

ASSOCIATION ADOPTS NEW NAME

By Peter Fenech B.Pharm.

In April of this year the members of the Association were called upon to vote for the proposed new name of the Association — "The Malta Medical Students' Association," affiliated to the B.M.S.A. The result of this referendum was 38 in favour and 8 against. Thereupon, the new name was automatically adopted, and recognition of it was soon obtained from the University Senate, and of course from B.M.S.A., who were all out for the change.

Here, I intend briefly to sum up for all concerned the various facts which led to this change in name.

It must first of all be pointed out that notwithstanding its name of British Medical Students' Association. (Malta Branch), our Association has never been in actual point of fact a Branch of the B.M.S.A. This is easily evident first from the facts that our Association never paid any membership fee to the parent Association and never attended the Annual General Meeting of the B.M.S.A. and secondly, from a perusal of the B.M.S.A. Constitution which specifically puts Malta as an affiliated organisation to the B.M.S.A. vice a Branch, together with the Irish Medical Students' Association and the Canadian Association of Medical Students' -and Interns. However, this anomaly of the original name of B.M.S.A. (Malta Branch) only came up to light during Council's tenure this of office.

In March 1955 the Council appointed Mr. Jaccarini (now Dr. Jaccarini), previous Hon. Secretary, and myself, then Hon. Secretary, to form a Special Commission set up for the purpose of studying whether the Association's name be changed in the light of the B.M.S.A. (Great Britain) Constitution and Malta's independent position in the I.F.M.S.A. In the 10th April we presented our re-

port to the Council which stated that "were it possible to remain a Branch" the Association would have done so, circumstances separate from those envisaged by A.G.M. of 1954 viz. the Association's enrolment in I.F.M.S.A., make it imperative to consider that a change of name is necessary and therefore propose that the decision re the new name taken by the Annual General Meeting be respected and that the Council adopt the name viz:

"The MALTA MEDICAL STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION."

(Affiliated to the B.M.S.A.)

without having recourse to a General Meeting.

In the Annual General Meeting of the 22nd. February 1954 it was suggested that we should do our best to remain a Branch as if we were a Branch of the B.M.S.A. before the constitution of the B.M.S.A. was drawn up, as evidenced by a letter dated 26th May 1943 from President Clout of B.M.S.A. to V. Captur Vice-President S.R.C., who was then sounding the possibilities of forming the local Association. The name itself was certainly advantageous to our Association. Moreover, at this same General Meeting it was also decided to adjourn this item until more details were available and in the event that the old name could not be retained a new name was voted for viz: "Malta Medical Students' Association (affiliated to B.M.S.A.)

That position remained until a delegation took part in the third General Assembly of I.F.M.S.A. in Rome last October. There it was realised that the Malta Medical Student Society was able to form part of I.F.M.S.A. in as much as it was an *independent member* and that talks with the British delegation amount-

ted to both parties admitting the need for a change of name so much so that the Annual Report of the B.M.S.A. said that:

"Conversations between the President and the Maltese representatives confirmed that their suggestion (viz that the title "Malta Branch" be changed) is to be implemented shortly."

This, must be admitted to have been a fair resume, of the delegation's conversation with the British delegation.

The Council did not accept our decision completely, and though it did not think it feasible to call a General Meeting, it was decided to hold a referendum among all members so that the projected change of name should possibly have a good majority. The result was that the new name was adopted by 38 votes in favour, and 8 against.

The relevant correspondence mentioned above appears in toto below:

Correspondence: Letter of 26th July 1953.

28th January 1954.

17th. February 1954.

B.M.A. House,
Tavistock Square,
London, W.C.1.
England.

17th Feb. 1954.

A.P. Jaccarini, Esq.,
Royal University of Malta Union,
Valletta,
MALTA.

Dear Mr. Jaccarini,

Concerning your letter of the 28th., ult. Under Section 6 of our Constitution the British Medical Students' Association is composed of students in "**Constituent Organisations**" at Medical Schools in the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland:

6. "Constituent Organisations are

those organisations at Medical Schools and Universities in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, that are representative of and elected by medical students, apply to the Association to be recognised as Constituent Organisations, send delegates to the Annual General Meeting and pay the appropriate subscription."

The country is divided into "regions" — London, Midland, Northern, and Scottish. Each Region has a committee which conducts the local business, being responsible to the National Executive which is in turn responsible to the Annual General Meeting. The Chairman of each Region has a seat on the Executive. I think that you will agree that geographical reasons rule out any possibility of Malta as a Region or Branch of B.M.S.A. However our two associations are affiliated under Section 49 of our Constitution:

49. "Any representative student body in any country may apply for affiliation on such terms as may be mutually agreed upon by such body and the Association. Affiliated Organisations are listed in Schedule 1. Affiliation implies the establishment of a friendly relationship with the friendly organisation. There shall be no obligation on the part of either party to the affiliation agreement to sponsor any such activity of the other."

Under Schedule 1 are listed:

The Royal University of Malta; Irish Medical Students' Association; Canadian Association of Medical Students and Interns.

Thus, as in the case of the Republic of Ireland and Canada, Malta is an affiliated Association and to avoid any confusion I think it would be better if you effected a change in the name of your Association to something on a parallel to the Irish Medical Students'

Association. I think you will agree that this would clarify the position and avoid the use of the term "Branch" for which we have no Constitutional support.

With best wishes and looking forward to a continuance of mutual friendly relationships and co-operation between our two Associations I remain:

Yours Sincerely,
Keith J. Tilling
International Secretary,
British Medical Students'
Association.

26th July, 1953.

Dear Sir,

It is such a long time since Malta has written to the B.M.S.A. in Britain.

I have first of all to refer to you an important question, viz., the position of Malta as a Branch of the B.M.S.A. As you may see from the head of this letter our association is known as the B.M.S.A. (Malta Branch) and this is in accordance with article 1. of our Rules. This name, one may opine, implies that our ass. forms a constituent organization of the B.M.S.A. — an implication never attained in fact as the Malta representative as such has never attended the A.G.M. in England and also as the B.M.S.A. constitution recognizes our ass. as an affiliated body with the name of "The Royal University of Malta". Clearly, one may see, that the adopted name of our association is a misnomer although it may be said outrightly that it has never been challenged officially.

Would you therefore clarify the position so that any changes which have to be made will be done so under the guidance of the parent organization? In connection with this matter, Mr. Debono our president who will be in London this summer hopes to come personally to the B.M.S.A. headquarters and discuss the question.

Another item linking up with the

above is the International Federation of Medical Ass. First of all we would like your advise as to our joining and secondly we would like to ask if Malta would be represented if the B.M.S.A. is a member of I.F.M.S.A. As it is evident that our connection with I.F.M.S.A. will depend on our relations with the B.M.S.A.

Finally we would like to communicate with the Canadian Association of Medical Students and Internes and with some representative Medical Student Associations in Australia. Would you therefore send us addresses?

While thanking you in advance I would like to express the hope that closer links will be forged between the associations by more frequent correspondence.

Yours faithfully,
A.P. JACCARINI.

The International Secretary,
B.M.S.A.

28th January, 1954.

The International Secretary,
The B.M.S.A.
London.

Dear Sir,
Re Letter of 26th July, 1953 from Malta.

The Council of the Malta Branch would be very grateful if an official written statement on the question viz the position of Malta as a Branch (sic) of the British Medical Students' Association, would be forthcoming from the B.M.S.A.

In this connection, Mr. Debono, our President has already talked with the B.M.S.A. Secretary at B.M.A. House last August. He was informed that Malta was an affiliated body and not a branch.

An early reply is urgently solicited in view of the fact that any change in the name of our Association will have to be effected at the A.G.M. on the 22nd of February.

Yours faithfully,
A.P. Jaccarini (Hon. Secretary).