

to do with whether a Conservative or Labour Government was in power. Benefits not yet paid were retrospective and back-dated and nobody would lose anything in the long run.

The motion was carried.

Dr. E. T. GRIFFITHS (Monmouthshire) moved: "that while appreciating the work of Council for improving pensions and compensation during the past year, this Meeting questions whether poor life expectancy after 60 has been taken into account."

He said that the motion was really an expression of thanks sincerely delivered from Monmouthshire to the Chairman of Committee, Mr. Rowlands, for all he had done in the years past. The message he brought from the periphery was that they did not wish to be an insurance statistic all the time.

Mr. ROWLANDS said that he had already answered the question on life expectancy—which had been considered and taken into account.

The motion was carried.

Mr. ROWLANDS moved: "that the remainder of the Annual Report under 'Superannuation' be approved." He said that an amendment by Dr. Lena Williams "to add 'and that no effort be spared to obtain the same pension rights for men and women doctors,'" was acceptable provided that it was understood by the women doctors at this time that this would not include widower's pensions because, at this time, women were better off with the larger lump sum. There would, however, be a time in the not too distant future when certainly a very strong case would be put for them. In any case,

he had every hope that dependent husbands of women doctors would be covered by pension rights in the very near future.

Dr. LENA WILLIAMS (Camden) accepted the Chairman of Committee's statement.

The motion as amended was approved.

Council Members Elected

It was announced that the following members had been elected to the Council: Mr. DAVID BROWN, Dr. J. C. CAMERON, Dr. A. A. CLARK, Dr. G. CORMACK, Dr. H. FIDLER, and Dr. R. A. A. R. LAWRENCE.

(concluded next week)

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Family Planning: A.R.M. Decision

On Saturday morning, 13 July, the Representative Body debated a composite motion on family planning in the N.H.S. This read as follows: "That this Meeting considers: (i) that contraceptive services and/or sterilization for social reasons must be paid for by additional funds; (ii) that as the provision of such services (contraception and sterilization) does not form part of the present contract of any doctor working in the N.H.S., save the small number of doctors specifically engaged for the purpose of conducting family planning clinics, then only those doctors who freely contract to perform such work, for additional remuneration, will take part in the provision of such services; (iii) that until agreement is reached between the various sections of the profession on the

one hand, and the Secretaries of State on the other, on all aspects of a free contraceptive service, no section of the profession shall operate a free service except on strictly medical grounds."

The motion was voted on in three parts and the Meeting approved each of them. After this decision had been taken a question was asked by a Representative on section (iii). He sought clarification as to whether existing family planning advice clinics in the N.H.S. would be closed from 15 July or whether they would close pending negotiations on appropriate fees. Dr. Derek Stevenson, Secretary of the Association, replied that the date did not apply in the general practitioner field, because social contraception was already done under private

arrangements. But it was a different matter on the hospital side. It would seem that the intention of the Representative Body was that no section—that is, in this case the hospital section—should operate a free social contraceptive service while the negotiations were going on. But he assumed that the Meeting did not intend that all social contraception would cease as and from 15 July. The C.C.H.M.S. would examine what had been decided and see how best to operate services in hospital clinics while the long-term discussions went on about future contract.

The Meeting accepted the Secretary's interpretation.

A report on the A.R.M.'s debate on family planning will appear in next week's *B.M.J.*

Proceedings of Council

At a meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber of the Guildhall, Kingston upon Hull at the conclusion of the A.R.M. on 13 July, Mr. WALPOLE LEWIN was elected Chairman of Council for the ensuing session.

The CHAIRMAN thanked the Council for having elected him, and extended a welcome to the new members present: Dr. T. D. Culbert, Mr. W. Drummond, Mr. M. J. Gilkes, Dr. Harvey Gordon, Dr. J. D. Hall, Dr. S. A. P. Jenkins, Dr. B. G. Gretton-Watson, Dr. J. A. McNeilly, Dr. D. P. B. Miles, Dr. A. V. Russell, Dr. F. Stratton, and Surgeon Commander D. S. Wright.

A.R.M. 1974

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN, the Chairman of the Representative Body and the Chairman of Council were authorized to refer the resolutions of the Annual Representative Meeting to the appropriate committees.

Board of Science and Education

The Council unanimously reappointed Sir John Peel as Chairman of the Board of Science and Education, and reappointed Dr.

Jean Lawrie, Mr. K. C. McKeown, and Professor T. E. Oppé as members of the Board. Professor Alistair Munro was appointed to replace Professor D. Russel Davis who had served the maximum period of office.

The Council then proceeded to elect its standing and other committees, and its representatives on outside organizations.

E.E.C.

The CHAIRMAN recalled that in April, the Council had decided, because of the increasing scope of the work of the E.E.C. Committee and the mounting involvement of the craft committees of the B.M.A. in European affairs, to review the means whereby the viewpoint of the Association itself, as distinct from an overall professional opinion on E.E.C. matters, could be formulated. It had been agreed that the matter should be permitted in the first instance to a working group, consisting of members of the E.E.C. Committee appointed by the Association, together with the chairmen of the G.M.S. Committee, C.C.H.M.S., Public Health Committee, and the H.J.S. Group Council.

When that working group had met on 25 April, chaired by Dr. A. J. Rowe, it had decided unanimously that a special group

was needed drawn from within the B.M.A. itself for the purpose which the Council had in mind.

Dr. ROWE added that while the present E.E.C. Committee was well constituted to formulate the views of doctors and the other interests represented on the committee it did not, in his working group's view, provide the best means of putting forward the Association's policy on major medicopolitical matters. The working group recommended that the Council should set up a permanent working group which would report direct to Council. The following terms of reference had been proposed, said Dr. Rowe: "to consider, in conjunction with the standing committees of the Association, the medicopolitical implications of E.E.C. membership with a view to the formulation and correlation of B.M.A. policy."

The Council referred the details concerning terms of reference, membership, and financing to the officers for consideration and report.

C.C.H.M.S.

In presenting a progress report from the C.C.H.M.S., Dr. C. E. ASTLEY, the Chairman, referred to the question of private