

The Chiropodist May 1945

INCORPORATED SOCIETY OF CHIROPODISTS

21, CAVENDISH SQUARE,
LONDON, W.1.

UNIFICATION

The following summary has been prepared with the object of acquainting Members of the progress made with the negotiations which have been proceeding for some time past for the purpose of bringing about some degree of union within the profession.

There are five Chiropody organisations recognised by the Board of Registration of Medical Auxiliaries. Correlation was affected, as a temporary measure, by the formation of a representative Council of these groups of members known as the Chiropody Group Council. Thus, for the past six years or so the efforts of Chiropodists registered with the Board to improve the status of the profession have been centralised and administered through one central representative body. With the assistance and co-operation of the Board of Registration of Medical Auxiliaries much progress has been made. The advantages of correlation and centralisation having thus become apparent, your Council is of the opinion that the amalgamation of the five existing recognised bodies into one central organisation is both essential and urgent.

The Proposal

The Memorandum and Articles of Association of the proposed new Society represents the result of over two years' work on the part of the Chiropody Group Council in conjunction with the Councils of each recognised body. This constitution has been drawn up so as to include the best features in those of the existing organisations. The Chiropody Group Council and the Councils of each recognised body have approved the draft constitution, and it is now in the hands of the legal advisors and authorities for approval. As soon as this is obtained you will be given an opportunity to discuss the proposals in detail and vote at Extraordinary Meetings held for that purpose.

Organisation: The Council

The new Society will be organised on lines similar to those of the five existing bodies, the first Council being formed on a proportional representation basis—one representative for each one hundred members. It will hold office for three years so as to ensure a satisfactory opportunity to organise and consolidate the new body. At the end of this period one-third of the members will retire and will be replaced by a full ballot of the members. Thereafter each year one-third of the members of the Council will retire in a similar manner. The Council will, at the outset, organise the Society. Committees will be set up as required, and Branches, based upon geographical and numerical considerations, will be established. Election to the Council will eventually be arranged on a Branch or Regional basis, thus ensuring that every part of the country is represented.

Training Schools

All the Schools at present recognised by the Board of Registration of Medical Auxiliaries continue as Training Centres for the new Society but will be administered independently of the Society. To ensure uniformity of basic principles in training, questions of syllabus, period of training, etc., there will be a special Education Advisory Committee consisting of the Principals of all the Schools with representatives of the Society. All questions relative to teaching and training will be referred to this Committee who will submit recommendations in regard thereto to the Council of the Society.

Privileges

Every member of a recognised Society upon application to the Secretary, will be accepted into membership of the new Society, and, subject to the Memorandum and Articles, will receive similar status (i.e., Fellow, Member or Associate) to that held in the Constituent Association to which he now belongs. All the existing privileges, including third-party insurance and Branch membership will be available. The increased membership will permit of larger and more interesting gatherings. It is also proposed to institute post-graduate courses and lectures for the benefit of members. A library will be established as well as a Benevolent Fund.

Advantages

One great advantage of the new Society will be its authority to speak and act for between 2,500 and 3,000 members. Its representations will carry more weight than those of the Chiropody Group Council which has no executive power and can only act after reference to, and with the approval of, the Councils of its constituent bodies. This procedure has often resulted in delays and whilst agreement has always been reached, nevertheless, delays have resulted. The establishment of the new Society will render such methods unnecessary. Administration will be centralised, and one office will take over what is at present being done by five, with consequent increase in efficiency and reduction of overhead expenses. One large and comprehensive Journal will replace the five at present published. The annual subscription of L3 3s. will include the registration fee to the Board of Registration of Medical Auxiliaries. More extensive opportunities for research work will occur and all information thus gained will be available for the benefit of the members. A Public Relations Committee will be established to ensure the professional capabilities of Registered Medical Auxiliary Chiropodists are kept before the general public and the medical profession. The widening of the present accepted definition of chiropody has already been considered by the Chiropody Group Council and the possibilities thereof are being explored. This will be one of the first matters for consideration by the Council of the new Society.

Miss Norrie said on 5th May 1945 – Scottish Branches Conference

"Since the Incorporated Society began in 1912, we have moved a long way, and might well be proud of all that has been accomplished for the profession and on behalf of the public. The future may seem uncertain. There will be new difficulties—there will be certainly fresh fields and new opportunities for service. If we carry into our future work the same spirit of courage, faith and adventure that inspired our first beginnings, there can be no question as to the result of our endeavours."