

The last meeting of the above group was held at Monash Medical School, Alfred Hospital, on 15th May 1973.

Apologies were received from Mrs Dawson, Miss Dunn, Mrs Finger, Mrs McKinnon, Mrs Nakouz, Mr Parks, Mrs Rae, Mrs Richards, Mrs Seymour, Miss Stevenson, and Mrs Tubby.

Mention was made of the fact that we had contacted the Hospital and Charities Commission and were awaiting a reply. In the letter, three points were raised:

1. we requested a speaker from the Commission for our next meeting in August;
2. we indicated our willingness as a group to meet the designated representative from the Commission to discuss the establishment of a consultant's panel which could advise on the establishment of new hospital libraries and their initial operation;
3. we requested that the Commission give consideration to the awarding of a scholarship to help cover expenses of a suitable student in librarianship, similar to those they provide for medical record librarians.

Since our meeting, the Commission has replied to our letter, and a meeting has been held between the Commissioner, Mr. Thomas, and four of our members: Miss Anne Harrison, and Mrs Jacqueline Baillie, representing the interests of the Universities, and Mrs Fay Baker and Mrs Enid Meldrum, as conveners of our group. Although we were grateful to Mr. Thomas to give his time for the interview, we feel that the meeting was rather unproductive, in that the Commission does not appear to govern the spending of money allocated to hospitals. Mr. Thomas indicated that this was under the jurisdiction of the hospital's board of management. He felt quite strongly that until we could prove that there was a need for librarians in country hospitals, we could not expect much sympathy from the boards of management.

We feel that it is now up to the Group to indicate in which area we should focus our activities. We feel that we could write to the Medical Superintendents of the 8 or 9 base hospitals in Victoria offering our services both in an advisory capacity for the establishment and maintenance of a library service, and on a practical level of providing requested information. The latter offer is probably more of a problem than the former, in that we would require the co-operation and time from practically all members of the Medical Librarians' Group. The type of scheme we envisage is one in which the larger metropolitan hospital libraries undertake to be responsible for the information needs of one country hospital, the contact at the latter probably being the Medical Superintendent's secretary. Unfortunately, at this stage we have no possible way of knowing what amount of work this may entail, but presumably should one library be unable to cope we could call for a revision of this proposition.

Our first question to Mr. Thomas, about the possibility of arranging a speaker from the Commission has been fulfilled by a Mr. Walshe, from Traralgon, who has expressed his pleasure at being invited to speak to us on Tuesday 14th August. We would appreciate everyone making a special effort to attend this meeting for two main reasons:

1. Mr. Walshe will have to travel some distance to talk to us, presumably at some personal inconvenience; and
2. we should do all we can to make the Commission aware of our membership and activities, and our belief that our services are needed in the country areas. We feel that the proposals mentioned in the previous paragraph could well be discussed after Mr. Walshe's talk, and that we could profit by his presence to advise us on regional divisions, etc.

The discussion on the medical library directory brought to light the fact that the majority of members feel the more information contained the better, and therefore the more useful, the end result would be.

We decided upon a loose-leaf format, using a fairly heavy grade paper for the leaves, and a stiffened cardboard cover. The suggested format is at the moment in the hands of a member of the Monash University staff to be assessed for cost. We hope to have various assessments in time for the next meeting. Our idea is that each member of the Group should complete their own form for their particular library, which would then be edited to comply with standard forms of terminology, etc. The copies would then be duplicated from this edited version. Updating could be carried out either once a year, or minor changes mentioned via the Newsletter.

Members are reminded that the subscription of \$2 is now due, and could be paid at the conclusion of the next meeting.

The next meeting, as mentioned earlier, will be held in the Conference Room, Department of Surgery, Monash Medical School, Alfred Hospital, on Tuesday 14th August, at 7.30pm.

The speaker will be Mr. L.A. Walshe, from the Victorian Hospital Sector, no. 1, at Traralgon. He will speak on the organization of regional hospitals in Victoria, and of any plans the Commission may have for library services within these regions. Mr. Walshe has indicated his willingness to answer questions, so if any member has had experience of being approached by doctors from country areas without library service, we would be pleased if they could mention this fact.

For the reasons mentioned earlier, we would very much appreciate a good attendance.