appointment has been made for the child. The general practitioner is responsible for the day-to-day care of all the children on his list. He should not be treated in such a casual manner as he is at present. If the clinic or school doctor is worried about a child, the family doctor should be notified and full details given before any further action is taken.

If this letter helps to rectify the present state of affairs I shall be most pleased.—I am, etc.,


BERNARD TAYLOR.

Practice Compensation

Sir,—It is some time since we heard anything about the proceedings of the Royal Commission. As I retire in a few months, after nearly 30 years in general practice, I had hoped, optimistically, that there might be some suggestion from this Commission that the compensation to be paid for loss of goodwill was inadequate, particularly in view of the depreciation in the value of money.—I am, etc.,

Forest Row, Sussex.

MARTIN FROBISHER.

Drug Sales and Cost

Sir,—While watching the programme "On Call to a Nation" on B.B.C. television, I was surprised to hear some of the comments on the sales drive of the pharmaceutical houses and of the G.P.'s lack of knowledge of the cost of drugs.

Ours is a typical suburban London practice, which should receive the average attention from the drug houses. On reviewing the literature we have received and the visits from representatives over the past two months, I find that only 14 firms have advertised their products, and of these seven have sent more than three letters. At the same time only two firms have sent representatives. This is a very low proportion of the firms manufacturing drugs in this country and can hardly be called "excessive." As regards knowledge of the cost of drugs, there are at least two card index schemes available to general practitioners at low cost which give details monthly by month of all new drugs, indications, contraindications, dosage, and cost. We find these cards useful and a helpful guide to treatment. I hope that these comments will help to put the whole question of drug sales into proper perspective.—I am, etc.,

Goodmayes, Essex.

J. A. HOLLAND.

Association Notices

Diary of Central Meetings

MAY

13 Wed. Medical Staffing Subcommittee, Central Consultants and Specialist Committee, 11.30 a.m.
13 Wed. Parliamentary Elections Committee, 2.30 p.m.
20 Wed. Training Subcommittee, Central Consultants and Specialist Committee, 10.30 a.m.
21 Thurs. G.M.S. Committee, 10.30 a.m.
22 Fri. Tuberculosis Group Committee, 2 p.m.
26 Tues. Committee of Management, Annual Clinical Meeting, Norwich, 1939 fat Museum, Norfolk and Norwich Hospitals, 2.15 p.m.
27 Wed. Alcohol and Road Accidents Committee, 2 p.m.

JULY

16 Thurs. Annual Representative Meeting (at Edinburgh), 10 a.m.
17 Fri. Annual Representative Meeting (at Edinburgh), 9.30 a.m.
18 Sat. Council (at Edinburgh), 9 a.m.
18 Sat. Annual Representative Meeting (at Edinburgh), 10 a.m.
20 Mon. Annual Representative Meeting (at Edinburgh), 10 a.m.
20 Mon. Annual General Meeting (at Edinburgh), 12.30 p.m.
20 Mon. Council (at Edinburgh), at conclusion of A.R.M.
20 Mon. Adjourned Annual General Meeting (at Edinburgh), 8.45 p.m.

Branch and Division Meetings to be Held

BROMLEY DIVISION.—At Beckenham Hospital, Wednesday, May 6, 8.15 for 8.30 p.m., meeting. Mr. A. N. Gilkes, M.A.: "British Public Schools." Guest speakers.

DUDLEY DIVISION.—At Nurses' Lecture Theatre, the Guest Hospital, Dudley, Tuesday, May 5, 9 p.m., general meeting.

EAST DERNBICH AND FLINT DIVISION.—At Blossoms Hotel, Chester, Thursday, May 7, 8.30 p.m., annual general meeting.

EAST KENT DIVISION.—At Chez Laurie Restaurant, Thanet Way, Herne Bay, Thursday, May 7, 8.30 p.m., annual meeting.

EXETER DIVISION.—At Library, Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, Thursday, Thursday, May 5, 8.15 p.m., spring meeting. Instructions to Representatives to Annual Representative Meeting.

HARROGATE DIVISION.—At Harrogate Royal Bath Hotel, Harrogate, Tuesday, May 5, 8.30 p.m., general meeting.

HARROW DIVISION.—(1) At Tihe Farm House, Ensuite Lane, South Harrow, Tuesday, May 5, 8.30 p.m.; Mr. Arnold L. Walker: "The Cranbrook Report of the Matrix Services Committee" (2) At Edgware General Hospital, Wednesday, May 6, 8.45 p.m., clinical-pathological conference. All medical practitioners in the area of the Division are invited to this meeting.

ISLE OF WIGHT DIVISION.—At Unity Hall, Newport, May 5, 4 p.m., general meeting to discuss the Annual Report of Council.

KENSINGTON AND HAMMERSMITH DIVISION.—At St. Mary Abbots' Hospital, W., Friday, May 8, 8.30 p.m., A.G.M.

LEWISHAM DIVISION.—At Committee Rooms, Lewisham Hospital, Friday, May 8, 8.30 p.m., talk by Mr. Richard Cowan: "I Met a Hundred Doctors."

MANCHESTER DIVISION.—At Fallowfield Hotel, Wilbraham Road, Manchester, Tuesday, May 5, 8.30 p.m., special general meeting.

MONMOUTHSHIRE DIVISION.—At Medical Library, Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport, Tuesday, May 5, 8.30 p.m., A.G.M.

NORTH MIDDLSEX DIVISION.—At First Floor, Green Lanes, Winchmore Hill, London, N., Thursday, May 7, 8 p.m., supper dance.

READING DIVISION.—At Library, Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading, Tuesday, May 5, 8.30 p.m., annual general meeting.

SOUTH-WEST ESSEX DIVISION.—At Whipps Cross Hospital, Leytonstone, E., Wednesday, May 6, 8.30 p.m., clinical meeting. B.M.A. Lecture by Sir W. Henage Ogilvie: "Use of the Senses in Clinical Surgery." Questions and answers will follow.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS DIVISION.—At Kent and East Bulldogs Hospital, Monday, May 4, 8.30 p.m., 53rd annual general meeting.

WANDSWORTH DIVISION.—At Out-patients' Department, St. James's Hospital, St. James's Drive, Balham, S.W., Thursday, May 7, 8.30 p.m., social evening held jointly with South-west London Medical Society. Combined sherry party and Doctors' and Wives' Hobbies Exhibition.

Meetings of Branches and Divisions

BRIGHTON AND MID-SUSSEX DIVISION

The following officers have been elected:

Chairman.—Dr. J. Beynon.
Vice-chairman.—Mr. J. C. F. Lloyd Williamson.
Chairman-elect.—Mr. H. Thorne Thorne.
Honorary Secretary.—Dr. W. F. de C. Veale.
Honorary Treasurer.—Dr. J. Cumming.

BRUNEL DIVISION (BORNDO

The following officers have been elected:

President.—Dr. A. W. Johnson.
Honorary Secretary and Treasurer.—Dr. P. G. Griffiths.

CHELSEA AND FULHAM DIVISION

Thirty members attended the annual B.M.A. lecture held on January 20. Dr. C. Watney Roe, in the chair, introduced the speaker, Dr. Maurice Shaw, whose subject was "Meaning and Medicine," in which he discussed the meaning of words and their use in communications between patient and doctor. His lecture was followed by discussion.

DUMFRIES AND GALWAY DIVISION

A meeting was held on January 11. Dr. F. T. Ingram took the chair and 25 members were present. Dr. J. M. Valentine addressed the meeting on "Everyday Radiation," and answered questions.

EXETER DIVISION

At a meeting held on February 5 the following officers were elected:

Chairman.—Dr. A. Blundell Jones.
Vice-chairman.—Dr. F. S. W. Brimblecombe.
Honorary Secretary and Treasurer.—Dr. F. E. Graham-Bonalle.

Correction.—Tickets for the Welsh Dinner to be held in Edinburgh on July 17 are 27s. 6d. each excluding wines, not including wines as printed in the Supplement of April 25 (p. 194).