

group, now called the Junior Hospital Doctors' Association, who have taken the most militant line and have been quoted most frequently in the press this summer.

The junior hospital doctors were assisted in finding a forum this year by the fact that, for the first time, their case was considered separately. In the past, the profession was considered as a whole, and often percentage increases were awarded across the board. Last year higher remuneration was awarded general practitioners separately, and this year the system was revised to meet the criticism by the GP's that pay was not linked to work load.

General practitioners exerted pressure with a threat of mass resignation from the NHS. There is little doubt that the success of the GP's sharpened the hospital doctors' resentment over the postponement of their own pay increase, and it is equally clear that the lesson of the essay of the GP's in pressure politics was not lost on them. The juniors will not be satisfied with their raise alone, even when they get it.

Both the BMA junior doctors' group and the independent group are engaged in formulating proposals to be presented to the ministry. The independents are actively recruiting and are holding regional meetings, which they plan to follow up with a national meeting to get consensus on a series of proposals.

It is not difficult to predict the outline of the demands. In addition to low pay, grievances include bad food and squalid living conditions in hospitals and a requirement, especially affecting the most junior staff, to be on call literally any hour when not on duty. Many junior staff members, like others of their age these days, are married and have children. The complaint that junior staff can only do what is required of them professionally by shirking responsibility to their families has been heard often this summer. The young doctors have at the same time been unusually frank in saying that the long periods of duty inevitably result in fatigue in a degree that inevitably has fatal consequences for some patients.

Consultants are already under criticism from the juniors—first, because they are so frequently simply not there when an emergency has to be dealt with; second, because the consultants collectively have done too little to correct the fundamental problems of the hospital service and provide better pro-

## NEWS IN BRIEF

● **METRIC SYSTEM:** For the second straight year, legislation aimed toward U.S. adoption of the metric system is locked up in the House Rules Committee. Time is running out in Congress, and few hold any hope that the Rules Committee will allow the measure to reach the floor this session. In February, the House Science and Astronautics Committee reported, with a minor amendment, a Senate-passed bill (S. 774) authorizing the Secretary of Commerce to undertake a 3-year study of the feasibility of adopting the metric system in the U.S. The same House committee in August of last year reported a similar bill, but the Rules Committee deferred action on it.

● **OCEANOGRAPHY:** A further sign of the federal government's steadily mounting interest in this field is the Navy's recent announcement that the Oceanographer of the Navy, Rear Admiral Odale D. Waters, Jr., will exercise central authority over the Navy's entire oceanography program. The oceanographer formerly exercised largely a liaison function. He coordinated the oceanographic work of the Office of Naval Research and the Navy's technical bureaus (such as the Bureau of Ships) with that of his own office, which has consisted mainly of applied research in support of the antisubmarine warfare program.

● **SCIENCE WITH MAO:** *Hsinhua*, the Communist China news agency, reports the following on the 1966 Physics Colloquium recently held in Peking, and reportedly attended by 144 scientists from 33 countries.

"The report delivered on behalf of the Peking research group into the theory of elementary particles, and related papers presented, showed results achieved under the brilliant philosophical thesis of Chairman Mao Tse-tung that everything in the world tends to divide into two. The report creatively postulated the 'theory of the straton model' which reflects the internal structure of elementary particles, showing that the elementary particles are composed of still more elementary things—stratons and antistratons—and thus taking a great step forward in theoretical research into the internal structure of elementary particles. . . . In his report,

Tsai Tsu-chuan, worker-expert in electric light sources and deputy head of the Chinese Scientists Delegation to the colloquium, described how he started his research work from scratch, guided by Chairman Mao's two philosophical essays—'On Practice' and 'On Contradiction'—and eventually introduced a dozen or so new types of electric lights. . . . The Guinean scientist Diallo Saidou said: 'All the reports and papers read by the Chinese scientists at the colloquium showed results arrived at under the guidance of Mao Tse-tung's thought.' . . . One of the scientists pointed out that, in the past, many big international meetings became places where people showed off results of their own individual scientific research. Here in Peking a cordial atmosphere of unity and cooperation prevailed."

● **APPOINTMENTS:** Otis A. Singletary, chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, to vice president of the American Council on Education. Singletary succeeds Allan M. Cartter, who resigned to become chancellor of the New York University. . . . General James Ferguson, deputy chief of staff for research and development at U.S. Air Force headquarters in Washington, to head of Air Force Systems Command. General Ferguson succeeds General Bernard A. Schriever, who recently retired. . . . Mary W. Lasker, president of the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation, to a 4-year term on the 12-member national advisory council of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. . . . Earl Ubell, science editor of the New York *Herald Tribune* since 1953, to CBS, where he will be science editor of WCBS-TV News in New York City. . . . Werner Baum, vice president for scientific affairs at New York University, to deputy administrator of Environmental Science Services Administration. He succeeds Vice Admiral H. Arnold Karo who will retire 1 January. . . . Gerald V. Howard, head of Bureau of Commercial Fisheries' Tuna Resources Laboratory at La Jolla, California, to director of the Pacific Southwest Region of the Bureau at Terminal Island. He succeeds Donald R. Johnson, who left to assume a similar position with the Bureau's Pacific Northwest Region in Seattle.