

**FIRST SESSION****THE AGE OF DISCRETION**

22 October 1966

**INTRODUCTION**

**Dr George Swift, T.D., M.A., B.M., B.Ch. (*Faculty Provost*)**

**T**HE programme says that the age of discretion is between the years 20 to 40; this lets me out and I can now apparently become indiscreet. On the other hand my twin sons who are 25 years of age are presumably supposed to be discreet, perhaps they are.

Your chairman is Dr Norman, chief medical officer of London Transport, he is responsible for the medical care of a lot of young men who are dashing around driving buses in the streets of London, and people from other countries who are dashing around driving tube trains. At the same time he has the responsibility of looking after the public who travel on these vehicles and some of these are between the ages of 20 and 40 themselves. I cannot believe that we could have a more appropriate chairman for this symposium.

**OPENING REMARKS**

**L. G. Norman, C.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P. (*Chairman; Chief medical officer, London Transport*)**

It is very difficult to arrange a programme on this unusual subject, which is, however, one of much interest. Is there a kind of internal war between a man and his discretion? I expect Professor Stengel will be able to help us here. Hamlet said: 'It is common for the younger sort to lack discretion' but Hamlet was discreet enough not to define what he meant by 'the younger sort'. The Book of Common Prayer in its service for confirmation uses the phrase