

Minutes of the 17. annual general meeting

Saturday, 18 November, 1989 at 92 Avenue de Wagram, Paris 75017.

Attendance

1. Prof. C. Bolender (France), presiding
2. Dr. C. Gysel (Belgium)
3. Dr. S. Unterer (Germany)
4. Dr. R. Bijlstra (Netherlands)
5. Dr. P. Picchioni (Italy)
6. Dr. A. Ferrini (Italy)
7. Dr. N. Flood (Ireland)

An apology was received from Dr. J. Bailey (United Kingdom). The minutes of the 1988 meeting were read by the Secretary, Dr. Flood. A correction was made in the German report, as under the present System of payments, the Insurance Company, (not the patient) pays the full fees to the orthodontist. The minutes were then approved by all members.

1. DIRECTORY

The new directory is to be published during 1990 at a cost of 12.50 German Marks per copy plus 18% VAT. The financial provisions for publication were agreed and signed. All remaining countries should pay by 15 December, and return lists by the end of that month, so that printing can commence. The members listed number 1225 (Germany), 647 (France), 88 (Belgium), 20 (Ireland), 182 (Netherlands), 565 (Italy), 358 (United Kingdom).

2. REPORTS

Netherlands

With over five hundred dentists unemployed, dental undergraduate training has been restricted to two centres, and postgraduate facilities are similarly reduced. As only five orthodontists now graduate each year, there is paradoxically a shortage of orthodontists. As a result, more general practitioners do orthodontic work, often working as assistants. Others go abroad to train. Dental hygienists are legally allowed to work in the mouth, doing bonding, scaling or impressions.

Germany

About 10% to 15 % of patients are private, the rest coming under the social welfare scheme. Under a new reform law, the payment system has been changed. In fifteen provinces the patient pays 20% of the fees at three monthly intervals in advance, and applies to the Insurance Company for the remaining 80% that is to be paid to the orthodontist. If treatment is completed, the patient may apply for a refund of his 20% from the Company. In ten other provinces, a dental society collects all payments - a surer System for the orthodontist.

France

About sixty new orthodontists graduate each year. At present a grant in aid system operates, the Government paying Fr 2.600 per annum, and the practitioner setting his own fee according to his estimate of the work involved.

Belgium

Due to political inertia, there is still no progress on establishing orthodontics as a specialty despite the efforts being made.

Ireland

A new Orthodontic Society of Ireland has been formed to advance the science and practice of orthodontics, and encourage research and education in orthodontics. It aims to seek the establishment of a Specialists Register in accordance with E.C. Regulations, and promote international relations.

United Kingdom

A written report was submitted:

During the past year there has been little changes in the U.K. orthodontics. There has been no implementation of a Specialists' Register, numbers of post graduate students are roughly the same and there is no change in the organisation of the NHS scheme. From next year there will be quite a few changes, two undergraduate schools are due to close and there will be a new contract for Dentists with Health Service; up to the moment there has been little consideration of those restricting their practices to Orthodontics. There will be other changes where there will be a reduction in the necessity to get approval for certain Orthodontic treatment. Orthodontists are concerned that payment may be withheld where the Authorities may say they would not have approved treatment if they had been asked.

Italy

Dental hygienists are to be trained in four new schools. When graduated, they will be permitted to work in the mouth for scaling, bonding etc. Orthodontists in Italy study medicine for six years, then orthodontics for three more. Although dental schools have been established, no dentists have as yet graduated as orthodontists.

Greece

A letter received from Dr. Markostamos listed the following observations

1. The council set up to deal with the transitory measures relating to the speciality of orthodontics has not completed its work.
2. It is thought that there will be about 200 orthodontists in exclusive practice and another 150 in mixed practice.
3. Orthodontic training will be three years full time.
4. No training schools as yet exist.

A discussion regarding the future role of dental hygienists then ensued. In Holland, where there is a shortage of orthodontists, hygienists are widely used, but in most other European countries they are still illegal. All member associations of EFOSA are asked to prepare a report outlining their views on the status and utilization of hygienists. This report is to be submitted to the next meeting of EFOSA.

The next meeting of the EFOSA will be held in Paris on Saturday, 24 November, 1990.