

BRITISH PAEDIATRIC ASSOCIATION

Proceedings of the Thirty-first Annual General Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the British Paediatric Association was held at the Royal Hotel, Scarborough, from May 4 to 7, 1960.

BUSINESS PROCEEDINGS. Dr. Reginald Lightwood took the Chair as President, and the following members were present:

A. G. V. Aldridge, E. C. Allibone, H. Angelman, I. M. Anderson, J. Apley, Cecile Asher, R. Astley, M. W. Arthurton, Margaret Baber, A. D. Barlow, R. E. Bonham Carter, J. A. Black, A. C. Blandy, M. Bodian, J. V. Braithwaite, T. A. Brand, P. T. Bray, G. Brewis, F. S. W. Brimblecombe, R. W. Brookfield, D. Browne, N. R. Butler, W. H. Cant, I. A. B. Cathie, N. S. Clark, E. C. R. Couper, J. O. Craig, J. Craig, W. S. Craig, Mildred Creak, J. Crooks, K. W. Cross, G. Davison, C. E. Dent, E. F. Dott, D. M. Douglas, A. C. Doyne-Bell, Margaret Eastwood, J. L. Emery, J. W. Farquhar, H. V. L. Finlay, O. D. Fisher, J. O. Forfar, Isabella Forshall, A. White-Franklin, D. M. T. Gairdner, W. F. Gaisford, B. Gans, J. M. Garvie, R. R. Gordon, I. H. Gossett, E. W. Hart, C. C. Harvey, J. D. Hay, W. Henderson, J. B. Heycock, D. V. Hubble, A. Holzel, R. S. Illingworth, R. J. Isaac, N. M. Jacoby, Ursula James, R. T. Jenkins, H. Jolly, H. Everley Jones, F. F. Kane, A. C. Kendall, C. W. Kesson, A. C. Kirby, B. M. Laurance, D. N. Lawson, R. C. Lightwood, J. Lorber, R. A. McCance, Anne McCandless, P. MacArthur, J. C. Macaulay, A. M. MacDonald, Agnes R. MacGregor, M. MacGregor, Helen M. M. Mackay, T. Mann, W. J. Matheson, R. M. Mayon-White, R. A. Miller, R. G. Mitchell, D. Morris, F. W. Nash, A. V. Neale, G. Neligan, C. Newman, T. C. Noble, A. P. Norman, J. N. O'Reilly, A. P. M. Page, W. W. Payne, M. G. Philpott, J. D. Pickup, L. J. Prosser, R. J. Pugh, P. P. Rickham, E. G. G. Roberts, T. S. Rodgers, K. B. Rogers, J. Rubie, J. Sakula, B. E. Schlesinger, L. G. Scott, R. A. Shanks, W. Sheldon, Victoria Smallpeice, W. C. Smallwood, J. M. Smellie, J. Forest Smith, R. E. Smith, A. L. Speirs, J. M. Stansfield, T. Stapleton, R. E. Steen, D. G. H. Stone, W. P. Sweetnam, P. N. Swift, James Thomson, John Thomson, M. L. Thomson, R. McL. Todd, C. W. Vining, D. G. Vulliamy, W. Walker, D. H. Wallace, H. R. E. Wallis, C. Warren, A. G. Watkins, D. J. Waterston, S. D. V. Weller, I. G. Wickes, R. Wigglesworth, D. A. J. Williamson, B. D. R. Wilson, O. H. Wolff, T. Wright, Winifred Young, S. Yudkin, R. B. Zachary.

Professor J. Lind, Stockholm (Windermere Lecturer) and Mr. G. J. Piller were the guests of the Association.

The following were present as guests of members of the Association:

A. W. Abramson, E. Back (Jamaica), J. P. Bound, E. T. Bowen (U.S.A.), J. E. Bowman (U.S.A.), T. Bird, R. J. K. Brown, M. F. G. Buchanan, E. A. J. Byrne, I. J. Carré, R. A. Chenoweth (Australia), Vernon Collins (Australia), J. G. Dathan, D. Danks (Australia), W. Dickson, Margaret Egan, C. G. Fagg, C. V. Feldman, C. M. B. Field, H. J. W. Fisher, M. S. Fraser, J. G. H. Frew, E. Frisell (Sweden), H. McC. Giles, R. Godfrey (Australia), E. Goldblatt (South Africa), R. A. Goodell (U.S.A.), J. L. Greaves, Mary Hallowell, O. K. Harlem (Norway), L. A. Hawkins, G. Helderweirt (Belgium), G. Hesling, D. Hilson, C. Hooft (Belgium), K. S. Holt, T. T. S. Ingram, A. D. M. Jackson, R. H. Jackson, S. Keidan, K. R. Llewellyn, June Lloyd, J. Luder, S. J. R. Macoun, R. I. Mackay, Muriel McLean, B. McNicholl, M. Brenda Morris, P. D. Moss, J. S. Oldham, M. Pacht (Israel), K. R. Parker (U.S.A.), B. W. Powell, R. Prosser, J. P. Quinton, J. P. R. Rees, T. J. Rendle-Short, I. D. Riley, A. P. Roberts, T. R. Savage, T. Morton Stewart, Dorothy Taylor, D. C. Thursby-Pelham, J. J. Tillie, W. M. L. Turner, H. Vertruyen (Belgium), O. C. Ward, B. W. Webb, R. G. Welch, R. H. R. White, B. Wolman, R. J. Young.

The Annual General Meeting was held on May 5, 1960.

The Minutes of the last meeting, which had been published in the *Archives of Disease in Childhood* were received and, subject to a minor correction, approved.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS. The following were elected:

PRESIDENT: Professor A. V. Neale
PRESIDENT-ELECT: Professor A. A. Moncrieff
HONORARY TREASURER: Professor A. G. Watkins
HONORARY SECRETARY: Dr. E. W. Hart

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1960-63:

Dr. W. A. B. Campbell, Dr. W. Henderson, Dr. G. M. Komrower, Mr. R. B. Zachary.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS. The following were elected:

HONORARY MEMBER
Dr. C. T. Potter

ORDINARY MEMBERS

A. W. Abramson (Ayrshire), Enid I. M. Addenbrooke (North Gloucestershire), D. W. Beynon (Bournemouth), J. P. Bound (Blackpool), R. J. K. Brown (London), M. F. G. Buchanan (Leeds), J. H. Burkinshaw (London), E. A. J. Byrne (Lancaster), I. J. Carré (Belfast), H. M. T. Coles (London), D. G. Cottom (London), A. A. Cunningham (Kingston, Surrey), J. G. Dathan (Stoke-on-Trent), W. Dickson (Bolton), Margaret Egan (Manchester), C. G. Fagg (Luton), G. V. Feldman (Manchester), C. M. B. Field (Belfast), H. J. W. Fisher (Hereford), R. M. Forrester (Wigan), M. S. Fraser (Aberdeen), Muriel J. L. Frazer (Belfast), J. G. H. Frew (Birmingham), A. A. H. Gailey (Belfast), H. McC. Giles (Birmingham), J. L. Greaves (Tees-side), A. G. Hesling (Preston), D. Hilson (Ashton), E. Hinden (London), K. S. Holt (Sheffield), T. T. S. Ingram (Edinburgh), A. D. M. Jackson (London), R. H. Jackson (Newcastle-upon-Tyne), S. E. Keidan (Liverpool), K. R. Llewellyn (Clatterbridge), J. Luder (Watford), S. J. R. Macoun (Guildford), R. I. Mackay (Salford), B. McNicholl (Galway), Muriel M. McLean (Clwyd and Deeside), Zina E. Moncrieff (London), M. Brenda Morris (Barrow), P. D. Moss (Blackburn), F. W. Nash (Merthyr), J. S. Oldham (Birmingham), B. W. Powell (Peterborough), J. F. P. Quinton (Norwich), J. P. R. Rees (Dublin), T. J. Rendle-Short (Sheffield), I. D. Riley (Glasgow), A. P. Roberts (Dewsbury), T. R. Savage (Romford), D. C. Thursby-Pelham (Stoke-on-Trent), J. J. Tillie (Tees-side), W. M. L. Turner (Burnley), O. C. Ward (Dublin), B. W. Webb (Taunton), R. G. Welch (Hartlepool), B. Wolman (Bury), R. J. Young (Londonderry).

The Treasurer's report and statement of accounts for the year 1959-60 were received and adopted and the auditors were re-appointed for the coming year.

The report of the Executive Committee was received and is printed below.

The recommendation of the Executive Committee 'That the title of the Executive Committee should be changed to the Council of the British Paediatric Association' was approved.

The recommendation of the Executive Committee that Rule 2 should be altered to 'It shall consist of Ordinary Members, Honorary Members and Corresponding Members. Ordinary Members shall be actively engaged in the practice or teaching of paediatrics or in paediatric research. In addition individuals who have contributed to the advancement of paediatrics in the allied specialties may be nominated for Ordinary Membership, but election

of these shall be on a restricted basis and maintain a balance between the specialties', was approved.

The President reported that Messrs. Cow and Gate had donated £200 as a grant in aid to assist members in travel on the Association's business or other travel approved by the Association. The President also reported the generous offer by Messrs. H. J. Heinz Company Ltd. of £2,500 per annum for seven years in the first instance to endow Commonwealth travelling fellowships. These offers were accepted with acclaim.

Professor A. V. Neale, on behalf of the Association, thanked the President for the part which he had played in these negotiations.

Report of the Executive Committee
1959-60

OBITUARY. The Association has suffered the loss of one honorary member, Sir Robert Hutchison, an original member and former President, and also the loss of two corresponding members, Professor Bronson Crothers and Dr. J. L. Gamble.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The membership of the Executive Committee during the year 1959-60 has been: Dr. J. Apley, Dr. I. A. B. Cathie, Dr. P. R. Evans, Dr. J. Forest Smith, Miss I. Forshall, Dr. A. White Franklin, Dr. E. W. Hart, Professor D. V. Hubble, Dr. F. F. Kane, Dr. R. C. Lightwood, Dr. P. MacArthur, Dr. M. MacGregor, Professor A. V. Neale, Dr. L. G. Scott, Dr. Victoria Smallpeice, Dr. J. P. M. Tizard, Professor A. G. Watkins.

The following are invited to attend as observers: Sir Wilfrid Sheldon (Advisor in Child Health to the Ministry of Health); Dr. C. Asher (Ministry of Education); Dr. J. C. R. Buchanan (Colonial Office); Dr. D. Taylor (Ministry of Health).

The Committee met in November, 1959 and February, 1960 and will meet again on May 4th, 1960. In addition to receiving reports from sub-committees (see below) the following matters were among the more important to be considered:

The Executive noted with great pleasure the distinctions conferred on Sir Wilfrid Sheldon, K.C.V.O., and Dr. Dorothy Taylor, C.B.E.

1. MEDICAL CARE OF ADOLESCENTS. (D. V. Hubble, R. R. Gordon, R. C. Mac Keith, Victoria Smallpeice and R. E. Smith.) The report of this sub-committee was published in *The Lancet*.

2. CHILDREN IN ADULT WARDS. Representation was made to the Faculty of Ophthalmologists concerning the nursing of children in adult ophthalmic wards. This was considered by the Council of the Faculty and a favourable reply was received, stating

that the views of the Platt Committee had been noted and accepted.

3. **APPOINTMENT OF PHYSICIANS TO PRACTISE PAEDIATRICS.** A survey of the number of general physicians having care of children's wards was carried out. The number was not large. In one recent example when such an advertisement was published, the Association had investigated through one of the members and had been satisfied that this was the only practical solution in this case.

4. **ADMISSION OF SPECIALISTS TO MEMBERSHIP OF THE ASSOCIATION.** The Executive Committee had considered the election of specialists to ordinary membership. A proposal to alter Rule 2 of The Association is to be submitted at the Annual Meeting to try and establish the criteria on which such elections should be made.

5. **HOME CARE SCHEMES.** A request was received from the Central Consultants and Specialists Committee seeking the views of the Association on the value of Home Care Schemes for the treatment of sick children. The Association stated that it was in favour of such schemes in general. The Executive Committee felt that it was necessary to clarify their policy with regard to such schemes. A sub-committee was set up (M. MacGregor, J. Apley, F. S. W. Brimblecombe, D. Gairdner and L. G. Scott) and has submitted two interim reports to the Executive Committee and is at present reframing this report in the light of comments which have been made.

6. **CONSULTANT PAEDIATRICIAN APPOINTMENTS.**

7. **THE PROBLEMS OF THE REGIONAL PAEDIATRICIAN.**

8. **THE JOINT WORKING PARTY ON THE STAFFING STRUCTURE IN THE HOSPITAL SERVICE.**

Three closely allied problems have arisen during the past year. Last year the report of the Executive Committee indicated a keen interest in the future appointments of paediatricians and the need to train individuals for these appointments. The discussion at the Annual meeting, 1959, on 'The Problems of the Regional Paediatrician' raised further points. The Joint Working Party on the Medical Staffing structure in the Hospital Service invited the Association to submit a memorandum on the paediatric services. The President set up an ad hoc Committee (R. C. Lightwood, P. R. Evans, E. W. Hart, D. V. Hubble, M. MacGregor, L. G. Scott and A. G. Watkins) which prepared a memorandum. This was submitted to the Joint Working Party which later requested oral evidence on April 6. The Association was represented by E. W. Hart, P. MacArthur, M. MacGregor and A. G. Watkins.

The Executive Committee considered these three topics at the November meeting and initiated a survey of all paediatricians to obtain information about the present structure of the paediatric services.

The questionnaire was sent to 242 individuals having paediatric sessions and was completed by 221. The replies are still under analysis and have given a picture of the paediatric staffing of the country and have emphasized the position of the paediatrician in relation to the care of the newborn infant, the local Health Authority clinics and infectious diseases units, and have given facts concerning the difficulties in obtaining junior staff, cover for paediatricians on leave and prospects for senior registrars.

A preliminary report will be given at the Annual Meeting at Scarborough.

9. **COMMONWEALTH TRAVEL FELLOWSHIPS.** As reported last year, negotiations have been undertaken to raise money to assist Commonwealth paediatricians to visit this country each year, either at a time which would permit attendance at the Annual Meeting or for periods of post-graduate study. Negotiations have reached a hopeful stage, and it is hoped that a further report will soon be available.

10. **COW AND GATE GRANT IN AID.** Messrs. Cow and Gate have generously donated the sum of £200 for one year in the first instance. This money is to be used to assist members in meeting the expenses of duties approved by the Association.

11. **VISIT TO SWEDEN, 1960.** At the February meeting the Executive Committee conducted a ballot to select the names of the party to visit Sweden in September, 1960 at the invitation of the Swedish Paediatric Association.

12. **LIAISON WITH THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.** In response to representation from the Association a letter was received from the Secretary of the B.M.A. stating that the Council of the B.M.A. would bear in mind the P.B.A.'s request for consultation on paediatric problems which the B.M.A. may consider in the future, but that it could not commit itself always to do so.

13. **CASUALTY SERVICES AND UNITS.** The Executive Committee wrote to the President of the Royal College of Surgeons requesting that full consideration should be given to the proper care of infants and young children when the Royal College of Surgeons met to consider the future planning of Casualty Services and Units. This problem remains under further review.

14. **ANNUAL MEETING, 1961.** The joint meeting with the Canadian Paediatric Society

is planned for the last week in June, 1961 in Cambridge.

15. INTERNATIONAL PAEDIATRIC ASSOCIATION. A request was received from the International Paediatric Association to send a representative to Zurich to discuss 'Some selective measures which will increase definitely the standard of Paediatric education'. This was declined as it was considered that the W.H.O. inquiry had not been fruitful owing to its inherent difficulty and the unsatisfactory nature of the questionnaire.

16. OTHER TOPICS. Other topics which have been discussed are: Paediatric Education in Europe; The Fountain Hospital; The International Paediatric Association; a proposed Institute of Child Care, and arrangements for the annual meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEES

CHILD PSYCHOLOGY: J. Apley, D. MacCarthy, Mildred Creak, R. M. Mayon-White, D. V. Hubble, A. A. Moncrieff, R. C. Mac Keith, C. T. Potter.

The sub-committee has reported to the Executive Committee at each meeting. The Standing Committee is discussing liaison with the Mental Deficiency Section of the Royal Medico-Psychological Society. The Standing Committee has recommended a change in its title to 'Standing Committee on Mental Health' and this has been approved.

NURSING: Mildred Creak, R. S. Illingworth, Sir Wilfrid Sheldon, D. J. Waterston, A. G. Watkins.

The Committee has had discussions with the Association of British Paediatric Nurses and has furnished an interim report. Further discussions are to be held.

TROPICAL PAEDIATRICS: R. W. B. Ellis, R. Lightwood, A. A. Moncrieff, M. MacGregor, A. G. Watkins, Cicily Williams.

No report.

JOINT COMMITTEE WITH R.C.O.G.: P. R. Evans, J. H. Hutchison, R. Lightwood, F. J. W. Miller, A. A. Moncrieff.

Has not met since formation in 1958.

JAMES SPENCE MEDAL: P. R. Evans, C. G. Parsons, R. A. McCance, F. J. W. Miller, The Secretary (ex officio).

The Committee has met and has prepared a report.

REPRESENTATIVES:

National Association for mental health:
J. Apley

U.K. Committee for Poliomyelitis: E. W. Hart.

Maternity and Midwifery Committee of the Ministry of Health: J. Forest Smith.

Joint Tuberculosis Council: W. F. Gaisford.
Standing Maternity Hospital Report Committee of R.C.O.G.: A. A. Moncrieff.

Medical Advisory Committee of Nursery School Association: L. G. Scott.

Leonard Parsons Memorial Committee: S. Graham.

National Association for Maternity and Child Welfare: A. White Franklin.

Editorial Committee, *Archives of Disease in Childhood*: see list in *Archives*.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

ACCIDENTS IN CHILDHOOD. An ad hoc sub-committee (J. O. Craig, V. Smallpeice, and S. Yudkin) was set up to consider the extent to which the Association should participate in consideration of this problem. After receiving the report of the sub-committee at the February meeting, it was decided to set up a standing Sub-Committee on Accidents in Childhood to keep the problem under constant review. The Sub-Committee includes J. O. Craig, Isabella Forshall, R. C. Mac Keith, Victoria Smallpeice, R. B. Zachary and S. Yudkin.

MEDICAL SERVICES REVIEW COMMITTEE (PORRITT COMMITTEE). The Porritt Committee requested the following memoranda which were submitted:

(a) Psychiatric Services; (b) Welfare of Children in Hospital; (c) The Medical Care of the Adolescent; (d) Report on Hospital Accommodation. An invitation was received from the Sub-Committee on Maternity and Child Health Services of the Medical Services Review Committee, to nominate a paediatrician to join the Sub-Committee. Professor W. S. Craig was invited to serve as our representative.

COMPOSITION OF MILK (COOK COMMITTEE): W. A. B. Campbell, I. A. B. Cathie, E. W. Hart, J. Thompson. Oral evidence was given by I. A. B. Cathie.

ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION: W. S. Graig, E. W. Hart, A. P. Norman, C. O. Carter (co-opted). The Home Office Departmental Committee on Artificial Insemination (Feversham Committee) asked the Association to give oral evidence. W. S. Craig and E. W. Hart represented the Association.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITALS: R. H. Dobbs, F. F. Kane, M. MacGregor and Dorothy Taylor. A questionnaire has been circulated and is under analysis.

SURVEYS

HYPERCALCAEMIA AND RICKETS. The survey continues and has been extended in scope to include cases of rickets up to the age of 5 years.

RIBOFLAVIN DEFICIENCY: No cases were reported.

NEED FOR A PAEDIATRIC ABSTRACTING SERVICE: This survey was undertaken at the request of the Editorial Committee of the *Archives of Disease in Childhood*, and the following replies were received:

(a) Do you use an abstracting service today?	Yes 86	No 36
(b) Do you feel the need of a paediatric abstracting service?	Yes 52	No 70

NOTICES

Tenth International Congress of Paediatrics.

The Congress will be held in Lisbon from September 9-15, 1962.

The President will be Professor C. Salazar de Souza, and the address of the Secretariat of the Congress is:

Clinica Paediatrica Universitaria,
Hospital de Santa Maria,
Avenida 28 de Maio,
Lisbon 4.

Registration Active members 1000 Escudos.
fees: Associate members 600 Escudos.
Registration period, August 1, 1961 to January 31, 1962.

If any members wish to take their families by caravan or to camp, they should write to:

Clube de Campismo de Lisboa,
Rua de Misericordia, 137-20,
Lisbos,
Portugal.

where they will obtain all the necessary information.

SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

J. O. CRAIG (Glasgow). 'Body Build in Childhood.' The measurement, tabulation and phenotyping of 3,900 Glasgow children by Parnell's method were described. 'Hermaphrodite' tables were used, so development of one sex could only be considered relative to the other. Boys are more muscular and less fat even at 5 years, the youngest group studied. Girls seem to show a boyish growth trend around 9 years. Children from good homes are more fat, more linear and less muscular than children from poor homes at all ages studied. The consistency of the findings suggests the method is valid in childhood, and can supply a somatic background to development and disease.

JAMES CROOKS (London). 'Posterior Choanal Atresia'. Bilateral posterior choanal atresia may be the cause of death in the newly born. Such a baby has so strong an

instinct to nose breathe that he fails to learn the trick of mouth breathing and may suffocate to death within a day or two of birth. In the past probably such babies frequently died without the cause being recognized. This is less likely nowadays and recently on two occasions life has been saved by surgically removing the obstructing bone and membrane as an emergency measure within a day or two of birth. This, not tracheostomy or intubation, is the correct procedure.

J. APLEY (Bristol). 'Primary myocardial disease in infancy: clinical aspects.' In 24 infants (with autopsy in 20 fatal cases) the diagnoses were as follows: Glycogen storage disease of heart, one; aberrant left coronary artery, four; myocarditis, five; Endocardial fibro-elastosis, 14.

Primary myocardial disease is not a pathological entity, but a clinical group of disorders with some features in common. These are summarized and illustrated and differential diagnosis within the group is discussed. The importance of diagnosis is stressed, because in some types of primary myocardial disease treatment may be life-saving. Some possible approaches to research on diagnostic methods and on aetiology are suggested.

T. J. RENDLE-SHORT (Sheffield). 'A development test based on the time taken to establish a conditioned reflex.' To be published in full.

IAN M. ANDERSON (London). 'Total Pulmonary Anomalous Venous Drainage.' The various types of total pulmonary anomalous venous drainage were described and 10 cases of this condition were recorded. The clinical features of the condition were discussed and also the various ancillary methods of diagnosis such as electrocardiography, radiology, angiocardiology and cardiac catheterization. The feasibility and importance of early recognition was emphasized with particular reference to the possibility of surgical correction with the aid of modern methods of open heart surgery.

R. H. R. WHITE (London). 'A comparative study of serum transaminase levels and liver biopsies.' Serum transaminase levels were estimated on capillary blood, by King's (1958) method, in 38 children from whom liver biopsies were obtained by either needle or surgical technique. The normal range is 10-110 μ . moles pyruvate/100 ml. serum/hour. Normal levels were found in polycystic disease and storage disorders, and normal or moderately elevated levels in cirrhosis. In five out of nine infants with giant-cell hepatitis SGOT levels were higher than 320 and SGPT levels higher than 500 μ . moles, while in all nine cases the GOT/GPT ratios were < 1.0. In biliary atresia less elevated levels were found and the GOT/GPT ratios were > 1.0 in five out of seven cases. While thus affording some guidance in obstructive jaundice, transaminase levels are not always sufficiently diagnostic to replace liver biopsy.

MARY HALLOWELL (Birmingham). 'Duodeno-jejunal biopsies in steatorrhoea.' The results of 40 duodeno-jejunal biopsies in children were reported. Twenty-nine of these children suffered from coeliac disease already established by other criteria and in all except one the

characteristic coeliac appearance of the small intestine mucosa was demonstrated. Eleven other children had a normal mucosa. Six of them did not have steatorrhoea at the time of biopsy, but the remaining five children had steatorrhoea. Of these five children one was a case of bile-salt deficiency, the second had no beta-lipoprotein in her serum and in the other three no cause was found for the steatorrhoea.

R. B. ZACHARY (Sheffield). 'Surgical aspects of a Controlled Series of Untreated Cases of Hydrocephalus, and those Treated with a Spitz-Holter Valve.' This paper reviews the failures in the treated group in order to assess which failures were attributable to remediable technical errors and which were a risk inherent in the method. The chief complication was thrombosis of the jugular vein beyond the lower end of the jugular catheter. This may be due to the insertion of too short a length of tubing into the jugular vein, or to the gradual elevation of the lower tip of the catheter due to growth of the child. The change of length in the superior vena cava, the innominate vein and the jugular vein with growth during the first few years of life is important, and must be allowed for either at the original operation or by a revision before thrombosis occurs.

A. P. NORMAN (London). 'Perceptive Deafness and Hyperbilirubinaemia.' Between the dates of May, 1953 and February, 1956, at Queen Charlotte's Maternity Hospital, 63 infants were born, in whom the total bile pigments reached a level of 20 mg./100 ml. Three of these cases have died and 14 could not be traced or failed to cooperate. Three more have not yet been investigated. In five cases audiometry was not carried out but normal hearing has been confirmed by other means. In 38 cases, audiometry was carried out: of these, three showed some hearing loss not perceptive and not associated with hyperbilirubinaemia. Five children showed perceptive high tone deafness: three of these were known to have cerebral palsy resulting from kernikterus due to rhesus incompatibility. Two were not previously known to be deaf: of these one had been affected by A.O. blood group incompatibility and the other was a premature baby with no known blood incompatibility. The maximum bilirubin concentration reached in these cases ranged from 34 mg./100 ml. in one case, to 20 mg./100 ml. in the case of the premature baby who showed no evidence of immunization. The findings of perceptive hearing loss

in these cases suggests that the maximum bilirubin concentration should be kept somewhat lower than is sometimes advocated. These findings also suggest that perceptive deafness may complicate hyperbilirubinaemia without overt signs of kernikterus more often than is realized.

JUNE LLOYD (Birmingham). 'Observations on Primary Hyperlipaemia.' In a patient with primary hypercholesterolaemia treatment with a diet rich in unsaturated fat was successful in lowering serum lipids and improving the clinical condition. In contrast, two patients with idiopathic (neutral fat) hyperlipaemia showed clinical and biochemical improvement on a low-fat diet, whereas an unsaturated-fat diet was ineffective. Levels of alpha-lipoprotein were found to be low in idiopathic hyperlipaemia and the significance of this finding in relation to aetiology was discussed.

M. S. FRASER (Aberdeen). 'The Measurement of Children's Motor Ability.' Motor performance tests yielding numerical results, make possible the objective assessment of bodily abilities and should find various uses in paediatric research. This 'neurometric' approach is illustrated by methods employed in a follow-up study (*J. Obstet. Gynaec. Brit. Emp.*, 1959, **66**, 748) of 150 children who were asphyxiated at birth and of their rigorously matched controls. At 7-13 years of age, no convincing reduction of manual dexterity was observed, although speed, strength and precision were separately measured. Subclinical impairment of locomotor co-ordination was detected by Heath's rail-walking test.

WINDERMERE LECTURE. Professor J. Lind (Stockholm) delivered the Windermere Lecture entitled 'Aspects of the functional adaptation to extra-uterine life of newborn infants'.

On the evening of May 4, 1960, the Honorary Secretary reported the results of the preliminary analysis of the replies which had been given to the questionnaire on the paediatric staffing structure in the hospital service. This was followed by a brief discussion.

K. R. Llewellyn won the Ulster Cup golf competition.