

are also available from the British Cardiac Society, which has funded the project."

Royal Medical Benevolent Fund

Members who attended the Harrogate meeting will have seen the display stand for the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund (24 King's Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 8QN. Tel: 081 540 9194). Perhaps few—other than senior members from St George's—will have recognised Mrs Judith Leatham who is a devoted member of the fund and who was on the stand for much of the time. There was also enthusiastic participation by the local guild of the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund. We have had a letter of thanks from the chairman, Dr JW Brooke Barnett. He wrote "Many doctors are unaware of the existence of the professions's leading charity which helps nearly 700 doctors and their dependants each year. It was, therefore, very fortunate that for the first time the British Cardiac Society at its annual meeting in Harrogate this year allowed the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund to be represented. The distribution of grants to doctors and their families in distress exceeds the income from the traditional means of collecting money for charities by covenants, subscriptions, and fund raising activities." A large number of members and guests requested information, and we hope they will continue to support a charity that is very much our own.

News from Europe

Philip Poole-Wilson is writing a series of short articles to increase our familiarity with the European Society of Cardiology. "To some members of the British Cardiac Society, the European Society of Cardiology may appear as a large, distant, and amorphous body. That image partly arises because of the size of the Annual Congress which is the major annual event organised by the Society, and partly because its activities may not be well known. A newsletter is being sent to all members of the European Society of Cardiology in an endeavour to improve communications and make members aware of developments in European cardiology. We hope that it will be sent twice each year. By now the first one has probably arrived.

The 1991 Congress in Amsterdam attracted 13 151 registered persons of whom 9308 were active participants from 76 countries. The numbers have increased steadily over the last few years. The size presents enormous difficulties to the organisers. Only a few places in Europe can provide sufficient lecture theatres, exhibition space, and hotels. The aim is to have the congress in the last two

weeks of September. That has proved difficult, but the board is aware of problems with holidays and schooling. In 1996, the annual Congress will take place in Birmingham (August 25 to 29). If that is a success Birmingham may become a regular site for future meetings into the next century.

The European Society of Cardiology is made up of 32 national societies and 24 working groups. Anyone who is a member of the national societies is also a member of the European Society of Cardiology. A few additional persons are members of the European Society of Cardiology through the working groups. That arrangement particularly applies to non-medically qualified persons and scientists. The total membership is now more than 16 000. The population covered by the cardiologists who are members is in excess of half a billion. Although there is complete intermingling of functions amongst cardiologists, in broad terms the national societies represent the profession and the working groups represent cardiologists and scientists with an interest in a particular facet of cardiology. The working groups are: exercise physiology, epidemiology, pathophysiology, valvular heart disease, drug therapy, computers in cardiology, myocardial function, peripheral circulation, nuclear cardiology, anatomy and pathology, microcirculation, thrombosis, echocardiography, rehabilitation, arrhythmias, hypertension, cardiac pacing, myocardial and pericardial disease, coronary circulation, grown-up congenital heart disease, electrophysiology, atherosclerosis, pulmonary circulation, and cardiovascular nursing.

If you wish to become a member of these working groups (and you are encouraged to do so) please write to the appropriate chairman. The names and addresses can be found in the pink pages at the back of the *European Heart Journal*." More from Europe next month . . .

News of colleagues

Appointments recently (subject to the usual ratification) have included Thomas Marwick as senior lecturer and honorary consultant at St Mary's Hospital Medical School and John Morgan as consultant cardiologist at Southampton General Hospital. For the single quarter from January to March 1992 a total of nine appointments were made in cardiology in England and Wales—more than in any other medical specialty. 1992 was expected to be a bleak year for new consultant appointments, because only two retirements were planned. We hope that new posts will continue to be created, but there seems little

prospect of avoiding a dearth of fully trained senior registrars over the next few years.

News of meetings

Steven Walton, chairman of the British Nuclear Cardiology Group, has asked us to give notice of a one day symposium on "The Assessment of Myocardial Viability that will be held on 18 September 1992 at St Thomas' Hospital. The programmed sections and speakers are as follows: biochemistry (Dr P Garlick, UMDS); electrocardiography (David Mulcahy, Royal Brompton); rest-stress echocardiography (John Chambers, UMDS); nuclear medicine (Professor J McKillop, Glasgow); MRI/CT (Dr D Pennell, Royal Brompton); and PET Scanning (Professor J Melin, Louvain). Further details may be obtained from Dr T Nunn, Department of Nuclear Medicine, St Thomas' Hospital, London SE1 7EH (tel: 071 928 9292, ext 2163)."

Huon Gray writes "The winter meeting of the British Cardiovascular Intervention Society (BCIS) will be held in Southampton on Thursday afternoon 24 September and all day Friday 25 September 1992. Further details regarding the meeting have been distributed to members of BCIS."

Members have first priority for the limited places at our teach-ins, but applications are open to non-members from two months before the event. Those members wishing to ensure reservations for "Emerging Concepts in Atherogenesis" arranged by Michael Davies for 10 November should telephone the office by the middle of September. The Workshop on Preventive Cardiology organised by David Wood is booked for 14 October.

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NOTICE

The 1993 Annual Meeting of the **British Cardiac Society** will take place at the Wembley Conference Centre from 18 to 21 May.