

Medical Librarian's Group (Victorian Branch)

Newsletter, August 1974.

Minutes of the meeting held 6.30pm. on Thursday, August 22nd., at Lincoln House.

Apologies were received from the following members:

Miss Judith Quilter, Miss Virginia Stephenson, Ms. Gay Russ, Mrs Jacqueline Baillie, Miss Catherine Briggs, Ms. Bronwyn Pearl, Miss Marjorie Pinder, Mrs Smith (Box Hill), Mrs Richards (Western General), Mrs Helen Cotsell.

A note of appreciation was sent to the Group by the family of the late Miss Vera Dunn, formerly Librarian at the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. An obituary notice, written by Miss Judith Quilter and inserted on behalf of the Group, will appear in the Australian Library Journal.

Letters of regret at the downgrading of the position of the Librarian at R.A.C.S. were sent to the college by the Medical Librarians' Group (Vic. Branch), the Association of Hospital Librarians, Mrs. J. Baillie (Monash Biomedical Librarian), Miss A. Harrison (Brownless Librarian), and Professor Russell. A letter of acknowledgement has been received from Mr. Chapman, Secretary of the College. Mrs. MacNoice has been appointed as part-time Librarian and the position will be reviewed in 12 months' time.

The directory sheets were distributed to members, and will be delivered to libraries not represented at the meeting (which were many.) The completed sheets, preferably with details typed, should be returned to Mrs. M. Rock, Librarian, Austin Hospital, before 1st. October. The account for printing of the sheets, \$57.50, has been paid.

A letter was sent to Miss Carmel McGuire, Senior Lecturer, School of Librarianship at the University of New South Wales, asking her to speak at this meeting. We received a reply from Miss McGuire, regretfully declining our invitation at this stage because she is still working with Eugenia Lovelace on their National Library project, but hoping to speak perhaps at our November meeting.

A letter has also been received from the Librarian at the Road Safety and Traffic Authority in Hawthorn, asking the Group for any information we may have on Sigma Information Inc., a body which is setting up a Medical Sciences Tape Library, presumably in America. No one in the Group was familiar with this organization at all, a reply has been sent to this effect.

A small meeting was called by Mrs. J. Baillie, held at St. Vincent's and attended by Mrs. Baillie, Miss Amy Bush, Mrs. Marion Rock and Mrs. Val Strantzen. The result was a set of notes called "Medical Libraries in Australia - notes compiled for Mrs. J. Symes." (This was mainly the work of Mrs. Baillie). It consists of a summary of the development and aims of Medical Libraries in Australia.

Mrs. Baillie has written to the other Medical Librarian Groups in Australia, informing them that Victoria and N.S.W. have elected their representatives to the proposed National Council of Medical Librarians' Groups, and asking them to nominate their own representatives and to put forward any suggestions for the raising of finance for the National Organization.

Mention was also made of the Library Council of Victoria's generous grant for any groups which put forward a worthy project requiring financial aid. Any suggestions from group members are most welcome.

Mrs. Baillie has made more visits to country areas: to Colac as a member of the Library Council and to Traralgon as a follow-up to her Sale visit, and reports that a better liaison is being reached particularly with Public Librarians in these areas.

Copies of the Basic Book list have been prepared, and were distributed to members at the meeting. The book list committee thought that it was advisable to mark with an asterisk those books recommended for first purchase. Professor Eddy (Committee of Accreditation of Hospitals) was quite impressed with the list, and was also very interested in the Group's suggested scheme of "Matching" small country and larger metropolitan libraries in a co-operative venture. He feels that there is a definite place for a single professional librarian to act as Consultant Librarian for a Group of Small Hospitals, and employed by the Hospitals and Charities Commission.

A letter has been received from Mrs. Judy Wolfe, telling of the setting up of a Medical Library at Launceston General Hospital, and of the usefulness of our group's book list of recommended purchases.

The next item was a discussion of the proposed L.A.A. Conference Workshop. Suggested ideas from Mrs. Baillie and Miss Esther Martin have been combined to form one unified and comprehensive topic, tentatively called "The Librarian in the Changing World of Medicine." Miss Esther Martin has been voted chairman, with a Committee consisting of, Mrs. F. Baker, Miss A. Bush, and Mrs. T. Groy. The committee has the power to co-opt as and when necessary. Lincoln Institute has been offered as a venue for the workshop. It was also suggested that the Executive Secretary of the L.A.A. be asked for financial assistance for the project.

Members are again reminded that \$2.00 subscriptions are now due, and are payable to: (Mrs.) Val Strantzen, Librarian, Repat. General Hospital, Banksia St., Heidelberg, 3077.

The business part of the meeting concluded, Mr. Bruce Turner gave us a tour of Lincoln Library which appears to be very well organized and was of great interest. It was a pity that more members could not be present at this meeting, with the chance of looking over the specialized areas of Lincoln Institute.

Sandwiches and coffee were very generously supplied by the management of the Institute, for which members were very grateful as most had not had a meal beforehand. The meeting closed at 9pm.