British Paediatric Association

Proceedings of the Thirty-ninth Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the British Paediatric Association was held at the Intercontinental Hotel, Dublin, on Thursday, April 25, 1968, with the President, Professor R. E. Steen, in the Chair.

The following members of the Association were present:


Dr. F. Riley, Ministry of Health, attended as Observer.

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. A. White Franklin.
- **President-Elect:** Professor J. H. Hutchison.
- **Honorary Treasurer:** Professor J. D. Hay.
- **Honorary Secretary:** Dr. T. E. Oppé.
- **Honorary Assistant Secretaries:** Dr. W. Henderson, Dr. A. D. M. Jackson.

**Members of Council 1968-71:** Dr. T. E. D. Beavan, Dr. Christine E. Cooper, Dr. D. G. Cottam, Dr. R. M. Forrester.

**Honorary Members:** Professor R. E. Steen, Professor Henry Barnett, Mr. James Crooks, Mr. Gordon Piller, Professor J. Lind.

**Ordinary Members:** Dr. S. F. Carter (Essex), Dr. G. W. Chance (Birmingham), Dr. J. A. Dodge (Belfast), Dr. J. A. Dudgeon (London), Dr. Sheila Eades (Barnstaple), Dr. Marion B. Farmer (Newcastle upon Tyne), Dr. W. R. Forbes (Swansea), Dr. C. A. S. Galloway (Inverness), Dr. R. M. Hardisty (London), Dr. G. W. Hatcher (Liverpool), Dr. I. B. Houston (Manchester), Dr. J. Insley (Birmingham), Dr. E. E. Jones (Coventry), Mr. J. Lister (Sheffield), Dr. A. J. MacDonald (Dublin), Dr. Valerie J. Marrian (Perth), Dr. J. Martin (Liverpool), Dr. K. R. Norton (Herts and Middx.), Dr. C. H. Nourse (Ipswich), Dr. N. O'Doherty (Middlesex), Dr. J. O'Donoghue (Cork), Dr. N. O'Donohoe (Dublin), Dr. K. Rajan (Dewsbury), Dr. D. H. S. Reid (Cheshire), Mr. F. H. Roberts (Edinburgh), Dr. R. J. Robinson (London), Dr. Jean Shakleton (Liverpool), Dr. J. E. S. Varley (Birmingham), Lt.-Col. K. Vernon-Jones (R.A.M.C.), Dr. M. Voece (S. W. Cornwall), Dr. Catherine M. White (Stockport), Dr. P. A. Zorab (London).

A letter of goodwill was read from the Indian Academy of Paediatrics.

The Honorary Treasurer's report and statement of accounts for the year 1967-68 were received and approved and the auditors reappointed for the following year.
The report of the Council was received and approved and is printed below.

Report of the Council 1967-68

1. OBITUARIES. The Association has suffered the loss of Dr. H. S. Baar, Dr. Alton Goldbloom, and Sir Erland Holland—Honorary Members.

2. COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP. The following members of the Association have served on Council during 1967-68: Professor R. E. Steen (President), Dr. I. M. Anderson, Dr. J. A. Black, Professor I. J. Carré, Professor J. O. Forfar, Dr. A. W. Franklin, Dr. E. W. Hart, Professor J. D. Hay, Dr. W. Henderson, Dr. J. B. Heycock, Dr. A. Holzel, Dr. A. D. M. Jackson, Dr. H. Jolly, Professor R. G. Mitchell, Dr. J. N. Montgomery, Dr. J. H. Moseley, Dr. T. E. Oppé, Professor A. G. Watkins, Dr. B. S. B. Wood.

Sir Wilfrid Sheldon, Paediatric Adviser to the Ministry of Health, has attended.

Observers. The Association is grateful to Dr. Frank Riley, Ministry of Health, and Dr. T. Kingsley Whitmore, Department of Education and Science, for attending meetings of Council and giving much assistance to the Association.


4. MATTERS CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE ASSOCIATION.

Academic Board. The second Annual Report of the Academic Board was received.

Dr. A. D. M. Jackson has succeeded Professor J. A. Davis as secretary to the Academic Board and has been appointed an Honorary Assistant Secretary to the Association.

James Spence Medal. Council approved the nominations of Dr. Mary Sheridan and Dr. Donald W. Winnicott for the award of the James Spence Medal in recognition of their 'outstanding contributions to the advancement of paediatric knowledge'.

Donald Paterson Prize Essay Competition. The essay submitted by Dr. S. R. Meadow, University of Birmingham, entitled The Captive Mother was placed first, and Dr. Meadows has been awarded the Donald Paterson Prize.

Heinz Fellowships of the British Paediatric Association. Fellowships for 1968-69 were awarded to: Professor J. N. Pohowalla, Indore, India ('A' Fellowship) and Dr. B. N. S. Walia, Chandigarh, India ('B' Fellowship). Dr. M. L. Oduori (Kenya) will be taking up the 'B' Fellowship which he was awarded last year but could not accept.

Meetings of the Association. The Annual Meeting of the Association in 1969 will be held in Scarborough. Joint autumn meetings with the British Medical Association and the British Diabetic Association are planned for 1968 and 1969, respectively.

It is hoped that the Austrian Paediatric Society will be the guest association at the Annual General Meeting in 1970.

5. STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE ASSOCIATION.

Accidents in Childhood. The review of accidents in childhood undertaken by this Committee has been published (Brit. med. J., (1967), 3, 103), and has been circulated.

Hospitals Committee. The Committee has produced memoranda on Units for Premature and Special Care Babies, on Hospital Accommodation for Mentally Handicapped Children, and has assembled evidence for the Association's memorandum to the Ministry of Health on the Functions of a District General Hospital. A successful exhibition and two one-day conferences were arranged by Dr. H. Jolly in collaboration with the Hospital Centre.

Mental Health Committee. This Committee has been discussing several aspects of mental health and has prepared evidence for the Ministry of Health on Welfare Services for Epileptic People.

Nursing Committee. The Committee has made recommendations regarding the content of Courses in Special Care Baby nursing, which will be discussed with other interested bodies.

Overseas Committee. The report on facilities in the U.K. for the postgraduate training in paediatrics of doctors from overseas has been received and approved. Association will circulate this most valuable document to all interested parties.

The Overseas Committee has also reviewed the first seven years of the Heinz Fellowships.

Paediatric Nomenclature. The production of the Association's nomenclature of paediatric disease is nearing completion.

Standing Joint Committee with the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. This Committee has not met during the year.

Standing Committee for Scotland. This Committee has discussed several matters pertaining to Scotland, and has submitted evidence to the Scottish Home and Health Department on the organization of hospital care.

Standing Joint Committee with the Society of Medical Officers of Health. This Committee has begun to meet regularly and has several questions under review.

6. AD HOC COMMITTEES.

(a) Renal Failure in Childhood (Dr. J. A. Black). This sub-committee is considering the incidence of chronic renal failure and some of the problems of renal transplantation in children.

(b) Special Care Baby Units. (Dr. J. A. Black): To review the provisions for Special Care Babies, both in regard to the planning and staffing of these units.

7. The Council is most grateful to its many members who have given time and effort to its Committees and Sub-committees, and to all members who have so willingly provided information which has helped the work of the Association.

8. MATTERS CONCERNING GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

(a) Scottish Home and Health Department. The Chief Medical Officer of the Scottish Home and Health Department has been pleased to accept the Association's invitation to send an Observer to its Council meetings.
Meeting exchange Association regarding their representing ham in informal concerning the European AND on place submitted the personal Social Welfare and Functions with the Advisory Committee-Joint Medical Advisory Committee—Joint Subcommittee with the Advisory Committee on Health and Welfare of Handicapped People. The Association submitted written evidence to this body on the health and welfare services for epileptic people.

Correspondence with the Ministry of Health took place regarding the early detection of congenital abnormalities, the classification of lactose-free foods, and the welfare of children in long-stay hospitals.

(c) Home Office.

Committee on Local Authority and Allied Personal Social Services (Seebohm Committee). The Association submitted invited evidence to this Committee.

(d) Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The Association replied to inquiries regarding Skimmed Milk Regulations, and Claims and Misleading Descriptions on Labels and Advertisements of Food.

9. CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHER ASSOCIATIONS AND OFFICIAL BODIES.

Royal College of Physicians. The Association was invited to send representatives to an informal meeting concerning the European Common Market and has held informal discussions regarding the training and certification of paediatricians.

British Medical Association. Arrangements are proceeding for the joint meeting to be held in Cheltenham in October 1968.

10. REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES.

Reports have been received from the members representing the Association on the following bodies regarding their activities:

National Association for Maternal and Child Welfare—Dr. A. White Franklin.

Medical Commission on Accident Prevention—Professor R. G. Mitchell.

11. RELATIONS WITH OTHER PAEDIATRIC SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS.

(a) International Paediatric Association. The Association made a special grant of £55. 13s. 7d. (Swiss Francs 670) to the I.P.A. and this was gratefully acknowledged.

(b) Austrian Paediatric Society. Council has had correspondence with this Society with a view to an exchange of visits.

(c) Greek Paediatric Association. An exchange of visits has been considered.

12. DONATIONS.

Council received with gratitude donations from

(a) The Children’s Research Fund; (b) Dr. Donald Paterson; (c) Dr. R. C. Jewesbury; (d) Messrs. Cow and Gate Limited, which have been of great assistance in furthering the aims of the Association.

The President then declared the Annual General Meeting closed.

Scientific Sessions

Scientific sessions were held in the Conference Hall at the Intercontinental Hotel, Dublin, on April 25, 26, and 27. Members and guests, including members of the Irish Paediatric Association, attended and the following communications were presented.

O. C. WARD (Dublin). ‘Familial Cardiac Arrhythmia.’ The occurrence of sudden death in certain children suffering from congenital deafness has been linked with the finding of a prolonged Q-T interval, and this abnormality is considered to predispose to attacks of ventricular fibrillation. Familial cardiac arrhythmia is an allied disorder, first described in Dublin in 1963, in which a family study has shown a high incidence of abnormal prolongation of the Q-T interval and in which sudden death occurred in one child, whose heart, on examination, showed no microscopical evidence of any abnormality of the myocardium or conducting tissue. A sib has been under study over a considerable period, and the attacks of loss of consciousness which are the dominant clinical syndrome have been shown to be due to ventricular fibrillation. The spontaneous onset and spontaneous recovery from a number of these attacks has been documented. The condition has since been described in Italy, South Africa, Sweden, and Poland. The communication covered the family study, pointing to a conclusion that the disorder, unlike the cardio-auditory syndrome, is inherited as a dominant. Biochemical data relating to the onset of the attacks of ventricular fibrillation, and histological confirmation of the normal condition of the myocardium were set out.

MICHAEL J. TYNAN introduced by DR. BONHAM CARTER (London). ‘Balloon Atrial Septostomy.’ Balloon atrial septostomy was introduced in 1966 by Rashkind and Miller for the palliative treatment of transposition of the great arteries. It has subsequently been applied to the treatment of other conditions where flow across the atrial septum is necessary for survival. We have performed the operation for the following conditions: transposition of the great arteries; tricuspid atresia; pulmonary atresia with intact ventricular septum; total anomalous pulmonary venous connexion; and mitral atresia with transposition of great arteries (TGA) and pulmonary valve atresia.

Forty-nine patients had 54 operations, with no complications directly attributable to the procedure. In TGA the mortality during the first hospital admission was 9 deaths in 37 patients (approximately 25%). This mortality was mainly in infants under 6 weeks of age, i.e. 8 deaths in 20 patients; 5 of these patients had additional cardiac lesions.

In other conditions, the balloon septostomy was performed as an adjunct to surgical palliation of the basic lesion. The effects of septostomy in these conditions was difficult to assess.

Balloon atrial septostomy is a safe and effective palliative operation in transposition of the great arteries. It is suggested that it may be of value as an adjunct to