

IBMS History Committee Annual Report for 2017

The Committee met on five occasions during 2016.

The main task for the committee in 2017 the production of the history exhibit for Congress. After discussion it had been agreed that the title of the exhibit would be *Forgotten but not gone: old diseases that can still bite*. The purpose of the exhibit was to raise awareness of diseases which are thought by the general public and many scientists to be consigned to history. The conditions selected were Polio, Diphtheria, Brucellosis, Scurvy and Rickets as all were still occurring in various parts of the world. All members of the committee contributed to the posters which presented the background to the diseases, the discovery of their causes and the development of methods for their treatment and prevention. Very good feedback was received from delegates. It is perhaps salutary to note that there is currently a massive outbreak of diphtheria in Bangladesh and UK case of both scurvy and rickets have been reported in the national press.

Membership of the committee changed during year. Mr Kenny Ray resigned and was replaced by Mrs Betty Kyle.

During the year we asked to advise on the future of the Cyril Saunders memorial fund, the original purpose of which had been overtaken by changes in system for education and training. The proposals we made were accepted. We have also been asked for input into Biomedical Sciences Week by the communications section of the Institute. Professor Mike Wren, the Hon. Librarian, has been consulted on the reorganisation of the library following the installation of the tele-conferencing system. This project has resulted in the need to divide the library between nos. 5 and 12 Coldbath Square.

Work on the recording, photographing and cataloguing the equipment on display and in storage continued during the year. Plans are being developed for the production of a catalogue that would be suitable for adding to the Institute's web-site.

Dr David Petts
Chair History Committee