consultant staff of King Edward VII Hospital have contributed from the fund they have accumulated from running courses for general practitioners. The Windsor and District Medical Society has also given its support and been represented on the Postgraduate Committee.

The completion and opening of the Centre is, of course, only the completion of the first phase of the project. Its future success will depend upon the use to which it is put. For the last few years the Postgraduate Committee

has published regular programmes of academic activities and it is hoped that these will be extended and that the Centre will become a meeting place both for social and academic functions for the general practitioners, consultants and local authority medical officers of the area as well as providing facilities for the junior hospital medical staff. If this hope can be realised it should help to integrate the medical services in the district and at the same time raise the general standard of medical practice.

DISCUSSION

DR. H. W. K. ACHESON (Stoke) said that their experience had been the same as Windsor's. Their appeal had been for £100,000, because less than this would not have provided for the "greater medical profession" of the area. About £20,000 has been received from Local Authorities. They had not insisted upon financial independence but had been told at all levels that no money could be provided from National Health Service sources. With the increase in demand for postgraduate medical centres there seemed to have been a change in Ministry policy

regarding finance.

DR. WATKINSON (Leeds) wanted to know whether there was any way in which Librarians could be paid as such and DR. BOULTER (Guildford) asked whether, since technical colleges provided courses for almost anyone needing them, the Ministry of Education could contribute to postgraduate medical centres.

DR. MCCALL said that the local authorities had helped his centre on the ground that it was an educational project.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

J. R. ELLIS, *M.B.E.*, M.D., F.R.C.P.

There seems little doubt that a meeting between all those concerned with postgraduate medical education up and down the country was long overdue. Equally there seems no doubt that ASME is the most appropriate body to call together such meetings and very obviously this conference must be but the first of those called by the Association in this field of postgraduate activity. Future conferences must, I think, be confined to more precise subjects so that we can go into greater depth in them. We must also undoubtedly provide more opportunity for discussion from the floor. This first conference was deliberately rather general and in consequence some of the discussion has inevitably been superficial. Nevertheless we have been able to achieve one of our first and most important objectives, namely a greater understanding of the extent to which very many different bodies and organisations are contributing to this present rapid growth of post-

graduate medical education. Many who were hitherto conscious only of their own local exertion and enterprise have become more aware of the extent to which the Ministry of Health, the University Grants Committee, the Regional Boards and the Universities are already contributing towards all that is needed.

From our wide-ranging discussions certain important points of agreement can be picked. There is agreement that Continuing Education is vital for every established doctor, for general practitioners and consultants. It is clear that Continuing Education depends for its success upon the postgraduate medical centres but also upon a good university education of undergraduates.

It is clear that a good university education depends for its success not only upon educational changes in the medical schools but most importantly upon the provision of sound Postgraduate Training for every branch of medicine,

including general practice.

It is clear that good Postgraduate Training depends upon hospitals (including the regional board hospitals as much as the teaching hospitals) but it also depends upon well-based and efficiently run postgraduate medical centres.

It is clear that postgraduate centres depend for their full success upon sound regional organisation in which universities and regional hospital boards combine effectively and in which the colleges and various other bodies can play a full part. But it is also clear that the success of postgraduate medical centres depends in the final analysis upon local energy and enthusiasm.

Finally it is clear that success in postgraduate medical education at all levels and in all places will depend to some extent upon our knowledge of educational method and the degree to which we make educational facilities available. We must have future ASME meetings which concentrate upon educational method, techniques of teaching and methods of learning. These must be held at regional as well as national levels. It should be noted none the less that even at this first meeting attention has been

drawn to some of the most vital rules of education. For example Dr. Mattingly gave the first rule when he suggested that, before attempting to teach anything to anybody, one should first become very clear indeed in one's mind as to precisely what it is that one wishes to get across. Dr. Plunkett exemplified the second rule, "Be enthusiastic".

It is clear that we shall need to make the utmost use of the Teaching Services section of the Association, to which any one in need can apply for help and advice about teaching and its facilities and from which not only advice but material can be disseminated. It is obvious that there is almost no limit to the extent to which the postgraduate medical centres, like the undergraduate schools, can and should turn to ASME for the necessary services. The extent to which these demands can be met will depend largely upon the extent to which the centres and the schools support the Association. It should be noted that up to this year its total annual income, about £2,000, is rather less than that available to the majority of the postgraduate medical centres.