



COMMONWEALTH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

COMMONWEALTH NEWSLETTER No. 5

London Meeting of Council

1. This Commonwealth Newsletter (number 5) follows a most successful meeting of the Council of the Commonwealth Medical Association in London. Enclosed is a copy of the report of the Meeting which appeared in the British Medical Journal. The formal Minutes of the Council will be issued in due course. In the meantime, however, the Council thought that it would be useful to let member Associations know of some of the decisions taken at the meeting which will effect the future conduct of the affairs of the Commonwealth Medical Association.

Membership

2. The Council decided that applications from other Associations within the Commonwealth to join the Commonwealth Medical Association should be dealt with only by the Council in session and in accordance with the following principles:—

- (i) An association which applies for membership will be invited by the Honorary Secretary-Treasurer to complete and re-

turn a questionnaire, designed to elicit basic information about the applicant association which will be laid before the Council when its application is considered.

- (ii) Only one association in each country will be eligible for election to membership; but in a country where a single (or clearly predominant) national association has not yet evolved, observers from more than one association may be permitted to attend the Council without charge to the funds of the Commonwealth Medical Association.
- (iii) Only fully registered medical practitioners will be permitted to attend the Council, either as delegates or observers; or to enjoy any other privileges of C.M.A. membership.

3. On the instructions of the Council, a letter reporting the proceedings of the London meeting and indicating the procedure for making application for membership of the Associa-

tion has been sent for information to the non-member medical associations of independent territories within the Commonwealth.

Finance

4. The Council decided to continue the present method of financing the Commonwealth Medical Association by means of the "London formula" with an annual subscription of at least £50. This involves a slight change inasmuch as the subscription is payable whether or not the member Association sends a delegate to meetings of the Council. Previously the minimum subscription was £100 per meeting attended. In order to improve the finances of the Association the Council also expressed the hope that those member Associations which now pay the minimum subscription of £100 **per meeting** may find it possible voluntarily to increase their contributions, beyond the minimum figure of £50 p.a.

The Newsletter

5. At the Council meeting it was reported that there had been some difficulty in obtaining news items for the Commonwealth Newsletters from the member associations. Four Newsletters had so far been issued and it had, unfortunately, proved necessary to fill them largely with news from the United Kingdom. The Council felt that in some of the member countries the Commonwealth Medical Association was not sufficiently well-known. The Constitution of the Association (Article 9) envisaged the establishment of a local organisation in each country and the Council hopes that this aim will at once be fulfilled by each member Association. As a first step, it hopes that the Secretary of each member association will agree to act as local correspondent for the Newsletter and will keep the editor of the Newsletter regularly supplied with information about his own country.

6. The editorship of the Newsletter will, in future, pass in rotation among member Asso-

ciations and the Newsletter will be issued by the medical association of the country which will act as host to the next Council meeting. This means that Dr. R. B. Khambatta of the Pakistan Medical Association will act as editor until 1966 and members of the Association are asked to send him all items for inclusion in forthcoming editions of the Newsletter. His address is 3, Hotel Metropole Building, Karachi, 17.

Future Meetings

7. The next meeting of the Council is to take place at the invitation of the Pakistan Medical Association in Karachi on 26th–29th November, 1966. It will follow the third World Conference on Medical Education in New Delhi and will precede the Joint Meeting of the British and Pakistan Medical Associations which is to take place in Karachi from 30th November to 3rd December, 1966.

8. The Council has also provisionally accepted an invitation from the Australian Medical Association to meet in Australia in 1968. Here again, the World Medical Association is expected to hold its General Assembly in Australia that year and there will also be a joint meeting of the Australian and British Medical Associations in Australia in 1968.

Canadian Medical Association

9. The inaugural meeting of the Council of the Commonwealth Medical Association at Coimbo in November, 1962 resolved: "That the Canadian Medical Association be cordially invited to join the Commonwealth medical Association." It is a great pleasure to be able to announce that, after receiving a report from its observers who attended the London meeting of the Council, the Canadian Medical Association has now accepted this invitation. The letter of acceptance from Dr. Kelly was couched in particularly warm terms.

October, 1964.