

felt that reading should be encouraged. Dr. J. T. Lewis referred to the difficulties experienced in many areas at present in getting an adequate supply of nurses to look after the chronic sick. He felt that some additional remuneration should be given to nurses so employed, to encourage them to carry on with what was often depressing work.

A vote of thanks to Dr. Barber was proposed by Dr. K. J. G. Milne and seconded by Dr. D. D. Payne.

### WELSH BRANCH

*President*: Dr. H. R. Tighe (M.O.H., Swansea C.B.).

*Hon. Secretary*: Dr. G. McKim Thomas (M.O.H., Cardiff R.D.C.).

The annual meeting of the Branch was held in Cardiff on July 19th.

The minutes of the meeting held on April 21st were approved and signed by the President.

Officers were elected for the ensuing year.

It is hoped to arrange papers on the following subjects for the ensuing year: (a) a lecture demonstration of the Rh factor and its application to midwifery; (b) demonstration on uses of penicillin with special reference to infectious diseases; (c) toxæmias of pregnancy.

It was decided to offer a prize to the value of £2 2s. to the best student in hygiene in the M.B., B.Ch. (Wales) Examination, 1946.

The Branch desire to express their appreciation to Prof. R. M. F. Picken on his Presidency of the Society, and for this purpose propose holding a dinner in his honour sometime during the autumn.

### SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE GROUP

*President*: J. D. Kershaw (M.O.H. and S.M.O., Accrington).

*Hon. Secretary*: A. A. E. Newth (S.M.O., Nottingham).

A special general meeting was held at the London School of Hygiene on July 20th. The meeting unanimously approved a recommendation of the Council of the Group that the constitution of the Group be amended by the addition to the officers specified therein of a Vice-President, an immediate Past-President, and an Assistant Hon. Secretary.

The annual general meeting was held on July 20th at the London School of Hygiene, 37 members and guests being present. The minutes of the last annual general meeting, held on November 3rd, 1944, published in *PUBLIC HEALTH*, February, 1945, were signed.

The Hon. Secretary gave a report on the work of the Group and its Council since the last annual general meeting. On November 3rd, 1944, the elected representatives of the Council of the Group attended a meeting of a joint subcommittee with representatives of the M. and C.W. Group to discuss the Draft Regulations for Medical Inspection, and drew up a report which was submitted to the Council of the Society for transmission to the Ministry of Education. On February 9th, 1945, a meeting of the Group Council held a preliminary discussion on Draft Circular 29 of the Ministry of Education. Among other matters dealt with was the election of the following representatives of the Council of the Group to serve on the proposed Joint Standing Subcommittee with the M. and C.W. Group: Drs. J. B. Morgan and L. I. Roberts, Dr. J. E. Cheesman acting as reserve. Dr. A. Morrison was elected to serve on the Council of the Society under Article 19(b) of the Constitution of the Society.

On February 10th, 1945, the President and Drs. Cohen and Morgan and the Hon. Secretary attended at the Ministry of Education to discuss Draft Circular 29, and a report of that interview was submitted to the General Purposes Committee of the Society at its meeting on March 2nd, 1945.

On March 16th, 1945, Drs. Hogben, Morrison, and Roberts, and the Hon. Secretary attended at the Ministry of Education to discuss the Draft Handicapped Pupils and Medical Services Regulations, 1945, and the accompanying Circular. A report of this meeting was submitted to the Council of the Society on April 26th, 1945.

On June 1st, 1945, a meeting of the Council of the Group was held at Birmingham, at which there was a long and useful discussion on Section 48 of the Education Act, on the position of ex-Part III S.M.O.s, and on Section 54(3) of the Act. At this meeting it was also decided to form a subcommittee consisting of Drs. Hogben, Lishman, and Wilkins, to consider the holding of a refresher course at one of the university towns, and another subcommittee consisting of Drs. Morgan and Morrison, with the assistance of Drs. Cohen and Wilkins, to draw up a memorandum on the future of paediatrics as requested by Dr. Alan Moncrieff, Assistant Registrar of the Royal College of Physicians. The latter subcommittee met at Derby on June 26th, and their report was submitted to the Council of the Society on July 13th, 1945.

On July 20th, 1945, the President, Drs. Lishman and Roberts and the Hon. Secretary, accompanied by Miss Mower White representing the M. and C.W. Group and Dr. Jolly representing the Council of the Society, attended at the Ministry of Education to

discuss a form of medical record card. On the same day a Council meeting was held at which among other matters discussed was the relationship of the School Medical Service to the Industrial Medical Service. A subcommittee consisting of Drs. Cheesman, Cohen, Milligan and Morrison was formed to consider the matter.

The membership of the Group amounted to 350. Active subgroups had been formed in the east midland, Yorkshire, the north-western, and Birmingham and district areas, and meetings to discuss clinical matters had been held. Officers for 1945-46 were elected; the names will be published in a subsequent issue.

### THE EDUCATION ACT

A discussion on the Education Act was opened by Dr. Cohen, S.M.O., Sheffield, and Dr. Morgan, Acting M.O.H. & S.M.O., Derbyshire. The former touched upon various aspects of Section 48(3) and the latter among other points dealt with the position of the County M.O.H. and referred to the danger of the school medical treatment schemes being overwhelmed if L.E.A.s agreed to the treatment of children attending non-maintained schools. There was a general discussion, during which the President referred to the position of ex-Part III authorities and to the anomalous position created in the West Riding, where apparently all the dental officers throughout the county are to be responsible to the Senior Dental Officer and not to the Divisional School Medical Officers.

Dr. J. E. Underwood, replying to the other speakers, emphasised that the Act required that an authority's scheme must be comprehensive. He thought that authorities should, whenever practicable, make arrangements with hospitals for all forms of treatment and should in due course submit the proposals to the Minister for his approval. The costs of treatment in public health hospitals should be paid in full, but he considered that the voluntary hospitals, on account of their status as voluntary institutions and of the contributions received, should bear a proportion of the costs of treatment. He observed that some areas were considering paying 60% and others 80% of the cost, exclusive of the remuneration of the visiting staff, which might involve an additional 15%. Authorities would be in order in selecting the types of case for which they would accept responsibility, and where an authority had efficient and approved schemes for certain conditions such as orthopaedics, eyes, or nose and throat conditions, these should be excluded from their new hospital arrangements. Local authorities would have to accept responsibility for the treatment of acute rheumatism in hospitals. Referring to a question put by Dr. Morgan, of Derbyshire, he said that, supposing that a Derbyshire child had an accident while staying in Bournemouth, the former authority would have to accept financial responsibility for the treatment given in Bournemouth. With regard to the question as to whether the L.E.A. should accept responsibility for the treatment of children attending non-maintained schools, he reminded the meeting that the primary duty of the L.E.A. lay in the treatment of children attending maintained schools. A member of the audience had referred to the question of the exclusion of children from school, and Dr. Underwood drew attention to No. 17 of the Primary and Secondary School Regulations, which said that a pupil should not be refused admission to school on other than reasonable grounds. He could not give a specific answer to the position of the school dental service in the West Riding, but he considered that the dental service must be an integral part of the school medical service. He concluded by saying that in view of the proposed National Health Service any schemes formulated by L.E.A.s must be considered to be merely interim, but it was unlikely that schemes found to be working on sound lines would be scrapped when that service came into being.

Before the meeting ended, the President thanked Dr. Underwood for the able and helpful way in which he had answered the many questions put by the meeting.

The Hon. Treasurer reported on the financial position of the Group.

### NORTHERN BRANCH

*President*: Dr. J. B. Tilley (C.M.O., Northumberland).

*Hon. Secretary*: Dr. G. Hurrell (Tuberculosis Officer, Newcastle).

The annual summer meeting of the Branch was held in Newcastle-upon-Tyne on July 27th. There were present the President and 14 members.

The minutes of the meeting held on April 13th, 1945, were read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Officers of the Branch for the session 1945-46 were elected.

It was decided to invite the North of England Branch of the B.M.A. to elect two general practitioner representatives to serve on the Northern Branch of the Society. A letter was received from Dr. James Hudson indicating that he did not wish his name to go forward for re-election, as he intended to retire during the course of the year. The Hon. Secretary was instructed to convey to Dr. Hudson the deep appreciation of the Branch for the valuable service he had rendered, with great benefit to both societies, over a period of many years. He was also instructed to express to the North of