Medical Society for the Study of Venereal Diseases

Annual Report based on the Secretary's Report to the Annual General Meeting on October 31, 1975

Once again there was a record number of new members, namely 81, of whom 38 lived in the United Kingdom and 43 abroad. Two members resigned and one died, but failure to pay the annual subscription resulted in the automatic resignation of 49 members, 25 living in the United Kingdom and 24 abroad. The membership stood at 479, an increase of 29 over the previous year; 317 living in the United Kingdom and 162 abroad.

Five ordinary meetings were held during the year and on almost every occasion, the London Medical Society Hall was filled to capacity. The Society's thanks are due to Major H. R. Mitchell, the Registrar, to Mrs. Mitchell who organized the refreshments, and to their staff, for their help in making our meetings so enjoyable. In addition to our ordinary meetings, members of the Society had the opportunity to attend three other meetings, namely a one-day symposium held in collaboration with the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in their College in February, a joint meeting with the Section of Urology of the Royal Society of Medicine, and the three-day Anglo-American Symposium on Sexually Transmitted Diseases organized by and held at the Royal Society of Medicine in June.

The Spring Meeting was held in Malta during April, immediately after the 28th General Assembly of the International Union against the Venereal Diseases and Treponematoses. Unfortunately, comparatively few members of the Union stayed on for our meeting although the papers presented at the Society's meeting were of a high standard. The whole meeting was very successful and enjoyable and the Society's thanks are due to Dr. Anton Agius Ferrante for his help in organizing the social events. Our thanks are also due to those pharmaceutical firms who, even in the present economic climate, were still able to help finance the meeting, namely Carlo Erba, Roche, Napp, Searle, and to May and Baker who printed the programmes.

The Council of the Society, under the Chairmanship of the President, Dr. J. L. Fluker, held five meetings during the session, and all were well attended. Among the matters considered by the Council were the need to increase the annual subscriptions and this was accepted by the Extraordinary Annual General Meeting held in March. The Council considered the possibility of working to contract during the profession's dispute with the government, but decided that clinical sanctions could not be applied in Special Clinics. The Council gave their support to the British and Irish members of the EUMS monospecialty Committee on Dermato-venereology. Our representatives have suggested that there should be three separate

specialties: Dermatology, the Specialty of Sexually Transmitted Diseases, and Dermato-Venereology. The Council noted that one clinic was collaborating with the U and I Club and found the work worthwhile, but decided that individual consultants should decide whether or not there was a need in their own area. The Council also agreed to the formation of a National Slide Library of the Sexually Transmitted Diseases, the nucleus of which is under the care of Dr. R. M. Warren at Southampton.

The production and distribution costs of the *British Journal of Venereal Diseases* have risen alarmingly over the past two years with the result that the price has been increased and consequently so have the subscription rates for the Society which, starting from January 1976, will be £8 for members living in the U.K. and £7.50 for those resident abroad. In addition, the Editorial Committee has had to agree to certain economies, including reducing the number of pages per volume, discontinuing the summaries in French, and making less use of secretarial assistance from the staff of the British Medical Association in preparing the Abstracts. The Editorial Committee believe that these economies will not detract from the real value of the Journal. Volume 50 contained 482 pages compared with 550 pages in Volume 49, but the circulation at December 31, 1974, was 1,878 by subscription (150 more than in 1973) while a further eighty copies were issued free or in exchange.

It was with deep regret that the Committee accepted the resignation of Dr. P. Rodin, the Editor, due to pressure of work. It is a pleasure to record the Society's gratitude to him for all the hard work he has put into the Journal not least the efforts he made to ensure that under his Editorship the issues appeared on time. The Committee approved unanimously Dr. Rodin's recommendation that he should be succeeded as Editor by Dr. R. N. Thin. Dr. Thin has since announced that Dr. B. A. Evans has accepted the post of Assistant Editor.

Mention should also be made of the work of the Specialty Advisory Committee on Venereology, under the Chairmanship of Dr. R. D. Catterall. Among the matters discussed were the review of the training curriculum, collaboration with the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in the recruitment of women with the MRCOG diploma into the specialty of Sexually Transmitted Diseases, and the difficulties being experienced in finding funds for training posts which have already been approved. In addition, they and their representatives have spent much time visiting the clinics throughout the United Kingdom and assessing their suitability for the training of Senior Registrars.

Dr. C. D. Alergant, the President-elect, resigned as Honorary Treasurer. During his 8 years of office, the Society's financial position had greatly strengthened. This was due not only to his ability but also to the time and effort he had spent in arranging for the Society to become a registered charity. This allowed us to save a large amount of income which would otherwise have been lost as tax. The Society is greatly indebted to Dr. Alergant for his services.

Finally the Secretary expressed his thanks to the retiring President, Dr. J. L. Fluker, for his guidance over the past two years and wished his successor, Dr. Alergant, all good fortune during his Presidency.

C. B. S. SCHOFIELD,
Hon. Secretary

M.S.S.V.D. Library

Mr Alan Mushin, F.R.C.S., has presented the following books to the MSSVD Library:

Common Diseases of the Male Urethra. By FRANK KIDD. Second edition, 1919. Longmans, Green, London
The Pathology and Treatment of Sexual Impotence. By VICTOR G. VECKI. Third edition, 1901. W. B. Saunders, Philadelphia and London.

A list of the books in this library was published in the *Brit. J. vener. Dis.* (1964) **40**, 234. They may be borrowed through Dr E. M. Dunlop at the Whitechapel Clinic, London Hospital.