

## REVOLT IN THE YOUNG

S. S. B. GILDER M.D.<sup>1</sup>

*Amersham, Bucks., England*

Young medical graduates have always been miserably paid - if they were paid anything at all by hospitals - and the excuse has always been that they were undergoing a part of their training during their internships. But now that the concept of a fair day's pay for a fair day's work has been applied by society also to trainees, our new colleagues are beginning to consider themselves exploited and to demand a bigger share of the pay packet.

The British Medical Association has been considering the question of increased pay for interns, many of whom now have wives and families to support, but meanwhile an action group in London has jumped the gun and started to campaign for more money. At the end of September an action group was formed at a meeting at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, and staff from a large number of hospitals are said to be involved. They want increases in salary and ask that they start at £1200 a year instead of the present £770. The government is also asked to set up a fund to provide home mortgages for doctors. They also want a maximum of 99 hours a week on duty, and refunds of examination fees for higher examinations, together with allowances for diplomas and higher degrees, and removal allowances. The action group wants to present evidence directly to the Review Body

studying doctors' pay, rather than through the B.M.A. spokesmen.

In the *British Medical Journal*, B.M.A. chairmen stated that the evidence for an improvement in conditions of work for junior hospital staff had been collected and was almost ready for submission to the Review Body which deals with NHS pay. These spokesmen felt that there was very little difference between the desires of the junior hospital staff and this evidence. Simultaneously the chairman of the action group published a letter explaining why they had taken action - mainly because of dissatisfaction with the B.M.A. proposals for new salary scales embodied in a document put out in July. Although grumbings from the old guard who remember their hardships in days of long ago are occasionally heard, the general feeling is apparently one of sympathy with young men in a greatly changed society.

At the time of writing (October 31) it looks as if the action group will not be satisfied to let the B.M.A. Consultants Group present their case to the Review Body after all; at a meeting just concluded, they voted by a huge majority to press for personal representation.

Reprinted

From: The London Letter, *Canad. Med. Ass. J.*  
Nov. 27, 1965, vol. 93, p. 1181.

<sup>1</sup>Executive Editor, *World Medical Journal*.

### EASTERN INVESTIGATING BUREAU

COLLECTING COMMERCIAL &  
PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTS SINCE 1947

EXCELLENT SERVICES RENDERED

1657 Barrington St.

217 Roy Bldg.

423-8416