A Hospital Services Committee has been set up with the following terms of reference:—

"To consider facilities for ophthalmological services, including education and research, under the National Health Service."

Representatives from the Universities, Teaching and other Hospitals have been invited to form regional Sub-Committees in Scotland, the Provinces and London, and to submit plans for the consideration of the main Committee.

In connection with the question concerning the fee of four guineas per session for Local Authority Work, it was stated that the matter had been raised at the last B.M.A. Council and that it was not possible to alter the four guinea rate, as this had been agreed for all consultant and specialist work, but that the question of £2 17s. 6d. for refraction work being increased was still under consideration.

It was reported that the question of study visits to clinics abroad was in hand, and that it was likely that some would be arranged for next year.

It was learned in connection with the Joint Committee of the Faculty and the British Optical Association, which had been appointed to consider the training of contact lens fitters, that the Association of Dispensing Opticians had been invited to nominate a representative to serve on the Contact Lens Board, which is now in process of formation.

The suggestion that the Faculty should organise a discussion on the Education of Blind and Partially Sighted Children was referred to the Ophthalmological Section of the Royal Society of Medicine.

The Honorary Treasurer reported that he had collected £64 in private donations from members of the Council to assist an orthoptist who had suffered bilateral detachment of the retina, and had passed the money over.

The rest of the meeting was occupied by routine and domestic matters.

FRANK W. LAW,
Hon. Sec.

CORRESPONDENCE

COLOUR VISION IN THE CONSULTING ROOM

To the Editors of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY.

DEAR SIR,—Dr. Neubert's explanations in his letter in your August number are not convincing. In my letter I suggested that

the difference between the usually accepted 7·8 per cent. incidence of defective colour vision and the figure of 5·5 per cent. found by Dr. Neubert in his series, might be due to the methods of testing. It is no answer to this criticism to say that the difference must be due to the non-random method of sampling—it may be, but it might equally be the method of testing.

It is never a waste of space to describe accurately the methods of testing employed—in fact it is fundamental. No two people use the Ishihara plates in exactly the same way. Further, it is not sufficient to describe a multi-light lantern as having a rheostat, apertures of a certain size and filters approximating to those recommended by the International Committee for Aerial Investigation. In view of repeated rheostat adjustments it was pure chance if any two of the subjects examined on the multi-light lantern were tested under the same conditions, and in this type of work the colour temperature of the source cannot be ignored completely.

Surely the choice of title of an article does not remove the necessity for laboratory control of the tests employed. Without such control there is no justification for saying that the results presented show a different function for single as compared with multi-light lanterns. It is equally permissible to come to the same conclusion, without any experimental work whatever, when seated in an arm-chair by the fire.

I apologise for a second letter but I feel very strongly that the idea should not be spread abroad that the testing of colour vision and the classification of colour defects can be carried out cavalier-fashion with black-out shades and coffee-tins—unless lanterns made from such materials are properly standardised and used under clearly defined conditions. The efficient testing of colour vision is no easy task.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN GRIEVE.

MEDICAL SCHOOL, DUNDEE.

August 20, 1947.

NOTES

University of Glasgow
Department of
Ophthalmology
Autumn, 1947

DURING September and October a series of meetings will be held in the Department on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. The general arrangements will be similar to the series held last year. Tea will be served after the paper and a discussion will follow.