

APPENDIX 1

Notes on the Minutes of the MEDICAL WOMEN'S FEDERATION Liverpool Branch 1938-1945

1938-39 session

* *Student Branch*

- Subscription 2s per term
- Miss J. Miller, first year representative
- Rules of Society: 1 meeting Autumn Term, 1 meeting Spring Term,
1 Clinical meeting, Tennis Tournament at Wyncote

* *14 October 1938*

- Freshers' Party organised by Miss Ruth Nicholson
 - Party expenses £1 8s (sweets, cigarettes, crackers: 14s 6d; prizes: 6s; tips:
5s; miscellaneous: 2s 6d)

* *4 November 1938*

- Vice Presidential address: Dr M.E. Thomas on The History of Medical Women'

* *20 April 1939*

- General Meeting, 8 Rodney Street, Dr Duvall, VP, in the Chair
- Agenda for April Council meeting discussed:
 - i. medical women & national defence
 - ii. nomination of a woman candidate for election to the General Medical Council
- Police Court examinations: woman doctor had been appointed to examine cases
for the Liverpool police
- Clinical meeting: due to the increased demands on members' time it was decided
not
to hold a clinical meeting in May

* *30 May 1939*

- General Meeting, 42 Croxteth Road, Dr McHugh, President, in the Chair.
11 members present and Dr Barbara Abercromby, member of BMA Local
Emergency Committee:
 - i. A letter had been received by the secretary stating that the Executive Committee
of the Liverpool Division of the BMA had decided to recommend the

- nomination of Miss Elizabeth Bolton for election to the GMC. Members were urged to attend the BMA general meeting to vote for Miss Bolton
- ii. The Local Emergency Committee noted that the Council were strongly of the opinion that when a woman member was co-opted to a BMA Local Emergency Committee it should be with full rights of membership. In Liverpool no action was necessary as Dr Barbara Abercromby was a member of the Local Emergency Committee. Dr Abercromby gave an outline of the working of the Committee and answered questions on its plans for the national service of medical practitioners
 - iii. Present arrangements for the medical examination of recruits for the Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service were unsatisfactory. Information had been obtained from the Commandant, Mrs Kennon, by the secretary; further details were to be requested later

1939-40 session

* 28 October 1939

-Committee Meeting, 42 Croxteth Road, Dr McHugh, President, in the Chair

- i A letter was read from Dr Clara Raven, now returned to America, thanking the Liverpool Association for hospitality during her stay in England
- ii Medical Women Refugees now training in England to become midwives: a letter was received in July from the Medical Secretary of the Federation asking that the attention of the Association be drawn to this subject at the next meeting. The Executive had received an appeal for help, but felt they could not commit the Federation without consulting Council on various proposals. Liverpool Association expressed a willingness to help but wished further information
- iii Local meetings in Wartime: decided to hold afternoon meetings at 4 pm on Wednesdays & Saturdays alternatively
- iv Medical Women & National Defence: noted that the services of medical women were to be made use of in the Forces at the same rates of pay as for the men, all appointments being made through the Central Emergency Committee. Several points were still to be settled
- v Survey of Transfer of Population: information regarding new openings for practice were requested
- vi General Medical Council: no elections to take place
- vii Internal Sanitary Pads: copy of letter from Catholic Hygiene Committee read & noted. No further information submitted by members present. Members requested to collect information if their work is amongst large numbers of women workers.

* 26 January 1940

- Liverpool hosting Council meeting
- Luncheon given to delegates at Adelphi Hotel, 6s.6d per head
- Several posters demanding 'Insist on a doctor of like sex' had been displayed in Liverpool

*** 15 May 1940**

- Resolution from Executive Committee concerning Medical Women's War Service: That medical women should comprise or be included on medical boards for examination of women recruits
- Discussion on refugee committee and women's mobile unit for France

*** 14 August 1940**

- General meeting, 28 Huskisson Street, Dr Duvall, President, in the Chair
- Air raid siren sounded and members adjourned to basement where, installed comfortably and securely, they were refreshed by President's hospitality

1940-41 session

*** 31 October 1940**

- General meeting, 45 Rodney Street
- A grant of £50 had been made to the Liverpool Association from funds sent to Britain by the American Women's Hospitals. The conditions that accompanied the donation were discussed as were plans for fitting in local needs with these stipulations
- Armlets kindly made by Dr McHugh from the A.W.M. model were given to be used in obtaining suitable photographs
- It was proposed by Miss Forshall and seconded by Dr Clarke that women and children air raid victims should be selected for country hospital treatment provided by the £50 as far as it would go. Crofton and Woolton Babies Hospitals and others available through the Liverpool Association were suggested as the most suitable. Dr Cantrell agreed to act as Treasurer of the fund

*** 28 November 1940**

- Committee Meeting
- Drs Garry and Duncan (anaesthetists) had been invited
- Question of Nurse Anaesthetists turned down unanimously. There was no shortage of anaesthetists in Liverpool, while there was evidence of a shortage of nurses, particularly theatre sisters. 'In the absence of a general difficulty in obtaining anaesthetists, we are not in favour of training non-medical anaesthetists. We suggest local shortage should be met by the appointment of resident anaesthetists'

-Medical Women in War Services: Secretary of Central Medical War Committee had been asked to supply names of 50 medical women and 33 specialists for the RAMC — members circularised

*** 20 March 1941**

-AGM: President Dr H.M. Duvall

-Treasurer reported on the American Women's Hospital Fund; a grant of one guinea per week for a child war victim at Woolton Babies Hospital was authorised for 3 months stay

*** 25 June 1941**

-Resolutions:

- i the examination of women recruits was work that medical women could most easily undertake.
- ii the current composition of medical boards with a permanent bar to women as chairman was considered unsatisfactory

-Point of view: that women were now conscripts was to be remembered

-Letters of hospitality from Dr Herford of Buckley and Dr Enid Hughes of Ruthin offering hospitality to Liverpool women medicals and nurses needing a rest from air-raids were read and appreciated

1941-42 session

*** 29 October 1941**

-Memorandum to Committee on Medical Women and War Service from MWF Council:

- i. Dissatisfaction with the method of selection of medical women for the Boards expressed; such appointments should be advertised
- ii. Proposal that Local Associations of MWF should act in an advisory capacity on the appointment of medical boards
- iii. Opinion expressed that there was evidence that more women should be employed for the volume of work
- iv. No action could be taken as the chairmen of the boards currently serving were senior to the women in experience.

*** 4 July 1942**

-Report from Council: BMA had acceded to the MWF request for increased representation on the planning committee; two further women members to be appointed at forthcoming Council meeting

1942-43 session

*** 2 October 1942**

-Report of local associations as regards medical women acting as police surgeons: After combined action of the Federation and the National Council of Women in 1938, Dr Blandesmark and Dr Kitty Fraser were appointed for the Liverpool Police Courts and were called to examine suitable cases. Dr Buxton reported that it was the custom for her to be called instead of her husband as occasion arose for the examination of women at the Bridewell Police Court.

-It was decided that a complaint be sent to the Federation that

- i Women attending at Chester for medical examination prior to joining the forces had been examined by a coloured male doctor. (This was dealt with by Colonel Alhertine Winner unofficially with satisfactory results 9 March 1943)
- ii That there was a large receiving centre for WRNS in the neighbourhood with no woman M.O. Dr Buxton reported that she was giving regular voluntary lectures (at her own desire), to recruits at this station on Moral Hygiene, but felt that a woman M.O. ought to be in attendance at the station
- iii That since a senior medical woman had been appointed consultant gynaecologist to the joint Recruiting Boards, there was no need for a male gynaecologist to be appointed at the station

*** 9 March 1943**

-Corporal punishment in schools: members disapproved

-Pregnancy leave with pay was desirable; a period of two months should be requested

*** 19 May 1943**

-AGM; having regard to wartime conditions and the difficulty of getting a full meeting, it was proposed and seconded all the committee and officers be re-elected

-Secretary (Dr Cantrell) reported a membership of 89 with 7 new members

*** 28 August 1943**

-General meeting, 2.30 pm

-Recommendations:

- i. Wartime nurseries: children under one year were better in the care of their mothers where possible, or at least in their home surroundings
- ii. Nursery Classes for children of 3-5 served a useful purpose and should be continued
- iii. Menstrual Leaflet: the age of onset of menstruation was often 15 to 16 in normal girls and so should be altered from 14-16 in the pamphlet

1944-45 session

*** 7 November 1944**

-General meeting, Liverpool Medical Institution, 4.45 pm

-Executive Committee asked for nominations for:

- i. Committee to prepare evidence for Equal Pay Royal Commission
- ii. Committee to consider Part Time Work
- iii. Committee to prepare Evidence for Royal Commission on Population

*** 20 March 1945**

-General meeting, Liverpool Medical Institution, 8 pm

-Discussion for Council meeting:

- i Family allowances: these should be payable to the mother
- ii Memorandum on the need of raising the age of consent to 17: the members present considered that this would only make for difficulty and more work for the police who would not be able to cope with the extra work involved until the war was over

*** 25 April 1945**

-AGM at Liverpool Medical Institution, 8 pm, followed by general meeting.

Discussed:

- i. White paper
- ii. Evidence of the Spens Commission concerning the remuneration of medical practitioners
- iii. Cost of living bonus: it was reported that the cost of living bonus in certain cases was less for women medical officers than for men, although the basic salaries were the same. Although the amounts involved were small, the MWF was anxious to prevent this from becoming a custom.

-Report from Secretary: attendances poor because members were mostly somewhat overworked at present

*** 30 June 1945**

-General meeting, Saturday afternoon, Southport

A Day Nursery and the Christiana Hanley Maternity Hospital were visited. Members were then entertained to tea at the Woodbeck Cafe at Southport by the President

*** 7 September 1945**

-Committee meeting, Liverpool Medical Institution:

-to consider what kind of a meeting should be held to say farewell to Miss Nicholson and Miss Duvall who were leaving Liverpool shortly

*** 28 September 1945**

-General meeting, Liverpool Medical Institution, 4.45 pm

-Bootle Personal Services Society had had premises damaged in air-raids and were in need of help for the re-establishment of their offices etc. The Association sent £5 5s from the American Fund

1945-46 session

*** 4 October 1945**

-Dinner at Reece's, Clayton Square

-Ruth Nicholson, Helen Duvall and Fanny Tozer were retiring together to live in Devonshire. Subscriptions of between 5s and £1 1s were collected from the members with a view to buying something for their garden (possibly a garden hammock when procurable). A model of a garden hammock and a cheque £45 3s was presented to Miss Nicholson. Esme Wren spoke for the students

[The last Branch dinner had been held on Tuesday 31 January 1939 at Reece's Parker Street. Guest of Honour: Miss Catherine Chisholm C.B.E., Manchester. Reception 7.30 pm, Dinner 8 pm. Evening Dress. Tickets 4s 6d]

BRANCH PRESIDENTS:

1939 Dr McHugh

1940 Miss Duvall

1942 Dr Buxton

1944 Dr Clarke

1946 Dr Barton

1948 Miss Forshall

1955 Dr Hilda Cantrell

1967 Miss Mayeur

1975 Dr Elizabeth Rees

1977 Dr Jean Hugh-Jones

Jean Hugh-Jones