Political Medical Associations which apparently, contrary to the non-political ethical aspect of the profession, pass and publish numerous impracticable, selfish and destructively critical resolutions to add more burdens to the already overloaded taxpayer; but these are, we think, not official sections of the B.M.A.

In this number of the Journal there is a description of the 100th Annual Session of the American Medical Association and the author of the article emphasizes the fact that there is a Section for Military Medicine which has been so extremely successful that it is being repeated again this year.

But in our Country there is no specific Section of the B.M.A. concerned entirely with the medical element of the Services.

With the continuance of the present emergencies and the continuing call-up of National Service doctors liaison between the Service medical organizations and the civilian is likely to become and certainly should be increased. This alone fully justifies the establishment of a Services' Section of the B.M.A. to enhance the morale of the National Service doctor and to show him that whilst in the Services he is still in fact part of the medical profession as a whole and that his interests are continually under review by his civilian colleagues.

In the Services postgraduate medical education, too, is of supreme importance both to the Regular members as well as to the Short and National Service Officers and can best be fostered by such a Section of the B.M.A.; while journals and other publications of medical members of the Services could receive assistance, advice and encouragement (as well as publicity) from such a section.

Research by the Armed Forces Medical Services could be assisted through a central B.M.A. Services' section to whom enquiries could be addressed and civilian liaison established. And finally medical members of the Armed Forces of Dominion, Commonwealth, Allied and other overseas nations would have a central bureau to which all enquiries could be addressed.

It would seem, therefore, that there is now a very real need for and we strongly recommend the formation of a Services' Section of the B.M.A.

[Editor's Note.—Acknowledgment is hereby given to Colonel A. N. T. Meneces for some of the points included in this effusion.]

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Travel and History

THE ONE-HUNDREDTH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

A NOTE BY

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Royal Army Medical Corps

Travelling from Washington, D.C., by car in a N.E. direction some 180 miles your correspondent arrived at Atlantic City on the evening of June 10
to attend the 100th annual session of the American Medical Association.

On registering at Convention Hall the following morning one was given a
very comprehensive programme, and a badge. From the number of badges
seen during the next few days one wondered if the estimate of 13,000 doctors
attending the meeting was not on the low side!

Apart from meetings of the House of Delegates and the various standing
committees of the A.M.A. the session was designed, in the main, for the general
practitioner and was divided into The Scientific Assembly; The Scientific
Exhibit and the Technical Exposition.

The Scientific Assembly

This Assembly, of which there are 19 sections ranging alphabetically from
anaesthesiology through military medicine to urology, met in the larger hotels
of this seaside resort and papers were read and discussed. One of the out-
standing rules which caused chairmen a certain amount of trouble is that
papers shall not occupy more than fifteen minutes.

Military Medicine is a new section which was given a trial test last year
at the annual meeting at San Francisco and was so well attended that it now has
a permanent place in the Scientific Assembly. The first paper, on "the
Changing Military Medical Picture in the U.S.A." was given by Dr. Richard
C. Meiling, the Chairman of the Armed Forces Medical Policy Council of the
Secretary of Defence, and was discussed by the three Surgeons-General of the
Army, Air Force and Navy. Papers by Navy, Army, Air Force and civilian
specialists followed ranging from communicable diseases of Africa and the
Middle East through Air Evacuation, Man and the Submarine, to Progress in
the Prevention and Treatment of Radiation Injury. Captain E. R. Herring,
M.C., U.S.N., discussed the medical support of the Marine and Army units
during the two weeks in which they fought their way out of the trap in the
Chosen Reservoir Area of Korea, and members of the Cold Injury Team from
the Osaka Army Hospital, Japan, discussed their experiences in treating some
2,000 frostbite injuries.

It is of interest that the attendance (912) at these sessions led the field,
beating Surgery and Internal Medicine.

The Scientific Exhibits

The nineteen sections of the Scientific Assembly had arranged over 300
exhibits dealing with the various specialities but emphasis was placed on the
interest of the general practitioner. There were special exhibits on fractures,
an exhibit symposium on overweight, arranged with the co-operation of the
A.M.A., American Dietetic Association, Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., and
the U.S. Public Health Service, a group of exhibits on noise in industry and
demonstrations on fresh pathology specimens. All exhibits were of an
extremely high standard and it must have been difficult to choose the best two
for awards.
Here also the Armed Forces Medical Services were well represented, the Walter Reed Army Hospitals staging 4 exhibits, the Navy 2 and the Air Force and the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology one each.

As part of the Scientific Exhibit medical films were run continuously in two rooms throughout the week, Major Lewis and Colonel Kimbrough of the Walter Reed Army Hospital showing “Operative Procedure for Polycystic Disease Rovsing” and Hugh Smith of the Department of the Army showing “Intramedullary Fixation of the Femur.” In many cases the authors were present to discuss their films.

In another room some 40 television screens presented, in colour, operations and demonstrations from the Atlantic City Hospital where special cases had been concentrated. The great future for this medium in the teaching world was amply demonstrated as procedures were seen more clearly than is possible when stretching the neck as a spectator in a theatre. It was estimated that over 1,000 viewers were present on occasions.

THE TECHNICAL EXPOSITION

This covered the Main Arena floor of the Convention Hall auditorium with over 355 firms showing thousands of Products. Various brands of soft drinks and cigarettes were given away daily and helped one to cover the ground without exhaustion. A lens hysteroscope for viewing and photographing the interior of the uterus and for doing biopsies, and the Land method of X-ray film processing whereby a dry positive print is available within one minute of exposure, were noteworthy.

THE 1950 EXPEDITION, BRITISH SCHOOLS EXPLORING SOCIETY

BY

Captain R. E. RICHARDSON

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The Public Schools Exploring Society was founded in 1932 by Surgeon Commander Murray-Levick, R.N., who was in Scott’s last expedition. In 1947 the Society widened its scope and at the same time changed its name to the British Schools Exploring Society. Boys are selected after a personal interview and a recommendation from their headmaster. The choice is not influenced by financial considerations; and when necessary suitable candidates are subsidized. The individual cost of equipping and sending out each person on an expedition being in the region of £110; most people are to some extent subsidized, a heavy drain on the resources of the Society, which is an honorary one, registered with the Charity Commissioners, and dependent upon donations from many organizations and individuals.