

Medical Society for the Study of Venereal Diseases

Report based on the Honorary Secretary's Report to the 63rd annual general meeting held on 26th October 1984

During the past year 39 new members have been elected. Membership to date is 581, 219 being resident overseas. In the past year two honorary life members were elected, Drs R D Catterall and J L Fluker.

Five ordinary meetings were held during the year. The Society is grateful to Schering Chemicals Ltd, who arranged to pay the expenses of the guest speaker for the meeting of 25 November 1983, Dr W Cates, Director, Division of Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, Georgia. Unfortunately the company is no longer in a position to pay for other speakers from overseas.

The third genitourinary study weekend for junior doctors in the specialty was held at Bath on 14 April under the aegis of the Society. Over 80 doctors attended. The Society is grateful to those who gave their time to come to speak and to Bayer UK Ltd, which gave full financial support for the meeting. That company has promised full backing again for such meetings in 1985 and 1986, and the next meeting will be held at Leicester on 13 April 1985, where it is hoped to invite more sub-consultant doctors than previously.

The Spring Meeting of the Society was held in Manchester from 18 to 20 May 1984. It was very successful, and 20 papers were presented, together with 21 papers shown as parallel posters. The Society is most grateful to the chairman of the Genitourinary Physicians of Manchester, Dr K R Haye, for enabling us to come to Manchester, and to Dr and Mrs M N Bhattacharyya, who put in so much hard work arranging all the local social activities. The Society is grateful to the pharmaceutical houses who donated funds, printed the programme, and organised some of the entertainments for the Spring Meeting.

The Fifth Harrison Lecture was given on 24 February 1984 by Dr R D Catterall, its theme being the development of the specialty. Remembrance was made of Dr C S Nicol, who gave so much to the specialty and who died on 17 February. Dr James Bingham and the staff of the Middlesex Hospital Medical School must be thanked for providing a first rate dinner after the lecture, before which a portrait of the speaker was unveiled to mark his retirement.

Two other meetings took place in 1984 that should be recognised. An advanced course in sexually transmitted diseases was held at St Thomas's Hospital from 21 to 23 March and attended by 70 delegates. This was organised by the British Postgraduate Medical Federation and was the first of its kind.

At the request of some members of the Pathological Society, a sexually transmitted disease discussion group was set up that resulted in a meeting at Charing Cross Hospital on 27 September. Pathologists and genitourinary physicians read papers on recent research in sexually transmitted disease to over 100 people. Our thanks are given to Professor Charles Easmon of St Mary's Hospital Medical School, who has piloted the early progress of this group.

The Acquired Immune Deficiency Information Group under the leadership of Professor M W Adler meets regularly and continues to flourish.

The Council of the Society held six meetings, including an extraordinary one on 24 February to discuss the necessity to move our venue after the Medical Society of London had given notice to the Society that it could no longer hold meetings on its premises. Many suggestions were received, and all the more practical ones were investi-

gated. Eventually the kind offer of Drs D Barlow and R N Thin to hold meetings at St Thomas's Hospital was accepted.

At other Council meetings matters discussed included the change of name of the *British Journal of Venereal Diseases*, the setting up of an informal discussion group with microbiologists on sexually transmitted diseases, and policies that could affect the service for the public because of constraints in the National Health Service. The last resulted in a meeting on 14 September at St Thomas's Hospital, which was attended by several members of Council.

The *British Journal of Venereal Diseases* has continued to maintain its high standard. We are grateful for the masterly leadership shown by its editor, Dr A McMillan. He is assisted by two assistant editors, Drs B A Evans and G D Morrison, soon to be joined by Dr R S Pattman, who will have responsibility for abstracts. Volume 59 consisted of 429 pages and contained 86 articles.

Dr R D Catterall has retired from being President and delegate of the United Kingdom in venereology at meetings of the European Union of Medical Specialists Monospecialty Committee on Dermato-venereology. He has been replaced by Dr J R W Harris, with Dr M A Waugh as observer. A meeting of the Committee was held in Brussels on 8 September.

The year has again been very successful, and the Society, despite a great many inconveniences, has pulled through. I should like to thank our President, Dr B A Evans, for his forbearance, as well as you, the members of the Society.

M A WAUGH
Honorary Secretary