academic staff equivalent to those in the NHS arising from the doctors' and dentists' review body report, it will provide the universities with additional funds to cover the cost of that settlement to the extent that it exceeds the pay settlement for non-clinical academic staff. The sum involved cannot be determined until the two pay settlements have been agreed."

**Armed forces doctors' pay**

The review body on armed forces pay has announced its recommendations for doctors and dentists in the armed forces. As in previous years the review body has recommended rates of pay that reflect what will actually be paid to general practitioners in the National Health Service. The government deferred the implementation of the recommendations of the review board on doctors' and dentists' remuneration until 1 July and the armed forces review body has followed suit.

The recommendations are for increases from 3% to 12%. The new scales range from £6040 for a cadet on appointment to £33 200 for a brigadier. A preregistration service doctor will receive £12 468. On appointment a captain's salary will be £15 837; a major's £19 498; a lieutenant colonel's £25 484; and a colonel's £29 134. After eight years in post a colonel will receive £31 704.

In its evidence the BMA suggested that the review body should take into account earnings rather than those from NHS sources and that the analogue should be based on a specific comparison with senior partners in general practice. The review body did not accept those arguments.

On manning the review body has reported that the shortfall of medical officers in the army has decreased, while those in the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force have increased slightly. The Ministry of Defence was concerned about the shortfall among experienced medical officers in middle grade and consultant appointments. The BMA drew attention to the outflow of trained general practitioners and hospital consultants. The review body has welcomed moves to improve retention. These include increasing the length of the short service commission and the introduction of a higher retirement age.

The review body has estimated that the additional cost of the recommendations will be £1-5 million.

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**Private patients being subsidised**

Private patients in National Health Service hospitals are being subsidised because of the system of average charges, according to a report from the Committee of Public Accounts. Private patients are more likely to have extensive operations and to stay in hospital for a shorter time than NHS patients, incurring heavier day costs. The committee was told that private inpatients paid £32 million in the year 1986 and private outpatients £9 million in the 800 hospitals authorised to have pay beds. Several health authorities had reported losses. Hammersmith reported that it lost £13 000 on each private patient given type of bone marrow transplantation and Lewisham calculated that it lost £1500 on each private coronary artery bypass graft. The committee said that these examples should have led the Department of Health to review charges much earlier. It has recommended that charges should be closely related to the cost of treatment and the interests of NHS patients should not be jeopardised.

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**Sight testing fee**

From 1 August ophthalmic medical practitioners will receive £15 79 for sight tests. 1 After the government's acceptance of the recommendations of the 1986 review body report and after consultation with the BMA there is to be an increase in the net remuneration element of the fee for sight testing from £4-42 to £4-73. The government also accepted, however, the review body's recommendation in respect of the non-superannuable element representing practice expenses in the fee and this will be reduced from £1-56 to £1-06.


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**ASSOCIATION NOTICE**

Associate specialists subcommittee (CCHMS)

Nominations are invited from associate specialists holding permanent posts in the National Health Service for representatives to serve on the associate specialists subcommittee for the session 1986-7.

The representatives will be appointed on a regional basis as follows:

- Northern
- Yorkshire
- Trent
- East Anglia
- North West Thames
- East Thames
- South East Thames
- West Thames
- Wessex
- Oxford
- South Western
- West Midlands
- Mersey
- North Western
- Scotland
- Wales
- Northern Ireland

It will be necessary to appoint a deputy for each representative, and nominations for these are also invited. Nominations forms are obtainable from the undersigned, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP, and must be returned not later than Friday 22 August 1986. In the event of a contest arising for any seat, voting papers will be issued at a later date.

J D J Havard
Secretary

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**Correction**

Finance and general purposes committee

In the report of the election to the finance and general purposes committee (12 July, p 156) the name of Dr W M Daxon was incorrectly spelt.

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**NHS statistics**

The following details on the National Health Service were given in recent parliamentary written answers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Average daily No of available beds</th>
<th>Inpatients</th>
<th>Inpatient waiting list</th>
<th>Outpatient attendances</th>
<th>General practitioners</th>
<th>Hospital doctors*</th>
<th>Nurses*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>423-6</td>
<td>5011-7</td>
<td>559-7</td>
<td>32 54-8</td>
<td>19 099</td>
<td>21 338</td>
<td>240-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>387-6</td>
<td>4975-8</td>
<td>532-6</td>
<td>30 947-5</td>
<td>20 177</td>
<td>26 292</td>
<td>304-57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>356-0</td>
<td>5670-0</td>
<td>664-9</td>
<td>35 243-0</td>
<td>21 812</td>
<td>31 431</td>
<td>330-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>357-1</td>
<td>5759-9</td>
<td>628-3</td>
<td>35 571-4</td>
<td>22 304</td>
<td>32 142</td>
<td>347-70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>348-1</td>
<td>5719-6</td>
<td>622-5</td>
<td>35 651-2</td>
<td>22 786</td>
<td>32 594</td>
<td>351-90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>345-1</td>
<td>6018-6</td>
<td>726-2</td>
<td>36 519-6</td>
<td>23 254</td>
<td>33 260</td>
<td>350-50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Whole time equivalents. NA Not available.

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