

(latest)  
The last meeting of the above group was held on Tuesday 20th March. Apologies were received from Miss Amy Bush, Mrs Dianna Carr, Mrs Joan Dawson, Miss Verna Dunn, Miss Jean Foreman, Miss Elizabeth Giddy, Miss Lynette Graham, Miss Gillian Joseph, Mrs Pat. Makouz, Miss Virginia Stevenson, and Mrs Marion Rock.

Mention was made of the previous meeting at which Mr. Paul Hodgson from the Australian MEDLARS Service spoke to us. Future meeting dates for this year were proposed: Tuesday 15th May, 14th August and 13th November.

The conveners would like the meeting for May 15th to centre around a discussion on the Medical Library Information Card. A proto-type of the card is expected to be sent with the notice of the meeting and members will be expected to give their views and ideas on the type and amount of information contained. Ideas must be forthcoming also, as to the format; whether on cards, or loose-leaf pages strengthened at the inner margins, and enclosed in a stiffened cardboard holder. When thinking about format particularly, it needs to be remembered that part of the money in hand could be spent on the production of something reasonably durable, and of much practical use.

The conveners also feel that we should approach the Hospitals and Charities Commission, firstly with the offer to set up an honorary advisory panel which could be consulted by librarians faced with establishing new medical libraries, and secondly in the hope that they may like to provide us with a speaker on any plans the Commission may have for the provision of library services in regional hospitals.

Miss O'Halloran, librarian from the Commission, also put forward the proposal that we approach the Commission with the request for consideration being given to the establishment of a scholarship for training in medical librarianship, as is at present the case for medical record librarianship. Although there is as yet no specific course of training in our field, the scholarship holder could be bonded to a period of in-service training, and then to a hospital for an additional period.

Miss Harrison then gave a brief report on activities at the national level, saying that an offer had been made by Karger, the Swiss publishing firm, to publish a newsletter for us on a national basis.

She reported that Mr. George Franki has plans well in hand for the establishment of a course in medical librarianship at the University of New South Wales School of Librarianship, and is at present discussing curricula with Addison Fry from the U.S.

It is hoped that a national meeting of medical librarians will be arranged at the library conference in Perth later this year.

Miss Pinder then spoke on developments in the wages case for the Association of Hospital and Health Services Librarians. The employment of professional legal advice for MAAV has been suggested and would involve a per capita payment to cover salary costs. The general opinion seems to be in favour of the appointment.

A most interesting talk was then given by Mrs Baker, the subject being her recent trip to the Philippines as Medical Library Consultant with the World Health Organization. Mrs Baker spent a period of four weeks attached to W.H.O. as consultant. Her project concerned the future library development of the Institute of Public Health, which is a unit of the University of Philippines. Her talk was most informative about library conditions in Manila and Diliman, the suburb in which the main university is established. The physical and economical situation of their present medical library scheme would seem to be totally inadequate by any of our university standards.

Mrs Baillie proposed the vote of thanks, and the evening concluded with the serving of supper.