundays, public holidays, and even while on annual leave spent at home, as do most of my consultant colleagues.

Drs. Wigoder and Jeffs are exceptionally fortunate to be practising in an area (S.E. London) which has at least ten general hospitals within a radius of less than 8 miles and very many consultants living within easy reach. I wonder if their complaint is shared by many general practitioners. Perhaps the list of consultants on the domiciliary visiting scheme is out of date in the S.E. Metropolitan Region. Some of us might welcome regulations of the type envisaged by Drs. Wigoder and Jeffs. But why begrudge us the £4 4s. fee (taxed at source under P.A.Y.E. and surtaxed as well)?—I am, etc.,

Chislehurst.

E. H. RAINER.

### B.M.A. LIBRARY

The Library service is available to all members of the Association resident in Great Britain and Northern Ireland (and by special arrangement to members of the Irish Medical Association). A copy of the Library Rules will be forwarded on application to the Librarian at B.M.A. House.

The following books have been added to the Library:

- Ackerknecht, E. H.: *A Short History of Psychiatry*. 1959.  
 Ajose, O. A.: *Public Health in Tropical Countries*. 1958.  
 Blum, H. F.: *Carcinogenesis by Ultraviolet Light*. 1959.  
 Daland, G. A.: *A Colour Atlas of Morphologic Hematology*. Edited by T. H. Ham. Revised edition. 1959.  
 Debré, R., and Doumic, A.: *Le Sommeil de l'Enfant*. 1959.  
 Derevici, A.: *Gripa: aspecte din problema*. 1958.  
 Dornette, W. H. L., and Brechner, V. L.: *Instrumentation in Anesthesiology*. 1959.  
 Dulany, D. E., et al.: *Contributions to Modern Psychology*. 1958.  
 Fairbairn, J. W. (Editor): *The Pharmacology of Plant Phenolics*. 1959.  
 Ford, F. R.: *Diseases of the Nervous System in Infancy, Childhood, and Adolescence*. Fourth edition. 1960.

- Handley, C. A., and Moyer, J. H.: *The Pharmacology and Clinical Use of Diuretics*. 1959.  
 Hyman, H. T.: *Treatment in Internal Medicine*. 1958.  
 Illingworth, C. F. W.: *A Short Textbook of Surgery*, seventh edition. 1959.  
 Jefferson, Sir G.: *Selected Papers*. 1960.  
 Kerpel-Fronius, E.: *Pathologie und Klinik des Salz- und Wasserhaushaltes*. 1959.  
 Kunkler, P. B., and Rains, A. J. H. (Editors): *Treatment of Cancer in Clinical Practice*. 1959.  
 Lamy, M., et al.: *Maladies Héritaires du Métabolisme chez l'Enfant*. 1959.  
 Marcuse, F. L.: *Hypnosis: Fact and Fiction*. (Pelican Books.) 1959.  
 Martius, H.: *Die geburtshilflichen Operationen*. 8 Aufl. 1958.  
 Maxwell, A. E.: *Experimental Design in Psychology and the Medical Sciences*. 1958.  
 Mazer and Israel's *Diagnosis and Treatment of Menstrual Disorders and Sterility*. Fourth edition by S. L. Israel. 1959.  
 Meier, R. L.: *Modern Science and the Human Fertility Problem*. 1959.  
*Modern Trends in Accident Surgery and Medicine*. Edited by R. Clarke, F. G. Badger, and S. Sevitt. 1959.  
 Monod, J.: *Recherches sur la croissance des cultures bactériennes*. 2me. édit. 1958.  
 Nelson, T. G.: *Tracheotomy: a Clinical and Experimental Study*. 1958.  
 O'Brien, D., and Ibbott, F. (Editors): *Laboratory Manual of Pediatric Micro-Biochemical Techniques*. 1959.  
 Prior, J. A., and Silberstein, J. S. et al.: *Physical Diagnosis*. 1959.  
 Raven, C. E.: *Science, Medicine, and Morals*. 1959.  
 Riffle, A. B.: *The Mouth: Its Clinical Appraisal*. 1959.  
 Rowe, J. W., and Wheble, V. H.: *Anatomy and Physiology. Applied for Orthopaedic Nurses*. 1959.  
 Schneider, K.: *Klinische Psychopathologie*. 5 Aufl. 1959.  
 Squires, H. C.: *The Sudan Medical Service*. 1958.  
 Tashman, H. F.: *The Marital Bed: An Analyst's Casebook*. 1959.  
 Tosovsky, V., and Vyehytil, O.: *Das Akute Abdomen im Kindesalter auf Grund angeborener Anomalien*. 1958.  
 Wachsmann, F., and Barth, G.: *Die Bewegungsbestrahlung*. 2 Aufl. 1959.  
 Waksman, A. S.: *My Life with the Microbes*. 1958.  
 Welch, H., and Marti-Ibanez, F.: *The Antibiotic Saga*. 1960.  
 Weyrauch, H. M.: *Surgery of the Prostate*. 1959.  
 Wilkinson, A. W.: *Body Fluids in Surgery*. Second edition. 1960.  
 Williams, H. M., et al.: *Neurological Complications of Lymphomas and Leukemias*. 1959.  
 Winsor, T.: *Peripheral Vascular Diseases*. 1959.  
 Wolff, K.: *The Biological, Sociological and Psychological Aspects of Aging*. 1959.  
 Wood, E.: *Yoga*. (Pelican Book.) 1959.  
 Wootton, B.: *Social Science and Social Pathology*. 1959.

## Association Notices

### Diary of Central Meetings

SEPTEMBER

- |    |        |   |
|----|--------|---|
| 7  | Wed.   | Special Representative Meeting Agenda Committee, 11 a.m.  |
| 8  | Thurs. | Agenda Committee for Special Conference of Representatives of Local Medical Committees, 11 a.m. |
| 8  | Thurs. | Central Consultants and Specialists Committee, 12 noon.   |
| 13 | Tues.  | Joint Consultants Committee, 11.15 a.m.   |
| 14 | Wed.   | Remuneration Subcommittee of Staff Side of Whitley Committee C, 11.30 a.m.                      |
| 14 | Wed.   | Staff Side of Whitley Committee C, 2 p.m.   |
| 14 | Wed.   | Subcommittee on Misuse of Power (C.C. and S. Committee), 2 p.m.                                 |
| 15 | Thurs. | G.M.S. Committee, 10.30 a.m.  |
| 16 | Fri.   | Accident Services Review Committee, 2.30 p.m.   |
| 27 | Tues.  | Special Conference of Representatives of Local Medical Committees, 10.30 a.m.                   |
| 28 | Wed.   | Special Representative Meeting, 10 a.m.   |

### Branch and Division Meetings to be Held

GLOSSOP DIVISION.—At Social Club, Ellison Street, Glossop, Monday, August 22, 8.45 p.m., consideration of Council's report on recommendations of the Working Parties on the Royal Commission's report.

### Branch and Division Officers Elected

BRITISH GUIANA BRANCH.—President, Dr. N. J. Abbenetts. First Vice-president, Dr. B. B. G. Nehaul. Second Vice-president, Dr. H. C. Hugh. Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, Dr. C. L. Mootoo. Assistant Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, Dr. L. C. Luck.

CONSETT DIVISION.—Chairman, Dr. F. O. Potter. Vice-chairman, Dr. F. M. Fyfe, jun. Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, Dr. N. E. Wood.

LEEDS DIVISION.—Chairman, Dr. E. W. Jackson. Vice-chairman, Dr. S. S. Ogilvie. Honorary Secretary, Dr. J. H. E. Moore. Honorary Treasurer, Dr. E. C. Benn.

NORFOLK BRANCH.—President, Dr. D. G. Shields. President-elect, Dr. A. W. Taylor. Vice-presidents, Dr. K. A. Latter, Mr. J. O. Harrison. Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, Dr. A. Batty Shaw.

Correction.—The chairman of the Co. Armagh Division is Dr. J. T. Carson and not, as we were wrongly informed, Dr. W. Bingham (July 9, p. 34).