The Annual Meeting of the British Paediatric Association was held in Scarborough from April 24 to 27, 1963.


The following were present as guests of the Association: J. J. Mason Brown, W. M. Court Brown and J. G. Piler.


The three Heinz Fellows for 1963 were present: A. A. Khan, S. S. Manchanda and S. C. Hu.

The Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday, April 25, 1963, with the President, Dr. C. F. Harris, in the Chair.

The Minutes of the last meeting, which had been published in the Archives of Disease in Childhood, were received and approved.

The President congratulated I. J. Carré and R. G. Mitchell on their election to Chairs of Paediatrics.

Election of Officers: The following were elected:

President: Sir Wilfrid Sheldon.
President-Elect: Professor W. F. Gaisford.
Honorary Treasurer: Professor A. G. Watkins.
HONORARY SECRETARY: Dr. E. W. Hart.
MEMBERS OF COUNCIL, 1963-66:
Dr. A. A. H. Gailey.
Dr. R. R. Gordon.
Dr. T. Mann.
Dr. O. H. Wolff.

HONORARY MEMBERS
Dr. Sylvia K. Guthrie, Dr. C. F. Harris, Dr. R. C. Lightwood, Dr. D. W. Winnicott.

ORDINARY MEMBERS
A. Bogdan (Scarborough), A. H. Cameron (Birmingham), C. O. Carter (London), P. R. Clay (Redhill), Barbara Clayton (London), F. R. M. Elgood ( Maidstone), W. D. Elliott (Newcastle), Janet Hunter (Grimsby), R. S. Jones (Liverpool), E. G. Knox (Newcastle), June K. Lloyd (Birmingham), E. P. Quibell (Challey), L. B. Strang (London), C. E. Stroud (London), J. Sutcliffe (London), C. Upjohn (Bromley).

The Treasurer’s report and statement of accounts for 1962-63 were received and approved and the auditors were reappointed for the following year.

The report of the Council was received and is printed below.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL, 1962-63

OBITUARY. The Association has suffered the loss of two Honorary Members, Sir Wilson Jameson and Dr. C. T. Potter; and two Ordinary Members, Dr. H. R. E. Wallis and Dr. T. Colver.

DISTINCTIONS. The Council has noted with great pleasure the distinction conferred on Sir George Godber, an Honorary Member.

COUNCIL MEMBERS
The membership of the Council during 1962-63 has been: Dr. C. F. Harris, Dr. F. S. W. Brimblecombe, Dr. W. A. B. Campbell, Dr. Beryl Corner, Dr. J. W. Farquhar, Dr. E. W. Hart, Dr. W. Henderson, Dr. G. Komrower, Dr. R. M. Mayon-White, Professor A. A. Moncrieff, Dr. G. Neligan, Dr. A. P. Norman, Dr. R. A. Shanks, Sir Wilfrid Sheldon, Professor A. G. Watkins, Dr. S. Yudkin, Mr. R. B. Zachary.

OBSERVERS. The Council greatly regrets the loss of the services of Dr. Dorothy Taylor, Observer, Ministry of Health, and Dr. Cecil Asher, Observer, Ministry of Education, as a consequence of their retirement, but welcomes Dr. Roma Chamberlain, Ministry of Health, and Dr. T. K. Whitmore, Ministry of Education, as Observers on the Council.

1. MEETINGS. Since the last report, Council has held meetings on November 10, 1962, and February 9, 1963, and will meet again on Wednesday, April 24, 1963, at Scarborough.

In addition to receiving reports from the Standing and ad hoc sub-committees, the following matters were considered.

2. REVIEW COMMITTEE ON THE MEDICAL STAFFING STRUCTURE IN SCOTTISH HOSPITALS (WRIGHT COMMITTEE). The Wright Committee invited the Association to give evidence on this topic. An ad hoc sub-committee (Professor J. Craig, Professor R. W. B. Ellis, Professor J. L. Henderson, Professor J. H. Hutchison, Dr. P. MacArthur, and Dr. R. A. Shanks) drew up a comprehensive report which was approved by Council and submitted to the Wright Committee. The report itemized the expansion of the paediatric services in the Scottish regions envisaged by the sub-committee.

3. DONALD PATERSON PRIZE ESSAY. Dr. Donald Paterson has donated funds to establish a competition called the Donald Paterson Prize Essay to be held every second year and open to medical practitioners registered in the United Kingdom who have been qualified for not more than 10 years. The subject of the essay, which must be related to paediatrics, will be chosen by the individual competitors. It must be approved in advance by the Association and should largely consist of unpublished work. A monetary prize will be awarded and the winner may be eligible to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Association. The advertisement of the first competition will be made in 1963 and the essays will be judged by a sub-committee (Dr. F. S. W. Brimblecombe, Dr. P. R. Evans and Dr. J. P. M. Tizard).

4. THALIDOMIDE (DISTAL) SUB-COMMITTEE. Following the discussion at the Annual General Meeting in 1962, the President set up a sub-committee 'to consider the action which the Association should take in this matter'. Professor J. D. Hay, Dr. G. Neligan, Dr. R. W. Smithells and Dr. A. L. Speirs agreed to serve. The sub-committee recommended to the President that he should approach the Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health, and seek an official meeting of all the interested associations. The C.M.O. called a meeting to discuss the extent of the problem, the facilities available for treatment and the further action to be taken. The Ministry of Health decided to carry out a survey of the known cases and the results of this survey have been published. Dr. White Franklin, assisted by the sub-committee, prepared a memorandum for the Association which was published in the British Medical Journal. Further meetings of interested associations have been held, and the British Paediatric Association has been represented.

The sub-committee has been requested to submit recommendations as to the way in which future 'outbreaks' of congenital malformations may be detected at an earlier stage than was the case with thalidomide. The report is under consideration.

5. HEINZ FELLOWSHIP OF THE BRITISH PAEDIATRIC ASSOCIATION. Dr. Hu (Hong Kong), Dr. Khan (Nairobi) and Professor Manchanda (Amritsar) have been awarded Fellowships 'A' and will be present at the Annual Meeting at Scarborough.

Fellowship 'C' has been awarded to Dr. D. Burman (St. Mary's Hospital) to permit him to investigate malabsorption problems in Kenya by means of mucosal biopsy.

6. RICKETS AND SCURVY SURVEY. A sub-committee was set up to investigate the incidence of cases of rickets...
and scurvy seen by paediatricians during 1962. When the analysis of the proformata has been completed the results will be considered by the sub-committee (Dr. J. A. Black, Dr. F. S. W. Brimblecombe, Dr. T. E. Oppé, Dr. S. Yudkin and the Honorary Secretary).

7. LEAD POISONING SURVEY. It was decided that the lead poisoning survey should be postponed for one year. It had appeared improbable that facilities for estimation of serum lead values would be adequate to make the survey of value.

8. HYPERCALCAEMIA SURVEY. The reports for 1962 are still under review and it is hoped that a final report will be available later in the year.

9. INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITALS SUB-COMMITTEE. A meeting was held between members of the sub-committee and representatives of the Infectious Diseases Group of the Society of Medical Officers of Health. A memorandum was prepared but was not fully accepted by the Society of Medical Officers of Health.

10. JAMES SMELLIE BURSARIES. The terms of the James Smellie Bursaries have been published in the medical press and, on the invitation of the Trustees, the Association has nominated Professor A. G. Watkins to serve on the Advisory Committee.

11. CANADIAN PAEDIATRIC SOCIETY. The Canadian Paediatric Society has notified the Association that there will be a ‘Commonwealth Meeting’ in Toronto in early September 1967, and that they hope that members of the B.P.A. will attend the meeting.

12. INTERNATIONAL PAEDIATRIC ASSOCIATION. The Xth International Congress of Paediatrics was held in Lisbon in September 1962. The next Congress will be held in Tokyo and the probable date will be July 5-10, 1965, under the Presidency of Dr. Takatsu.

Professor A. G. Watkins was elected to the Advisory Board of the International Paediatric Association to represent the Commonwealth. The proposed new constitution was adopted for a trial period of three years and is to be reviewed at Tokyo.

Professor G. Fanconi was re-elected Secretary-General, Professor Bo Vahlquist was elected Treasurer, and Professor C. Janeway was elected Chairman of the Executive Board.

13. QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN. The Medical Advisory Committee of the hospital approached the Council of the B.P.A. with a request that they should make a direct approach to the Ministry of Health to seek a continuation of the separate Management Committee of the Hospital, rather than amalgamation with the Hackney Group.

After careful consideration, Council decided that the Association should not intervene in an administrative problem concerning an individual hospital. The President approached the British Postgraduate Medical Federation to enlist their support for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children on the basis of the maintenance of their status as a postgraduate teaching unit.

14. MINISTRY POLICY REGARDING CHILDREN’S HOSPITALS. Members of the Association notified Council of their concern regarding the future of the larger children’s hospitals vis-a-vis the large paediatric unit in Regional General Hospitals in the future planning of the hospital services. The Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health, received a deputation from the Association (the President, Professor J. D. Hay, Professor A. A. Moncrieff and the Honorary Secretary). The deputation sought a clarification of the views of the Ministry in this matter. The report from the deputation will be considered at the next meeting of Council.

15. FUTURE POLICY OF THE ASSOCIATION. Following the discussions that were held on the evening of Thursday, April 26, 1962, at the Annual Meeting, it became evident that the members of the Association were anxious that the Association should be willing and fully equipped to participate actively in matters of paediatric interest on a national basis. Letters and memoranda received from members emphasized this point.

Council has considered a memorandum from the Honorary Secretary incorporating these suggestions and outlining ways in which the secretarial resources of the Association can be augmented to make this increase in work possible.

A review of the Standing and ad hoc sub-committees has been undertaken, together with their terms of reference, and these recommended changes are detailed later in this report.

The increased time devoted to the Annual General Meeting in this year’s programme and the proposed revision of certain rules of the Association are also relevant to the reorganization of the secretariat.

16. SPECIALIST MEMBERSHIP. Council has again given careful consideration to the problem of nominations for membership with especial reference to specialists as Ordinary Members of the Association.

The continued expansion in the establishment for consultant paediatricians means that the annual increase in the total membership of the Association is still rapid and rapidly approaches a total number which will not be able to meet under one roof as in the past. This increase in the Ordinary Membership drawn from consultant paediatricians has led to a restriction in the number of specialists admitted.

Council still believes that each and every specialty should be represented in the Association but that the representation of the specialists—most of whom have their own paediatric specialist associations—should be on a proportionate basis as the Association grows. At present, the ‘specialist’ members represent 15% of the membership.

17. NATIONAL BUREAU FOR CO-OPERATION IN CHILD CARE. The Association has been represented by Dr. White Franklin in the initial discussions on the formation of the Bureau. Council has decided that the B.P.A. should participate as one of the founder members of the Bureau.

18. BRITISH COMMITTEE FOR THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF MENTAL DEFICIENCY. Dr. J. P. M. Tizard has represented the Association in the preliminary meetings of this committee.

19. CHILD HEALTH SERVICES IN GREATER LONDON. Ad Hoc Sub-committee. The report of the ad hoc committee (Professor A. A. Moncrieff, Dr. R. E. Bonham...
Carter, Dr. D. G. Cottom, Dr. E. W. Hart and Dr. S. Yudkin) has been submitted to the Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health.

20. ANNUAL MEETING, 1964. The Annual Meeting of the Association will be held at the Royal Hotel, Scarborough, from April 15-18, 1964.

21. ANNUAL MEETING, 1965. Council has again given consideration to places at which meetings might be held in future years. It is exceedingly difficult to find a centre at which the ever-increasing numbers can be accommodated in one hotel.

STANDING COMMITTEES

NURSING COMMITTEE: Dr. E. W. Hart, Professor J. D. Hay, Professor R. S. Illingworth, Dr. P. MacArthur, Sir Wilfrid Sheldon, Professor A. G. Watkins.

The results of the questionnaire on the staffing structure situation with children's trained nurses in children's hospitals and departments have been presented to Council. These results have been forwarded to the Education Committee of the General Nursing Council for their information and to emphasize the need for the continuance of the Sick Children's Nurses Register. The Nursing Committee recommend that the full R.S.C.N. training should continue wherever possible and that integrated courses and postgraduate comprehensive courses should be increased.

STANDING JOINT COMMITTEE WITH ROYAL COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNECOLOGISTS: Dr. P. R. Evans, Dr. R. Lightwood, Professor J. H. Hutchison, Dr. F. J. W. Miller, Professor A. A. Moncrieff.

No report.

JAMES SPENCE MEDAL COMMITTEE: Dr. P. R. Evans, Professor A. G. Watkins, Professor R. W. B. Ellis, Dr. G. Davison, the Secretary (ex officio).

The Committee has recommended the award of the Medal for 1963 to Sir Macfarlane Burnet.

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 reported their concern that the Platt Committee on Accident and Emergency Services had failed to include any mention of the special needs of children. The President wrote to Sir Harry Platt indicating the concern which the Association felt at this omission. Sir Harry replied suggesting that he should meet representatives of the Association to discuss the matter (the President, the Secretary and Dr. S. Yudkin). These discussions will be reported to the next meeting of Council.

PAEDIATRIC NOMENCLATURE: Dr. G. C. Arneil, Dr. Beryl Corner, Dr. O. P. Gray, Dr. R. M. Mayon-White, Dr. G. H. Newns, Dr. J. P. M. Tizard.

The Committee is meeting and giving consideration to the various systems for the coding of paediatric diseases.

MENTAL HEALTH: Dr. J. Apley, Dr. Mildred Creak, Professor D. V. Hubble, Dr. D. MacCarthy, Dr. R. Mac Keith, Dr. R. M. Mayon-White, Dr. J. P. M. Tizard.

NEW STANDING COMMITTEES

Council has decided that three new Committees should be set up. The terms of reference of the new Committees and their membership are as follows:

HOSPITALS COMMITTEE: Professor J. D. Hay, Dr. H. Jolly, Professor R. S. Illingworth, Dr. M. MacGregor, Dr. R. A. Shanks.

Terms of reference: To maintain under review the functions, usage and size of Children's Hospitals and Children's Units in General Hospitals; and the problems of paediatric staffing in the hospital service.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Dr. F. S. W. Brimblecombe, Professor J. H. Hutchison, Professor D. V. Hubble, Dr. R. Mac Keith, Dr. G. Neligan.

Terms of reference: To consider undergraduate and graduate training in paediatrics.

OVERSEAS COMMITTEE: Professor S. D. M. Court, Dr. H. Jolly, Dr. J. W. Farquhar, Dr. G. H. Newns.

Terms of reference: To review the arrangements for postgraduate education of overseas students; the education of British graduates in tropical paediatrics; the secondment of senior registrars overseas; and the arrangement and supervision of the programme of Heinz Fellows.

MEMBERSHIP

The question of specialist membership of the Association was discussed and various suggestions were made by the meeting. It was decided that the Honorary Secretary should circulate all members to ascertain the views of the Association as a whole on this and allied topics.

The question of Ministry policy on children's hospitals and units; the future of the Sick Children's Nurses' Register; the shortage of recruits to paediatrics and staff problems; and the Accident and Emergency Services Report (Platt) were all discussed. The President reported on the activities of Council in these matters. It was decided that the problems of staffing should be considered by the Hospitals Standing Committee.

There was discussion of the extent to which the Association should participate in the political aspects of paediatrics. The meeting also asked for clear guidance and advice from the Association in the planning of new paediatric units.

The President assured the meeting that Council would give active consideration to these problems.

Miss Forshall, seconded by Dr. MacCarthy, proposed the motion that, at the Annual General Meeting of the Association, half a day should be set aside for the discussion of policy and general business.

The motion was put to the meeting and was carried. The report of the Council was accepted.

ALTERATION OF RULES

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

Rule 3: To be altered to read—"The business of the Association shall be conducted by a Council, consisting of a President, a President-Elect, a Treasurer, a Secretary and twelve Ordinary Members."
BRITISH PAEDIATRIC ASSOCIATION

All these officers shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting.
Council shall have power to appoint from time to time one or more Honorary Assistants to the Honorary Secretary and when necessary they shall be co-opted to the Council during the tenure of their appointment.
A paid trained secretary shall be employed to assist with the secretarial work of the Association.'

Rule 5: To be altered to read—'The Council shall have power to set up sub-committees from time to time and for this purpose, may co-opt members of the Association other than those on the Council and also such other interested persons as they deem advisable. The Council shall appoint one of its members to serve on each sub-committee to report to the Council. When necessary, the Chairman of the sub-committee shall be requested to attend the Council meeting for the business of his own subcommittee.'

Rule 15: To be altered to read—'The subscription of each Ordinary Member shall be seven guineas a year to include the subscription to the Archives of Disease in Childhood.
Subscriptions shall be payable to the Treasurer on the first of June in each year.
'A member who is more than twelve months in arrears and has been duly notified thereof, shall, unless immediate payment be made, cease, ipso facto, to be a Member of the Association.'

SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

Scientific Sessions were held in the Royal Hotel, Scarborough, on April 25 and 26, and the following communications were presented.

F. F. Kane (Belfast). 'The Impact of Virology upon the Diagnosis of Meningitis.' For the past five years, i.e. 1958-62 inclusive, this unit (N.I. Fever) has enjoyed close co-operation not only with an integrated clinical pathology laboratory but a reference virus laboratory. During these years over 900 patients, apart from those with poliomyelitis, have been admitted as suspected meningitis or have had meningitis diagnosed following admission. Of these, some 270 have been labelled 'lymphocytic meningitis'.

There has been an obvious swing from bacterial to viral meningitis and the results of modern virological methods to identify the causal virus disclose a proportion in which no recognized cause can be identified.

Lars Hjelt (Helsinki). 'Chromosome and Sexchromatin Studies in Human Foetuses.' The aetiology of spontaneous abortions remains in most cases unsolved. When the connexion between congenital malformations and chromosome abnormalities became established attention was drawn towards the foetal chromosomes as a possible cause of abortion. Penrose and Delhanty have described two cases of abortion in which the foetus has a triploid chromosome set. The translocation heterozygosity in one of the parents may cause repeated abortions. Schmid has described a case of a family in which the father and the grandfather had large satellites in the chromosome 21. The great number of spontaneous abortions in mongoloid families with translocation is in favour of the possibility that an unbalanced karyotype in parents may lead to spontaneous abortion.

In our laboratory we have studied the chromosomes of foetuses in spontaneous abortions by tissue culture. Unfortunately the culture of tissues is very difficult because of infections and maceration of the tissues and in only 40% of the cases were we able to study the chromosomes. Of these successfully cultured cases one was clearly pathological and a large dicentric chromosome was found in most cells.

E. G. Knox (Newcastle), introduced by Professor S. D. M. Court. 'The Epidemiology of Leukaemia.' The problems of the interpretation of the space and time patterns of uncommon diseases are in many respects analogous with those of the physicist studying low intensity radiations. The common concepts of prevalence and intensity, and of wave-forms, break down. Electronic computer analysis of data enables some of these difficulties to be overcome and permits the application of methods which, though simple in principle, would otherwise be prohibitively laborious.

In association with standard methods of analysis these new techniques have been applied now to several groups of diseases to which they seem appropriate and to congenital malformations and childhood cancers in particular.

The principles of the method, together with a regional analysis of leukaemia for a period of 10 years, is to be presented.

P. P. Rickham (Liverpool). 'Achalasia of the Cardia in Early Childhood.' Although occasional cases of achalasia of the cardia in early childhood have been described, it appears to be a very rare condition, and no child suffering from this condition under the age of 10 years has been seen in Liverpool between 1948 and the beginning of 1962. Three cases with achalasia of the cardia, aged 20 months, 4 years and 5½ years respectively, have been seen in the last six months and carefully investigated; special stress being laid on fractional test meals and investigations under the image intensifier.

Treatment by dilatation or antispasmodics was unsatisfactory. The results of Heller's operation in early childhood are discussed.

A. J. Keay (Edinburgh). 'Indications for Exchange Transfusion in Haemolytic Disease of the Newborn.' An assessment of the use of a cord haemoglobin of 14-8 g./100 ml. as the chief indication for early exchange transfusion in haemolytic disease suggested that early exchange failed to prevent subsequent hyperbilirubinaemia in many cases. After studying the original M.R.C. survey reports, a trial set of criteria was formed based on a cord haemoglobin of 10 g./100 ml. or less as the indication for exchange transfusion. As a preliminary trial showed a reduction in the number of exchange transfusions without increase in subsequent...
hyperbilirubinaemia these criteria have continued to be used and the result in 240 successive live births is discussed.

K. OSTERLUND (Helsinki). ‘Significance of Early Neonatal Jaundice.’ Of 6,549 newborns, excluding prematures and those born to Rh-immunized mothers, 163 showing jaundice during the first 24 hours were selected for closer study. Haemoglobin, reticulocyte count, serum bilirubin, ABO- and Rh-groups, direct Coombs’ and Munk-Andersen tests were determined.

Of these 163 cases, 13 were treated with exchange transfusions. The same procedure had to be performed in eight babies where the jaundice was first observed after 24 hours of age.

The results, especially the role of ABO-incompatibility, the use of Gossets icterometer, and the significance of early jaundice as a symptom are discussed.

MARCIA SMITH (Newcastle), introduced by Dr. G. Neligan. ‘Haemorrhage from Umbilical Cord.’ To be published in full.

R. H. R. WHITE (London), introduced by Dr. M. C. Joseph. ‘A Clinico-pathological Study of Acute Glomerulo-tubular Nephritis in East African Children.’ Forty-six children with evidence of renal disease were studied by renal biopsy and 24 were found to have acute diffuse glomerulonephritis. Only 14 patients presented ‘classically’ and the clinical patterns, modified by local disease, included the nephrotic syndrome, congestive cardiac failure and detection by routine urinalysis, in children admitted with other disorders. Evidence of streptococcal infection was established in 14 patients.

The histological lesions were graded according to severity and showed little correlation with disturbed renal function. It was surprising, however, to find in two patients numerous glomerular crescents within two weeks of onset and, in spite of limited follow-up, the findings suggest that an unfavourable outlook may be determined early in the disease.

HILKKA HIEKKALA (Helsinki). ‘Follow-up Examination of Children with Hypercalcaemia.’ The series of patients with hypercalcaemia treated at the Children’s Hospital in Helsinki since 1952 consists of 16 cases. Two of them died during the first admittance to hospital. The follow-up time of the remaining 14 varies between four and 10 years. Three of these have died three to four years after the beginning of the disease. The autopsies revealed renal calcifications. Four children are severely mentally retarded and two of these have developed craniosynostosis. Most of the children sweat. One child has had nephrolithiasis and chronic pylonephritis. The growth has been slow in most cases. All children have renal insufficiency in varying degree.

W. M. MCCRAE (Glasgow), introduced by Dr. R. A. Shanks. ‘The Dextro-xylose Absorption Test.’ To be published in full.

M. BODIAN (London). ‘The Rectal Approach to Neuropathology.’ At the time of writing (end 1962) we have completed an investigation of autopsy material from The Hospital for Sick Children, London, including 21 cases in which both central nervous system and parts or all of the gastro-intestinal tract were available. These included four instances of amaurotic idiocies, two gargoyles, three cases of Gaucher’s disease, five cases of metachromatic leukodystrophy, two cases of Schilder’s disease and five miscellaneous cases. It was found that there was an exact mirror reflection of all changes of the central nervous system in the alimentary tract and that sometimes the changes were better seen in the alimentary system.

Encouraged by these findings, we have—so far—performed rectal biopsies (often coupled with biopsies of skin and peripheral nerve) on 46 miscellaneous cases with positive findings in 20. This new investigation appears to be extremely promising and certainly simpler than brain biopsy.

T. PELTONEN (Turku). ‘Haemodynamics of the Adaptation at Birth.’ The course of the foetal blood-stream was investigated by x-ray cinematography. The radiopaque dye was injected into the umbilical vein of the newborn lamb in different conditions. The ductus venosus was definitely closed three to four days after birth, but could be opened or widened with epinephrine, norepinephrine and acetylcholine injected either into the umbilical vein or into a peripheral vein. Vaguf stimulation opened or expanded the duct in nine cases from 12 animals. In three cases no change was observed. The carotid pressure reflex caused no uniform changes. In asphyxiated lambs the ductus venosus was wide open and the administration of oxygen reduced the calibre of the duct distinctly. The blood pressure recordings in different parts of the circulation were taken simultaneously (35 lambs).

In newborn infants the ductus has been found to be patent until 12 days after birth. The size of the lumen has varied (13 babies).

D. G. COTTOM (London). ‘Hypoglycaemia in Premature Infants.’ Some infants tolerate blood glucose levels of 15 mg. per 100 mg. without apparent symptoms, others appear ‘cerebral’ and develop convulsions which respond to treatment with glucose. In a series of 36 infants (excluding babies born to diabetic mothers) 10 had blood glucose levels under 15 mg. per 100. All 10 had a birth weight of under 5½ lb.: five developed convulsions, five showed no clinical abnormality. The obstetric and neonatal histories of both groups are compared. Investigations suggest that diminished liver glycogen reserves may be in part responsible for the hypoglycaemia.

A further group of premature infants has been treated with 10% intravenous glucose until oral feeding could be established.

The place of neonatal hypoglycaemia in the causation of brain damage is discussed.
R. J. K. Brown (London). 'Transient Hypertension following Ligation of the Ductus Arteriosus in Children.' Observations in 40 consecutive cases have revealed the occurrence of severe hypertension in seven children. In three of these children the blood pressure has risen to alarming heights. This has been quite transient, but in nearly all cases a lability of the blood pressure has persisted for more than a week. This has suggested the possibility of a hormonal basis for the trouble.

In a recent investigation to test this hypothesis, increased excretion of vanillyl-mandelic acid in the urine has been found in the immediate post-operative period in several children. Investigations are also proceeding to see if this rise is non-specific and could follow other major surgical procedures.

George Frederic Still Memorial Lecture. The lecture was delivered on April 25 by Dr. W. M. Court Brown (Edinburgh). 'Cytogenetics and Paediatrics. A current appraisal and future prospects.'

The Ulster Cup Golf Competition was played at Ganton Golf Club on Friday, April 26, and was won by Professor J. H. Hutchison.

The Annual Dinner was held on the evening of Friday, April 26, with the President, Dr. Charles F. Harris, in the Chair.