BRITISH PAEDIATRIC ASSOCIATION

Proceedings of the Thirty-third Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the British Paediatric Association was held in Scarborough from April 25 to 28, 1962. The following members of the Association were present:


The following were present as guests of the Association: Professor D. B. Jelliffe and Mr. G. J. Piller.

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


The three Heinz Fellows for 1962 were also present: Dr. R. G. Hendrickse, Dr. K. A. Krishnamurthy and Dr. Tan Kwang Hoh.

The Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday, April 26, 1962, with the President, Professor Alan Moncrieff, in the Chair. The Minutes of the last meeting, which had been published in the Archives of Disease in Childhood, were received and approved.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS. The following were elected:

President: Dr. C. F. Harris
President-Elect: Sir Wilfrid Sheldon
Honorary Treasurer: Professor A. G. Watkins
Honorary Secretary: Dr. E. W. Hart

Members of Council, 1962-65:

Dr. Beryl Corner
Dr. J. W. Farquhar
Dr. A. P. Norman
Dr. S. Yudkin

Honorary Members:

Dr. G. Godber, Dr. Agnes MacGregor, Professor A. A. Moncrieff.
ORDINARY MEMBERS

E. Margaret Belton (Weybridge), Sarah Campbell (Belfast), A. E. Claireaux (London), E. N. Coleman (Glasgow), H. Coll (Merthyr), W. Davies (Pontypridd), J. A. Davis (London), W. M. Dennison (Glasgow), J. H. Diggle (Boston), Constance C. Forsyth (Dundee), L. Haas (Torquay), Eileen E. Hill (Birmingham), K. Hugh-Jones (St. Albans), M. C. Joseph (London), M. J. Simpkins (Bournemouth), J. M. Tanner (London), G. H. Watson (Manchester), A. W. Wilkinson (London).

The Treasurer’s report and statement of accounts for 1961-62 were received and approved, and the auditors were reappointed for the following year.

The Report of the Council was received and approved and is printed below:


OBITUARY. The Association has suffered the loss of an Honorary Member, Dr. T. G. Moorhead; a Corresponding Member, Dr. Irvine McQuarrie; and an Ordinary Member, Dr. J. J. Kempton.

DISTINCTIONS. The Council has noted with great pleasure the distinctions conferred on Sir John Buchanan, Observer, the Colonial Office; and on Sir Lorimer Dods, a Corresponding Member.

The congratulations of the Association were sent to Professor H. L. Wallace on his appointment to the Chair of Paediatrics in the University of Natal, and to Professor Charles McNeil on his eightieth birthday.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

The membership of the Council during 1961-1962 has been: Professor A. A. Moncrieff, Dr. F. S. W. Brimblecombe, Dr. W. A. B. Campbell, Dr. P. R. Evans, Dr. A. White Franklin, Dr. C. F. Harris, Dr. E. W. Hart, Dr. W. Henderson, Dr. G. M. Komrower, Dr. R. R. Mayon-White, Professor A. V. Neale, Dr. G. A. Neligan, Dr. R. A. Shanks, Dr. V. Smallpeice, Dr. J. P. M. Tizard, Professor A. G. Watkins, Mr. R. B. Zachary.

The following are invited to attend as Observers: Dr. Cécile Asher (Ministry of Education); Sir John Buchanan (Colonial Office); Sir Wilfrid Sheldon (Adviser in Child Health to the Ministry of Health); Dr. Dorothy Taylor (Ministry of Health).

1. MEETINGS. Since the last report, the Council have met on June 27 and November 25, 1961, and on February 17, 1962. Council will next meet on April 25 at Scarborough.

In addition to receiving reports from ad hoc subcommittees, the following matters were considered:

2. COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL STAFFING STRUCTURE IN THE HOSPITAL SERVICE (PLATT). The Council has given further thought to the problems of prospects for registrars and Senior Registrars in paediatrics and to the number of vacancies for consultants’ posts likely to arise within the next few years. Since the Association gave evidence to the Platt Committee, a further report has been prepared by the Sub-committee setting out the known facts and their recommendations. This has been circulated to all members.

3. THE REVIEW COMMITTEE ON THE MEDICAL STAFFING STRUCTURE IN SCOTTISH HOSPITALS (WRIGHT COMMITTEE). The Royal Commission’s proposals for the reorganization of Greater London, in so far as they affect the Child Health Services, have been considered by an ad hoc sub-committee (A. A. Moncrieff, R. E. Bonham Carter, D. G. Cottam, E. W. Hart, M. McGregor and S. Yudkin). A report has been drafted and circulated to all paediatricians in the Greater London area. It is proposed that the final report shall be submitted to the planning authority when this has been established.

6. HYPERCALCAEMIA SURVEY. Council decided that the survey should be continued for the year ending June 1961. This will complete the second 3-month period of the survey and yield figures for comparison. It was decided that cases of rickets and scurvy should be included in this year of the survey.

7. RICKETS, SCURVY AND LEAD POISONING. It has been decided that the reports of an increasing incidence in these diseases should be investigated by a survey conducted by the Association. An ad hoc sub-committee was set up to consider the problem of lead poisoning and to prepare a questionnaire by which this information may be obtained (J. O. Craig, A. A. Moncrieff, D. Taylor and S. Yudkin).

8. INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITALS SUB-COMMITTEE. Following the survey of the work undertaken by paediatricians in infectious diseases hospitals, the ad hoc sub-committee met representatives of the Infectious Diseases Group of the Society of Medical Officers of Health. The memorandum which was agreed between the Representatives of the two Associations at this Meeting and the analysis of the results of the survey have been circulated to members for their information. This document, however, remains confidential to the members of the Association for the present.

9. INTERNATIONAL PAEDIATRIC ASSOCIATION. Bulletins Nos. 1 and No. 2 of the I.P.A. have been circulated to members. The attention of members is drawn to the proposed revision of the Constitution of the International Paediatric Association as set out on p. 9 of Bulletin No. 2. This will be discussed at the Xth International Paediatric Congress in Lisbon in September 1962. A. G. Watkins served on the ad hoc committee which met to draft the proposed new constitution and has been nominated to represent the Association as National Delegate to the Committee of National Delegates at Lisbon.

10. HEINZ FELLOWSHIPS OF THE BRITISH PAEDIATRIC ASSOCIATION. Dr. K. H. Tan of Singapore and Dr.
R. G. Hendrickse of Ibadan have been awarded Fellowships 'A' for 1962. Dr. K. A. Krishnamurthy of Coimbatore, S. India, has been awarded Fellowship 'B'. All three Fellows will be present at the Annual Meeting in Scarborough.

Fellowship 'C'. The conditions governing the award of Fellowship 'C' have been redrafted and are set out below for the information of British paediatricians.

'To support a Paediatric Registrar, Senior Paediatric Registrar or Consultant Paediatrician in the carrying-out of some short-term study or a special research project (clinical, laboratory or Public Health, etc.), the practical facilities for the study or research being favourable in a particular overseas centre and not available in that part of the United Kingdom where the candidate is normally employed.'

The Heinz Fellowships are advertised annually in the early summer in the British Medical Journal and Lancet when full particulars are given. The awards are decided in September.

11. ANNUAL MEETING, 1963. The Annual Meeting in 1963 will be held at the Royal Hotel, Scarborough, from April 24 to 27. An invitation has been extended to 20 members of the Finnish Paediatric Association to attend the meeting as official guests of the B.P.A. and has been accepted.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Mental Health: Dr. J. Apley, Dr. Mildred Creak, Professor D. V. Hubble, Dr. C. T. Potter, Dr. D. MacCarthy, Dr. R. Mac Keith, Dr. R. M. Mayon-White, Dr. J. P. M. Tizard.

The Mental Health Committee held a one-day meeting at the Royal Society of Medicine on July 1, 1961, jointly with the Royal Medico-Psychological Association. Members of the Canadian Paediatric Society who had attended the joint Annual Meeting were eligible to attend. No further report.

Nursing Committee (jointly with Association of British Paediatric Nurses): Dr. E. W. Hart, Professor J. D. Hay, Professor R. S. Illingworth, Dr. P. MacArthur, Sir Wilfrid Sheldon, Professor A. G. Watkins.

Representatives of the Nursing Committee (E. W. Hart, W. H. P. Sheldon, A. G. Watkins), together with representatives of the British Association of Paediatric Nurses, were invited to meet the Education Committee of the General Nursing Council to discuss the training of paediatric nurses. Discussion showed that the intention of the General Nursing Council is ultimately for a basic training for the S.R.N. Certificate with paediatric nursing as a post-registration certificate. During the interim period, the R.S.C.N. training will continue at selected hospitals, with an 'integrated' scheme of training for S.R.N. and R.S.C.N. and a 'post-registration' training scheme being given experimental trial. Strong representation was made for the continuation of R.S.C.N. training and the maintenance of the register.

A survey of the present staffing situation in children's hospitals and the children's wards in general hospitals has been undertaken. The response from members has been good, and the replies are being analysed.

Standing Joint Committee with Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists: Dr. P. R. Evans, Professor J. H. Hutchison, Dr. R. Lightwood, Dr. F. J. W. Miller, Professor A. A. Moncrieff.

The Committee has not met during the year.

James Spence Medal Committee: Dr. F. J. W. Miller, Dr. P. R. Evans, Professor R. W. B. Ellis, Professor A. G. Watkins, the Honorary Secretary (ex officio).

The Committee does not recommend the award of a medal for 1962.

Tropical Paediatrics: Professor R. W. B. Ellis, Dr. R. C. Lightwood, Dr. M. MacGregor, Professor A. A. Moncrieff, Professor A. G. Watkins, Dr. Cecil Williams.

As there has been no business brought before this Committee during the past two years, the Council has decided that the Committee should be abolished.

Accidents in Childhood: Dr. J. O. Craig, Miss Isabella Forshall, Dr. R. C. Mac Keith, Dr. Victoria Smallpeice, Dr. S. Yudkin, Mr. R. B. Zachary.

The Committee has conducted a survey to ascertain the views of members of the Association on the desirability of establishing a central poisons reference centre. Replies were received from 124 members: 113 in favour, eight against, and three uncertain. The Committee has continued its efforts to achieve this.

Standing Committee on Paediatric Nomenclature. Council has decided to establish a standing committee on Paediatric Nomenclature to correlate the various coding systems in use in different hospitals and to standardize the nomenclature of paediatric diseases. Dr. G. C. Arneil, Dr. Beryl Corner, Dr. O. P. Gray, Dr. R. M. Mayon-White (Convener), Dr. G. H. News and Dr. J. P. M. Tizard have accepted an invitation to serve on the Committee.

B.P.A. Representatives on Other Committees:

Joint Tuberculosis Council: Professor W. F. Gaisford.

Leonard Parsons Memorial Committee: Professor S. Graham.

United Kingdom Committee for Poliomyelitis: Dr. J. P. M. Tizard.

National Association for Mental Health: Dr. J. Apley.

Standing Maternity and Midwifery Advisory Committee of Ministry of Health: Dr. J. Forest Smith.

Standing Maternity Hospital Report Committee of R.C.O.G.: Professor A. A. Moncrieff.

Nursery Schools Association Medical Advisory Committee: Dr. L. G. Scott.

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

British Committee for the Scientific Study of Mental Deficiency: Dr. J. P. M. Tizard.

MEMBERSHIP

The Agenda of the Annual General Meeting includes a recommendation of the Council proposing changes in the Rules of the Association which concern Membership.
To help members to appreciate the reasons for these proposals a Table is given below to show the enormous growth in membership of the Association which has taken place during the past 10 years. This enormous expansion in the size of the Association has created great problems in secretarial administration and in arranging the Annual Meetings which grow larger each year.

The continuing annual increase in the number of paediatric physicians makes it necessary that the membership from other specialties and overseas countries must become very selective. The figures given below speak for themselves.

The alteration to Rule 16 is proposed so that members of the Association who take Overseas appointments for a limited tenure of years will be enabled to retain the privileges of membership, pending their return to this country.

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Analysis of Honorary and Ordinary Members by Specialities, 1962-63:

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Alteration of Rules

The following alterations in the Rules of the Association were approved:

Rule 2: To be altered to read—"It shall consist of Ordinary Members, Honorary Members, and those Corresponding Members appointed before 1962. 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. Election to Honorary Membership shall be restricted to Ordinary Members on retirement, or to individuals in the United Kingdom or overseas, who have contributed to the advancement of paediatrics or whom the Association wishes to honour.'

Rule 11: Delete—"Distinguished paediatricians who are resident outside the United Kingdom or Eire may be elected "Corresponding Members" on the nomination of the Council.'

Rule 16: 'An Ordinary Member who is absent from three consecutive General Meetings shall cease, ipso facto, to be a member of the Association. This rule shall not apply to Ordinary Members while holding appointments overseas.'

Scientific Sessions

Scientific sessions were held in the Royal Hotel, Scarborough, on April 26 and 27, and the following communications were presented:

Neville Butler (Swindon). 'Perinatal Effects of Deficient Intrauterine Growth.' One in three of all births weighing 2,500 g. or less are more than two standard deviations below the average birth weight for gestation of all deliveries. These small foetuses are often born at or near term and usually after a maternal history of severe pre-eclampsia, recurrent abortions, or previous pregnancies which were 'small for dates'. A recent National Survey showed these infants to be at a greatly increased and distinctive perinatal risk compared with babies not showing evidence of intrauterine growth deficit. 'Small for dates' foetuses made up 25% of foetal deaths which showed at post-mortem intrapartum asphyxia. This incidence was 10 times higher than in all births. 'Small for dates' infants also showed a different time and pattern of neonatal death from the truly premature infants. Haemoptysis and neuromuscular disturbances were commoner than respiratory distress. Many show massive alveolar haemorrhage at autopsy, indistinguishable from neonatal cold injury and in keeping with a clinical tendency to hypothermia.

J. O. Forfar (Edinburgh). 'An Eight-year Experience of Antibiotics in Neonatal Staphylococcal Infection.' Among 22,767 live-born infants delivered over an eight-year period all staphylococcal infections were carefully recorded. Certain antibiotics, particularly erythromycin and chloramphenicol, were used freely in treatment. This did not reduce the incidence of infection or colonization of infants but did reduce staphylococcal mortality in a large group of infants compared with a control group. The frequent use of the hitherto unused antibiotic erythromycin resulted, after a period of five years, in the explosive development of erythromycin resistance. Discontinuing this antibiotic erythromycin resistance progressively fell. The use of chloramphenicol did not significantly increase chloramphenicol resistance.

W. W. Payne and P. T. Acharya (London). 'Biochemical Changes in the First 48 Hours of Life.' Serial blood tests taken during the first 48 hours of life have indicated the normal behaviour of sodium, potassium, chloride, calcium, magnesium, sugar, urea, inorganic phosphorus, lactic acid, total plasma protein, and packed cell volume. If the circumstances of birth are not normal the pattern of behaviour is often altered, e.g. sodium and sugar are lowered; potassium, urea, phos-
phate, lactic acid and P.C.V. are raised. These changes may occur in apparently normal babies. In fatal cases these changes are more marked.

In discussing the cause some evidence for a transient lack of corticosteroids at birth is presented. In the fatal cases the blood changes are similar to those found in shock.

P. D. Moss (Blackburn). ‘High Pressure Oxygen in the Treatment of Neonatal Anoxia.’ Twenty infants have been treated in a transparent pressure chamber operating at up to 45 lb./in. Conventional methods of treatment having failed, it is considered possible that oxygenation may be achieved using high pressure even if the available respiratory area is limited. Apparent success is reported in two cases of neonatal asphyxia and in three cases treated later but within three days of birth—including one probable case of hyaline membrane. Four of these cases were in the last 10 treated. The problems of retrolental fibroplasia and oxygen poisoning are discussed.

R. W. Smithells (Liverpool). ‘Glutarimides and Malformations.’ Using material from the Liverpool Congenital Abnormalities Registry, a study has been made of 30 cases of ectromelia, seven cases of microtia and 22 cases of lesser limb deficiencies, together with 40 healthy controls, in relation to thalidomide, other drugs and virus infections in the first trimester of pregnancy. The previously reported association between thalidomide and ectromelia and microtia is confirmed, but this drug appears to have been responsible for less than half the cases. Possible explanations and alternative mechanisms were discussed. It is estimated that thalidomide will have been responsible for at least 800 malformations in England and Wales.

John Lorber (Sheffield). ‘Prednisolone “Resistant” Nephrotic Syndrome in Children.’ It is usually possible to produce a complete clinical and biochemical remission in the treatment of the nephrotic syndrome by steroids. Prednisolone in adequate dosage is the most commonly used drug giving satisfactory results. In some instances, however, during second or later attacks, prednisolone was found to have lost all its efficacy. In these cases a change over to triamcinolone or dexamethasone produced immediate remission, as good as was the initial response to prednisolone.

The reasons for this observation were investigated by experimental methods, estimating the urinary excretion of prednisolone and triamcinolone as well as their breakdown products and tentative explanations are available. The clinical progress of several patients will be described.

M. Boust (Liverpool) introduced by Professor J. Hay. (Co-authors—R. S. Jones and Jean Wharton.) ‘Some Effects of Physical Exercise, Breathing Exercises and Broncho-dilator Drugs on Ventilatory Function in the Child with Asthma.’ Physical exercise has important effects on ventilatory function in the child with asthma. A variable response has been reported in the literature, but our investigations show that there are two distinct patterns of response depending upon the level and duration of exercise. Exercise of short duration (less than two minutes) increases ventilatory efficiency as measured by the forced expiratory volume test (FEV 1 sec.), whereas more prolonged exercise (eight to 12 min.) decreases ventilatory efficiency. Breathing exercises have a less definite effect on ventilatory function. The effect of bronchodilator drugs on these responses to exercise has been examined and certain criteria for the use of such drugs have been defined.

Richard Harris (Bristol) introduced by Professor A. V. Neale. ‘Cough in Asthmatic Children.’

Pamela A. Davies (Oxford), introduced by Dr. V. Smallpiece. ‘Congenital Pneumonia.’ Cases of congenital pneumonia dying over a 15-year period have been collected. The maternal histories have been carefully analysed for features which could be helpful in diagnosis. The clinical features of those dying in the past four years and personally observed are described. The use of ancillary aids to diagnosis is discussed. The relevant literature is briefly reviewed.

John C. MacLaurin, introduced by Professor J. H. Hutchison (Glasgow). ‘Glycogen Storage Disease of Skeletal Muscle Due to a Hitherto Undescribed Enzymatic Defect.’ Unusual clinical features in a 4-year-old boy were described, somewhat resembling pseudo-hypertrophic muscular dystrophy. The most striking of these was inability to walk other than on tiptoe. The abnormal facies was illustrated by means of a short film. The histological appearances of muscle biopsies shown on slides, revealed successive stages of the same pathological process, with deposition of excessive amounts of glycogen in each.

Further slides gave the results of in vivo and in vitro studies of muscle metabolism. These were briefly discussed, and the conclusion drawn that a severe deficiency of muscle phosphoglucomutase was the cause of the disorder. This enzyme defect has not previously been described.

Bernard Schlesinger (London). ‘Typus Degenerativus Amstelodensis.’ A rare syndrome so far not recorded in this country. Typical facies by which the condition can be recognized. A congenital condition involving also the lips, fingers, hands, toes, genitalia, eyes, and possibly the heart. Skeletal radiological changes. Mental retardation. Investigations on the case I would like to describe indicate a pituitary disorder with decrease of the thyrotropic hormone.

Winndermere Lecture. The lecture was delivered on April 26 by Professor D. B. Jelliffe (Kampala). ‘Scientific Paediatrics in Developing Regions: Problems, Perspective and Progress.’

Evening Discussion. This was held on the evening of April 26. The topic discussed was ‘Where do we go from here?’, and the opening speakers were Professor A. V. Neale, Dr. P. MacArthur and Professor D. V. Hubble. Twenty members spoke in the subsequent discussion.

The Ulster Cup Golf Competition was held at Ganton Golf Club on Friday, April 27 and was won by Dr. A. D. MacDonald.

The Annual Dinner was held on the evening of Friday, April 27, with the President, Professor Alan Moncrieff in the Chair.