

families in West Glamorgan. The natural history of the disease was also being studied by the Birmingham Research Unit using both computer recorded data in a six-year follow-up and retrospectively using disease indexes. The Epidemic Observation Unit in Surrey, with the help of the Medical Research Council, was studying the effect of erythromycin in the prophylaxis of whooping cough among the contacts of bacteriologically confirmed cases of the disease.

15 Princes Gate

Dr Linnett reported that the planning authorities had now given permission to rationalize the combined uses of numbers 14 and 15 Princes Gate. Work had started on making communicating passages between the two buildings, electric wiring had been started, and it was hoped to begin to bring residential accommodation on the top floor into use during the summer.

The President had written to all provosts suggesting that faculties might wish to help, as they had done in the past with number 14, in the redecoration and furnishing of the new accommodation.

Assistant Honorary Secretary

Dr Linnett welcomed an appointment for one year only of an extra Officer of Council, Dr John Hasler, who had been elected Assistant Honorary Secretary.

The Chairman concluded his address thanking Mr James Wood and the administrative staff at Princes Gate for all their work throughout the year and the Midland Faculty for organizing the Silver Jubilee Spring Meeting, which had proved such a success.

Motions

There were no motions from the faculties and the meeting ended at 11.00 hours.

William Pickles Lecture

The William Pickles Lecture was delivered by Dr P. Freeling, FRCGP, Senior Lecturer in the Department of General Practice at St George's Hospital Medical School, London. Dr Freeling spoke on "Those who can" and his lecture has been published in full in the June issue of this *Journal*. Dr Freeling was accorded a standing ovation.

OBITUARY

M. J. Fenton, MB, CH.B, MRCP

Dr M. J. Fenton, General Practitioner and Emeritus Consultant Dermatologist, died in December 1977 at the age of 77.

Michael Julius Fenton was born in Leeds. His early life was spent at Sheffield and he graduated in medicine from the University of Sheffield in 1924. For many years he practised in Brixton, where he soon became interested in dermatology. After serving as Clinical Assistant in the Skin Department of King's College Hospital he became Consultant Dermatologist to Battersea General Hospital and retained the post until his retirement in 1964, when he was appointed Emeritus Consultant in Dermatology. Thus he was one of the few general practitioners to retain his position with the regional hospital board as a consultant in his specialty. He also held positions in immunization clinics of the local authorities at Stockwell, Islington, and Southwark from 1927 until the time of his death.

Dr Fenton was a founder member of the Royal College of General Practitioners, and was awarded an Upjohn Travelling Fellowship in 1962. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine, and was a member of the British Medical Association for over 50 years, serving in turn as Secretary, Treasurer, and Chairman of the Lambeth and Southwark Division. He was also a representative at Annual General Meetings of the BMA

on many occasions between 1929 and 1962.

Having served in the Royal Flying Corps during the First World War and as a medical officer in the Royal Canadian Air Force during the Second, he retained his interest in aviation medicine and became a medical examiner to the Civil Aviation Authority. A month before his death he successfully took a course in aviation medicine at the RAF Institute at Farnborough. He was also interested in hypnosis and was a Past President of the British Society of Medical and Dental Hypnosis.

His interests were many and diverse. A long-distance runner for his university, he retained his interest in sport as a medical officer in amateur boxing in the Olympic Games in 1948, and in the Maccabiah in Israel in 1950 and 1957. He was a skilled amateur conjurer and was a member of the Magic Circle and the former Magicians' Club. He was a Freeman of the City of London, a Liveryman of the Society of Apothecaries, a Council Member of the City Livery Club and the United Wards Club, Vice-President of the Portsoken Ward Club, and a member of the City Pickwick Club.

Dr Fenton remained in single-handed practice for over 40 years and continued to see patients up to the time of his death. He is survived by his wife, Gladys, and two daughters to whom we offer our sympathy.

L. T. NEWMAN