

Medical Association, and a new constitution was being drawn up. The proposals favoured by the B.M.A.'s representatives were those which would make sudden expulsion impracticable in the future.

The proposals emanated mostly from Canada, which was proposing a general

assembly, regional committees, regional executives, and executive committees. He thought that the proposals were very ambitious and, incidentally, so expensive that they would be beyond the resources of the Commonwealth Medical Association to implement.

## Organization

Dr. C. C. LUTTON was re-elected Chairman of the Organization Committee at its meeting on 14 October. The Deputy Chairman for this session will be Dr. R. A. A. R. LAWRENCE.

The Meeting discussed several procedural and constitutional matters concerning the Representative Body. These included the timetable for calling Special Representative Meetings (arising from a referred resolution from this year's A.R.M.); the selection of A.R.M. motions for priority debate; and the status of "visitors" on the Council at the Annual Meeting. Final decisions were deferred on these issues until legal advice had been obtained and to allow consultations with other Association committees.

Current membership of the B.M.A. was reported as 67,700, compared with 67,838 in October 1970. There was a long discussion on ways of increasing membership and improving contacts with students and the newly qualified. Some speakers referred to the possibility that membership might increase as a result of the Industrial Relations Act. The debate concluded with decisions to send recruiting circulars to non-members four times a year instead of twice as at present, and the Chairman was asked to raise with the Council the possibility of a recruiting drive. It was also agreed that the most effective approach to medical students was through divisions in university areas and

honorary secretaries would be given suggestions about how this could be done. There was general approval for the idea that students should be invited to some divisional meetings.

## Sponsorship

A memorandum on sponsorship of other bodies by the B.M.A. was considered by the Committee. There was some uncertainty about exactly what sponsorship really meant, and members were concerned about the degree of influence the Association had on activities it had agreed to sponsor, but which were controlled mainly from outside the B.M.A.

Dr. J. S. NOBLE suggested that there were certain good causes which an organization like the B.M.A.—with its aim of promoting the honour and interests of the profession—could reasonably sponsor. However, there were other occasions where the situation was not so clear cut, and he thought it would be difficult to lay down hard and fast rules. Doubts were voiced by some speakers about how far the Association's constitution allowed it to embark on sponsorship of outside activities, and the Committee eventually agreed to consider the matter again when a legal opinion on the whole issue had been obtained.

## R.C.N.-B.M.A. Conference: "Partners in Patient Care"

A joint R.C.N.-B.M.A. Conference on the theme "Partners in Patient Care" will be held on Thursday-Friday, 25-26 November at Church House, Westminster, London.

Under the title "Who needs Care" the first speaker on Thursday will identify the health needs of the individual and national trends in health sickness.

The remainder of the sessions will be devoted to the consideration of the care of patients in their own homes and with their families; in the hospital situation—in accident and emergency departments, in the ward, and in the operating theatre. A doctor and a nurse will be speakers at all sessions.

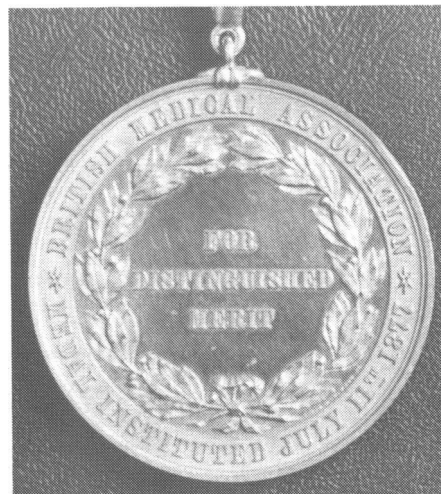
Two sessions on the Friday will focus on the care given to the mentally ill, and to the long-stay patient and the care of the dying. During the third session, two doctors a nurse will speak on ethical issues in the clinical situation and present-day conflicts.

Medical speakers include Dr. P. H. Addison, Secretary of the Medical Defence Union; Miss Josephine Barnes, consultant gynaecologist and a member of the Lane Committee studying the Abortion Act; Mr. David Brown, consultant gynaecologist; Dr. H. J. Galbraith, general practitioner; Dr.

Ronald Gibson, past Chairman, B.M.A. Council; Dr. J. G. Howells, Director of the Institute of Family Psychiatry, Ipswich; Mr. Walpole Lewin, Chairman, B.M.A. Council; Dr. G. S. R. Little, general practitioner; Dr. J. A. J. Macleod, senior medical registrar and Dr. Henry Miller, Vice-Chancellor, Newcastle upon Tyne University. Sir John Peel, the President of the B.M.A., will chair the Conference on the Thursday.

The Conference fee is £6. Hospital doctors will be eligible to attend the Conference under study leave regulations, and general practitioners will be able to claim conference expenses under Section 63. Further information and application forms are available from the R.C.N.-B.M.A. Conference Secretary at R.C.N. Headquarters, Henrietta Place, Cavendish Square, London W1N 0AB.

An allocation of places has been determined as between nurses and doctors, and other representatives. Any places not taken will be allocated to those on a waiting list, priority being given to doctors and nurses actually involved in the clinical situation. Early application is advised and it is anticipated that the Conference will be oversubscribed.



The first Gold Medal of the British Medical Association, presented in 1877 to Henry Naunton Davies, surgeon to the Tynnewydd Colliery, who stood by with a large team of doctors underground during the ten days it took to release five trapped miners, 11-21 April 1877. The medal has been loaned to the Association by Alderman Mrs. M. R. Davey, chairman of Essex County Council Health Committee, and a grand-daughter of Dr. Davies. It was displayed at the Centenary celebrations of the South Wales and Monmouthshire Branch on 22 October (see leading article, *B.M.J.*, 2 October, p. 3).

## CORRECTIONS

### Chairman of C.C.H.M.S.

In the caption to the photograph of Dr. C. E. Astley (*Supplement*, 23 October, p. 14) his year of qualification was given as 1946. It is regretted that this was incorrect; Dr. Astley qualified in 1939.

### Scottish G.M.S. Committee

The final sentence of the opening paragraph of the report of the Meeting of the Scottish G.M.S. on 22 September (*Supplement*, 16 October, p. 11) gave an incorrect impression of a decision by the Committee. The Committee in fact agreed to make further inquiries as to the possibility of obtaining expert opinion on alternative types of management in the N.H.S. not "that expert opinions should be obtained."