

MEDICAL LIBRARIANS' GROUP (VICTORIAN BRANCH)NEWSLETTER, MAY 1974

Minutes of the meeting held 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 14th, at the Austin Hospital.

Apologies were received from the following members:
Miss Judith Quilter, Mrs. Mary Rae, Mrs. Joan Tubby,
Miss Jane Oliver, Miss Virginia Stephenson, Miss Elizabeth Giddy,
Mrs. Ellen O'Halloran, Mrs. Helen Cotsell, Mr. Balassa, Mrs.
Margaret McKimmon, Mrs. Helen Murphy, Mrs. Ermers, Mrs. Thora Grey.

Mention was first made of the passing of Miss Verna Dunn, who had been Librarian for many years at the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, and who will be sadly missed by her colleagues. The Medical Librarians' Group (Victorian Branch) was represented at Miss Dunn's funeral, and also sent a wreath and had notices inserted in the three newspapers.

The sheets for the Medical Library Directory have arrived at last, and the question now is which method to choose for the most efficient standardization of each Library's information. The alternatives will be studied more closely before a decision is to be reached.

The Book List Committee (Mrs. Marion Rock, Mrs. Enid Meldrum, Miss Amy Bush and Mrs. Val Strantzen) has had one meeting, from which emerged a very rough copy of our Basic book list for small medical libraries. Copies were distributed at the meeting to members who were asked to study the list and return it to the Committee with additions, deletions, corrections and general comments. The final list will then have to be checked for bibliographical consistency.

The New Guinea in-service training scholarship did not eventuate - the proposed candidate has apparently vacated her position in the P. & N.G. University Library. It is a pity that the libraries in Melbourne who were willing to accommodate the scheme were not given more notice of the girl's non-arrival.

A letter written by Mrs. Jacqueline Baillie regarding the establishment of a National Organization of Medical Librarians' Groups had been sent to members prior to the meeting. After brief discussion, it was unanimously decided that formation of such a body was a good thing, with its general aims for federal finance, increased AUC support for hospital libraries, grants for University libraries to support their inter-library loan services, a subsidy for CMLO to help provide regional services etc. Mrs. Baillie was given the go-ahead to pass on our Group's approval of the suggestion to the N.S.W. Medical Librarians' Group in May. Miss ~~Erriacn~~ nominated Miss Amy Bush to be our State representative; Mrs. Baillie seconded the nomination and Miss Bush was unanimously elected.

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Miss Harrison suggested that the Hospital Librarians' successful fight for a salary increase be documented in an issue of the Australian Library Journal; the suggestion was extended to perhaps aiming for a whole issue of the ALJ devoted to medical libraries.

The next item was a report of the Second Medical Libraries Seminar, held at Wellington Hospital, New Zealand on 22nd February, 1974. The main points of the report are summarized as follows:

1. The term "health sciences" is to be used in preference to 'medical library services'
2. An issue of the New Zealand Library Journal was devoted to medical libraries (see our suggestion above)
3. A suggestion is to be made to the N.Z. Library School that "health sciences - reference and bibliography" be included as a subject in the Diploma Course.
4. Librarians were urged to take an interest in the establishment of SATIS (Scientific and Technical Information Service) the New Zealand equivalent to STISEC.
5. The New Zealand National Library would be requested to arrange for one of its officers to give instructional seminars in Medlars.
6. A scheme has been devised whereby a list was made of the journals which were indexed in Medlars but not taken by any N.Z. Library; 40 top priority ones were then assigned to 4 different libraries.
7. A project is planned to compile standards for health sciences libraries.

It was suggested that a letter be written to New Zealand to obtain for the Group a copy of their Union List of Serials.

A letter has been received from Mr. Michael Ramsden inviting the group to arrange a 2-2½ day workshop for the Library Association Conference. Some discussion arose about choosing a suitable subject; anyone with any suggestions for a very broad topic is asked to pass them on to one of the co-conveners. A committee is to be appointed to deal with the workshop, and June 1st has been set for a deadline for further ideas. Suggestions to date: Medical libraries in the future; alternatives to Dewey classification for medicine; Library information services and the network concept; standards in libraries.

Members are reminded that 1974-75 subscriptions are due in July; it was decided to keep them at \$2 for the time being. Some financial support from CMLO should be forthcoming.

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Mrs. J. Baillie had several comments to make of general interest:

- a) The AUC report on Medical Education has come out with no mention of the word 'Library'. It is felt that a protest letter should come from the National Group of Medical Librarians once it is established.
- b) The Library Council of Victoria is making available an amount of up to \$50,000 for a worthy Library Science cause. We would be eligible to apply for part of this amount.
- c) Mrs. Baillie has been invited by Mr. Walsh to speak to doctors at Traralgon Hospital; this follows the meeting at which Mr. Walsh addressed the group.
- d) Mrs. Baillie also visited Colac library; a Mental hospital is to be set up in the area and is interested in the idea of inter-library cooperation.

A special meeting of the Group was held on Thursday, 28th March at St. Vincent's Hospital. Three of the Group members, Miss Amy Bush (St. Vincent's), Miss Judith Quilter (Eye & Ear) and Miss Margaret Kerr (C.S.L.) spoke on the Seminar in Canberra which they attended, on "New Directions in Medical Librarianship and Biomedical Communications". It was conducted by Professor A. Rees, Associate Dean of the School of Library Science, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio. There was quite a good attendance of members at this Special Meeting. The main point of the discussion is that we can benefit from American experiences in this field, particularly concerning regionalization and providing greater access to library resources.

It has been decided to vary the day of future meetings. Members will be notified in due course of the date of the next meeting, at which we hope Miss Carmel Maguire may speak. Meeting closed at 9.30 p.m., followed by a very nice supper.