

Victorian Branch.

Our third meeting for this year was held at the usual venue on the 14th August. There were 22 members present, with apologies received from Miss Amy Bush, Mrs Helen Cotsell, Mrs Pam Hill, Miss Gillian Joseph, Mrs Margaret McKinnon, Mrs Beryl Miles, Mrs Pat Nakouz, Mrs Mary Rae, Mrs Anna Seymour, Miss Virginia Stevenson, and Mrs Joan Tubby.

Minutes

Mention was made briefly of facts covered in our last newsletter about our meeting with the Hospitals and Charities Commission. We have decided to follow through their interest in a trial scholarship for medical librarianship, and shall test the reaction to this pilot project when contact is made with Geelong Hospital later this year. We hope to be able to report on their reaction at the November meeting.

Progress is at last being made on our plans for a Medical Libraries' Directory. Quotes have been received on printing costs, and range from \$45 for 50 copies on 73 gram paper to \$65 on 140 gram paper (which is really light ledger card). We rather feel that the latter would be the most practical in view of the use the directory will undoubtedly get. We have investigated the possibility of plastic covering for each page, or the most heavily used part there-of, but ruled it out as too expensive. The cardboard binders are relatively inexpensive - 42¢ each. As metal plates have to be used for each typographically different sheet we want printed, and as these are relatively expensive - \$20 each, we feel that only one plate should be composed, with all the general details we need on it, and the specific details could be typed in later.

Due to lack of response from the tentative list of recommended journals for small libraries which was circulated earlier this year, we have decided to re-circulate the list. Would everyone please spare a few moments to annotate the list by hand as to whether she has found a journal to be well used in her library, or not, and suggest another alternative title when this has been found to be more popular. The conveners would like this list to be returned by October 19th. They are quite prepared to make phone calls to any unco-operative librarian to get the necessary information, but hope that this resort will not be necessary. As will be mentioned later, our speaker from the H.C.C., Mr. Walshe, mentioned how desirable such a list would be as a guide in journal selection for smaller hospital administrators. We feel it is absolutely vital for our professional interests and image to take up this invitation for our service and advice.

A brief discussion then took place on the following four points which we feel detract from the standards of medical journals:

1. narrow margins
2. inclusive numbering of advertising pages
3. non-consecutive numbering of monthly pagination
4. inadequate identification and presentation of index material.

We would like the national conveners to take up these issues with the U.S. Medical Library Association, who in turn could put pressure on the National Library of Medicine. This would appear to be the body with the most influence over the publishers of medical journals.

We expect the issue of affiliation with the L.A.A. and M.L.A. to be discussed at the Perth Conference, and hope to hear a report on this matter at our meeting in November.

Miss Pinder was asked to give us a brief report on the situation regarding the wages case of the Association of Hospital and Health Services Librarians. She mentioned that contrary to previous well established plans, the decision was made to dispense with the services of an industrial adviser. However, the MAAV executive seemed to show some sympathy with the salary situation for hospital librarians, and promised to try and negotiate an agreement with the employers. The A.H.H.S.L. is waiting on the outcome of this at the moment.

Annual subscriptions are now due. About 16 members have paid to date, but obviously a lot more should! Please send cheques payable to the Medical Librarians' Group to Enid Meldrum, C/- Alfred Hospital. We will need a good financial situation to counteract the expenditure on the Directory.

Meetings for next year have been tentatively arranged: 12th February, 14th May, 13th August, and 12th November. These are all Tuesday nights, and could all be held at the same Monash Medical School venue if generally convenient.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 13th November. Mrs Baillie will speak about MEDLARS from the users point of view - the same paper she will be giving at the Perth Conference. As not many of our members will be going to the conference, we thought it would be a good opportunity to get the latest information on this very important aspect of our library services. The conveners have had tentative thoughts about combining this talk with a social evening to wind up the year's activities in an appropriate manner. We had thought of providing a wine and cheese supper and hope that as many members as possible would be able to hear what should be a most interesting talk, and also stay a little while afterwards to talk to other members in a convivial social atmosphere.

Speaker:

Mrs Fay Baker introduced our speaker for the evening, Mr. L.A. Walshe. Mr. Walshe is Sector Supervisor, of the Victorian Hospitals Sector no. 1, which is situated at Traralgon.

Mr. Walshe spoke of the regional organization of hospitals and hospital services in Victoria, and briefly spoke of opportunities within this regionalization which could be explored from the medical library point of view.

The regional system of hospitals in Victoria was established in 1954, with the concept of sharing services from base to region, often free of charge. There are 11 regions with 13 base hospitals. The base hospitals provide a comprehensive range of specialist services, and are staffed by interns and senior resident medical officers on a 3 month rotation system from the metropolitan hospitals.

By 1970, the H.C.C. realised that many objectives of the regions had been achieved, and that some re-arrangement of regions would be necessary for any future progress. The regions were therefore re-arranged in 5 larger groups, called sectors, each of which were given a specific research project.

After this basic introduction, Mr. Walshe went on to talk about the virtual non-existence of any organized form of libraries or library services in hospitals outside the metropolitan area, with the exceptions of Ballarat and Geelong. He did stress, however, that there was an urgent need for a basic list of the most important journals and essential reference books which could be used by small hospitals as a guide in the establishment of their collection.

He summarized his thoughts by saying that he felt library services in the country could be helped and guided in 4 ways:

1. by resuscitating the role of base hospitals, in which they could serve as the main library, supporting smaller branches;
2. by urging the various hospital committees to make grants regularly for the purchase of books and journals;
3. by the preliminary instruction of medical record librarians in the care of books and lending procedures, and,
4. where no medical record librarian is employed, by the instruction of some other responsible person.

Miss Anne Harrison was called upon to make a vote of thanks for what was a most interesting talk.