

A Secretary's Plea!

Large numbers of cheques received in payment for the NISG newsletter and study day have had to be returned to subscribers and Finance Departments for correction. The Secretary would be very grateful if members could ensure that cheques are made payable to:-

'Library Association, MHWLG, Nursing Interest Sub-Group'

I am sure all members will appreciate that a great deal of time and postage can be saved if cheques are completed correctly.

REPORT OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The NISG Annual General Meeting was held on 21st February 1984 at the Royal College of Nursing at 4.30 pm. The meeting was attended by 31 members, apologies being received from Debbie Fisher, Jean Clarke, Beverley Pye and Ann Goddard.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman reviewed the activities of the group in the past year which included attendance by members at three of the workshops organized by the Regional Librarians Group and the DHSS on the information needs of NHS professions. The group held a study day on tape/slide production and an afternoon session on the UKCC, as well as organizing a session on library publicity at the MHWLG annual study conference.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

The Secretary reported that the membership now stands at 153, including 14 overseas members, and thanked Miss Rosemary Clarke who has arranged for the membership records to be stored on a microcomputer at South Bank Polytechnic. Copies of the Balance Sheet were circulated; the group made a slight loss in 1983, but the group's financial circumstances are healthy.

Election of Committee Members

The Chairman introduced the new committee members to the meeting and, on behalf of NISG, thanked the retiring committee members for their hard work throughout the year. She also thanked the membership for their support.

Any Other Business

A number of items were discussed as follows:

a) Subscriptions

It was agreed that subscriptions should not be increased this year, but that the situation should be reviewed next year.

b) Overseas Membership

It was agreed that an investigation should be made of charging overseas members or asking them to send us their newsletter, if they have one, in exchange for the NISG newsletter.

c) Study Days

It was reported that the group is planning to arrange a study day outside London and topics such as nursing research and computer applications in libraries were suggested as suitable topics.

d) Affiliation to Library Association

The hope was expressed that the new regulations regarding the affiliation of members to the Library Association would not affect NISG whose nurse members would still be able to subscribe to the Newsletter without having to affiliate to MHWLG at £10.00 per annum.

e) Membership of NISG

It was agreed that a survey of members should be undertaken.

CONTINUING EDUCATION: THE ROLE OF THE NURSING LIBRARY

88 people attended this study day, held in the Cowdray Hall of the Royal College of Nursing on February 21st. The morning session consisted of three speakers from the nursing profession while three librarians spoke on aspects of their services in the afternoon.

The first speaker was Vera Darling, Professional Officer (Continuing Education and Training) at the English National Board. The ENB had agreed to continue the policies of the bodies it replaced but was currently examining the philosophies on which its policies should be based. A policy statement would be issued when these had been ratified by the next Board's meeting so she could only outline general trends in the Board's thinking at this stage. The UKCC had recognised the profession's view that some means of updating all practising nurses was required but this required considerable financial and manpower resources.

She suggested that the future pattern of post-basic clinical courses might change to a modular structure, with a module of material forming the core of most courses, such as communication skills, basic teaching skills, management of people and resources in the clinical area and research appreciation. Material to update clinical knowledge would be added to this basic core.

This new structure would have implications for libraries since there would be a larger and continuing demand for the 'core' material. When examining submissions for reapproval of courses the committee examined the library provision available.

Miss Darling concluded that although a time of financial stringency and manpower cuts lay ahead she was sure that the need for continuing education was recognised and that the demand for courses would not fall.

In response to a question, Miss Darling suggested that the ENB would look favourably on the idea of having an information retrieval handling skills element in the core module.

The second speaker was Mrs Brenda Lea, Training Officer with Croydon Health Authority. The training officer's role was to meet the needs of staff for education and training to help maintain and improve their performance.

17-20% of the trained staff in her authority were seconded to courses in outside institutions run by colleges, professional bodies and hospitals and her role here was to obtain, maintain and circulate details of courses. She and her colleagues attempted to meet the needs of the other 83% through locally-run courses. Training needs were identified by the staff themselves, through staff development interviews or as the result of new legislation or policy changes, e.g., head louse management! An analysis of injury records had identified a need for training in lifting to prevent back injuries. There were advantages and disadvantages in being part of the management team rather than being based in a nursing education setting.

She described her experience of the various types of library available to trained staff; little of the stock of the school of nursing library was appropriate for trained nurses and access was difficult with limited opening hours. The postgraduate centre did not allow nurses to use it, and professional associations' libraries although excellent,