REPORTS OF MEETINGS

Association of Service Physicians (Germany)

The second annual meeting of the Association of Service Physicians (Germany) was held at the British Military Hospital Iserlohn on Thursday 8 October 1981 by kind permission of the Commanding Officer, Col O'Rorke. Fourteen attended.

The morning session was devoted to an outside visit to 23 Base Workshops REME at Wetter where we were received by the Commander, Brig A J I Sweet. He and his department heads conducted a tour of the workshop to demonstrate the impressive re-fitting programme of tanks and other armoured fighting vehicles. All those who attended were particularly impressed by the amiable relationship which obviously existed between management and the 1,700-strong civilian labour force.

In the afternoon our guest speaker was Col J McEwan, MB, FFARCS, who talked on "the relief of chronic pain". He discussed modern concepts of the pathophysiology of pain, and from these derived the place in therapy of modern techniques and drugs. Of special interest to physicians was the research currently taking place at the Pain Clinic at the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital Woolwich, attempting to characterise certain peptides which may be important in the mediation of pain.

Lt Col D Murray, MB, ChB, MRCP, gave "A venereologist's view of hepatitis". He explained in some detail the serological events accompanying infection with both hepatitis A and B viruses, and described the natural history and sequelae of these infections. Homosexual and heterosexual transmission of the hepatitis B virus is now established and a typical homosexual patient profile includes: HBs Ag at high titre, 'e' antigen positive, sub-type ad, no history of acute hepatitis, liver usually palpable, stable state for many years, and prolonged infectiousness. A recent report of sexual transmission of the hepatitis A virus awaits confirmation.

Brig D M Roberts, MD, FRCP(Ed), MRCP, presented a paper on "non-A, non-B hepatitis". This relatively new entity is no longer simply a diagnosis of exclusion but can now be confidently characterised in epidemiological and clinical terms. Its importance as a frequent cause of chronic hepatitis was discussed and, above all, the fact that it is now known to be the commonest cause of post-transfusion hepatitis was stressed.

The Annual Business meeting followed, and, according to the Charter, Brig Roberts was confirmed as Chairman and Wg Cdr F. K. Amroliwalla was confirmed as Secretary.

(Submitted by Brig D M Roberts, L/RAMC)