Medical Society for the Study of Venereal Diseases

Report based on the Secretary's Report to the 62nd annual general meeting held on 28 October 1983

During the past year 35 new members have been elected. Membership to date is 549, 199 being resident overseas. No honorary life members have been elected.

Five ordinary meetings were held during the year, and those of 26th November 1982 dealing with hepatitis B and of 25th March 1983 concerning the acquired immune deficiency syndrome were so well attended that many members and guests had nowhere to sit; indeed the crowd overflowed into the hall. The Society is grateful to The Wellcome Foundation and Schering Chemicals Ltd, who arranged to pay some of the travelling expenses of the guest speaker for the meeting of 25th March, Dr H W Jaffe from Atlanta, Georgia. Schering Chemicals has promised financial support for similar noteworthy speakers from overseas in the future.

The second genitourinary study weekend for junior doctors in the specialty was held at Oxford on 16 April under the aegis of the Society. Over 70 doctors and their wives attended, and the weekend was mentally stimulating and most enjoyable. The Society is grateful to Bayer UK Ltd, which gave full financial support for the meeting; it is hoped to hold a similar meeting in 1984.

The Spring Meeting of the Society was held in conjunction with the Dutch Society for the Study of Sexually Transmitted Diseases, the Public Health services of Rotterdam, and the departments of dermatology and venereology and clinical microbiology at the University Hospital of Rotterdam from 12 to 15 May 1983. It was immensely successful. About 25 papers were presented, together with about 45 papers shown as parallel posters, of which

about half were discussed. The high quality of the papers was no doubt due to a vetting subcommittee of the Council, which had met earlier in the year. The Society is grateful for the firm support and cooperation given by Professor Dr E Stolz and the local organising committee in Rotterdam, who enabled the Society to have its meeting in such a modern lecture theatre, and who laid on excellent supportive technical services. The social programme and hospitality was superb and the Society cannot praise enough the excellence of the hospitality organised by Mrs Threes Moolhuysen-Coenders, assisted by Mrs Lydia Bakker. The Society is grateful to the pharmaceutical houses who donated funds for the Spring Meeting.

The Council of the Society held five meetings. At every council meeting prospective candidates for membership were always considered carefully before being recommended to the general meeting. Matters discussed included deliberation about the introduction of a vaccine against hepatitis B, consideration of implications of the reorganisation of the Venereal Disease Reference Laboratory within the Public Health Laboratory Service, concern of the council at proposals in the now abortive Police and Criminal Evidence Bill 1982 which would have concerned confidentiality, and proposals for the establishment of a physicians' advisory committee in genitourinary medicine within the Royal College of Physicians. We are very grateful to our President, Dr Elisabeth Rees who has brilliantly put the case to the College. Approval for such a committee has been agreed by Committee.

The British Journal of Venereal Diseases

has continued to maintain its high standard. We are grateful for the skilful management shown by its Editor, Dr A M McMillan. He is assisted by two Assistant Editors, Drs R A Evans and G D Morrison. Volume 58 consisted of 427 pages and contained 81 articles.

Dr R D Catterall reports that meetings of the European Union of Medical Specialists Monospecialty Committee on Dermatovenereology continue. Four years of full-time specialist training are considered to be desirable for all medical specialties including dermatovenereology. A meeting was held in September in Athens, when the principal item on the agenda concerned the implementation of these requirements in all countries of the European Economic Community.

I think it could be said that the year has been very successful and many activities not previously attempted have been accomplished. Members of the Society should consider attending more national and international meetings on subjects allied to genitourinary medicine. There is a danger that the views of English genitourinary doctors are disregarded because of the failure to express such views at important meetings. There is also the danger that advances in genitourinary medicine are not appreciated as quickly as they should be. The future bodes well, and the Society should flourish in years to come.

I should like to thank our President, Dr Elisabeth Rees, under whom it has been a privilege to serve, and who with her customary charm has given me such sound advice. We wish her a happy retirement.

M A WAUGH
Honorary Secretary