COUNCIL OF BRITISH OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

The following report was presented at a general meeting of British Ophthalmic Surgeons, held at the house of the Royal Society of Medicine on April 30, 1920.

The Council of British Ophthalmologists was founded at a meeting held at the house of the Royal Society of Medicine on May 2, 1918. It owed its inception to the need for some body which could act rapidly and authoritatively in regard to any questions of ophthalmological interest arising in connection with national industries or public services. In the past such questions have usually been referred, often in a haphazard manner, to individual ophthalmic surgeons, who could express only their own opinions. Fortunately many of those to whom application was made were well fitted to give advice, but some at least felt that such advice would be of more value if given after the subject had been considered by a council representative of the general body of British ophthalmic surgeons.

During its two years of work the Council has found ample justification for its existence. That the Council has met on nineteen occasions gives but a small idea of the labour involved, since the bulk of the work is undertaken by committees, some of which have held as many as twenty meetings before submitting their reports. These committees consisted of London and Provincial members, and, where it was thought desirable, members, not necessarily ophthalmic surgeons, co-opted on account of special knowledge or experience.

Four reports have been published by the Council:—


II. The Need for Improved Training of Medical Students in Ophthalmology.

III. The Need for a Higher Qualification in Ophthalmology.

IV. Vision of Men Engaged in Motor Road Transport.

With regard to the second of these reports the Council regrets that the General Medical Council has not been influenced to take effective action to remedy the deficiencies to which the report calls attention. The report (No. III), dealing with the need for a higher qualification, has already exerted a valuable influence.

The Council notes with satisfaction that the general conclusions arrived at in its report on the Vision of Motor Drivers have been adopted by the Police Authorities in London and elsewhere, and have met with acceptance by the leaders of the men concerned.

These reports represent only a part of the work of the Council. Early in its career it nominated representatives to examine and
advise on the records of Grade IV men for the Ministry of National Service. Four members were nominated to serve on a London County Council committee dealing with the lighting of cinemas and eye strain. Committees have been appointed to consider the standardisation of test types and the notation of cylinder axes, and the question of sight-testing by opticians. Two representatives of the Council are serving on the Visual Optics Sub-committee of the Advisory Committee on Technical Optics.

Several subjects of a confidential nature referred to the Council by various public bodies have been dealt with. The expenses of the Council have been defrayed by its members.

ANNOTATIONS

The M.S. in Ophthalmology

As already noted in these columns (1919, p. 430) the University of London has sanctioned the granting of the M.S. degree in two additional branches, one of which is ophthalmology, a fact that can scarcely be too widely known among ophthalmic surgeons. The University's regulations are quoted below in full:

**Branch III. Ophthalmology.**

Every candidate for the Degree of Master of Surgery (Branch III) must have taken the Degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery in this University not less than two years previously, except as provided below.

Candidates who have either

(i) taken the M.B., B.S., Degrees with Honours in Surgery;

or (ii) subsequently to taking the M.B., B.S. Degrees, conducted a piece of original work approved by the University; *

or (iii) subsequently to taking the M.B., B.S. Degrees had such exceptional experience as may be approved for this purpose by the University,*

may present themselves after an interval of one year only from the time of taking the M.B., B.S. Degrees, provided that they comply in other respects with the conditions stated in the following paragraphs.

* Applications under this Section must reach the University not later than three months before the first day of the examination.