

New Cover.  
7.1.59

91-0X ~~Memo 12~~

G.R. 13

PART I

G.R. No. 212 / 41 / 320

DIVISION .....

DIVNL. REF. ....

1931-63

Memo. 217145 195...

Registration 6/1/32.

Former papers

Sexual Offences against Women & Children.

Lady doctors prepared to undertake medical examinations.

Registry should be notified if this file is passed direct to another Branch or if any file is attached to it or detached from it.

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
<del>Mr Markings</del>		Supt Wedlake CI	13/8/59		
<del>W. H. A.</del>		A. H.	10/9/59		
<del>Medical</del>	6/1/59	Chief Supt KELLY	11/5/59		
<del>CS</del>	7/5/59	CI			
<del>CS</del>	27/7/59	<del>(H)</del>	14/11/59		
<del>CS</del>	30/7/59				
<del>DC (C.O.1)</del>	30/7/59				
<del>b.2.</del>	30/7/59				
<del>es</del>	31/7/59				
<del>D.1 (MEDICAL)</del>	28/11/59				
<del>CS</del>	11/12/59				
<del>Hosp. Tacon - CI</del>	2/6/60				
	9/6/60				

REGISTRY 19 AUG 1959

HAYES  
For Authority to P.A.

By 10/68

to the parents to object to  
a male Doctor & arrange  
for the examination by a  
lady doctor themselves.

J.H. Ashley 9/1/32  
cc

3.

Acc. The Rotary Club of St Pancras are again  
on the question of children being examined by lady  
Doctors. Personally I see no reason why we  
should alter our opinion.

H.H. Da  
9.1.32.

4.

Return these Home Office papers minuted as follows:

" There is not a rag of evidence to show that any  
child has ever been disturbed because the medical  
examination was conducted by a man. The only sensible  
safeguard is the presence of the mother or some other  
person who knows the child well. I entirely agree with  
the D. of P.P's views set out on 492077/95 and am very  
strongly of opinion that no alteration in our procedure  
is necessary or desirable.

The suggestion is hopelessly impracticable in the  
absence of elaborate and expensive preliminary arrangements.

A { Better have something on this file  
Extract ref to Ho papers.

Mk. 11.1.32.

Cum.

ms.  
164  
inuation  
subject

On point A as to touching the person identified in a parade, I think it would be better if the wording of sub-paragraph (n), paragraph 55, Section 20 of General Orders (page 372), were altered. This could be done by substituting for the words "to touch" the words "to point out". The objection to placing a hand on the individual is often very real.

The second point has been raised fairly often. It is quite easy in a town where one doctor can cover the whole district to arrange for a woman in all cases where girls are to be examined. It is not so easy with us, but I think the case will be met if orders are given that the general rule to be followed is to be that when a girl is to be examined, a lady doctor is to be employed in the absence of a request for a man doctor. I still think that the most important point in all these children cases is for some woman whom the child can trust to be present. Our present rule is for the Divisional Surgeon to make the examination in the absence of a request for a woman doctor. Such a request is apparently never made, and it can be argued with great force that the time has come to put the boot on the other foot, and make the general rule "a woman for a girl", but leave open the door for examination by the Divisional Surgeon if a woman doctor cannot be conveniently found.

AK<sup>b</sup>.

14.

Secretary

I thoroughly agree that a woman doctor should be called in unless a man doctor is asked for. I entirely agree with minute 13 and I would like you to return the Home

14 (contd.)

Office file minuted to that effect. If the Home Office accept the suggestions then I would like all Departments to be informed. The D/C should also be informed when he returns from leave.

Commissioner  
6.10.33.

15

SENT  
16 OCT 1933  
A.P.

to H.O. as in 15<sup>A</sup>  
sgd H.M. H-G.

16

The matter of touching the person identified at an identification parade has been transferred to a separate despatch

53/501/308  
~~(1st 7/10/33)~~

cc  
20/10/33

H.M.H.G.

Seen. 17  
D/C to see us in minute 14.

cc  
20/10/33

J.P.

Seen. 17.13 20.10.33.

D.A.C.C.

A list of lady doctors will have to be kept in each Station and the nearest one sent for.

The order will apply to every case in which a woman is to be medically examined. The fees will be those fixed by G.O. If and when any trouble about the amount arises it will have to be taken up.

It was not intended to give any particular lady doctor any kind of official appointment.

Please have an order drafted on these lines. It must go to the D/C before it is published.

*NK.*

23.11.1933.

22

*acc.* Report (22 A) + draft <sup>(22 b)</sup> for P.O. attached

*Co.C. 1*

*29. 11. 33.*

23

D/C.

I think this proposed order, 22b, meets the case, but D. Department ought to be asked as to the sending of the car. I see no objection - there will be very, very few cases. I do not think there is any need to raise any question as to drunk or ill, neither of which cases has been under discussion. The point only arose in the indecent type of case.

*NK.*

30.11.33.

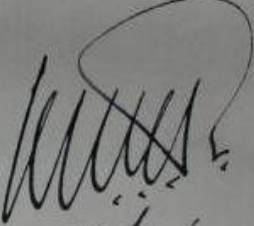
C.M.O.

I handed you this file some little time ago and asked you if you regarded the expression "the nearest lady doctor" used in the draft P.O. as sufficient.

It ~~is~~ <sup>was</sup> agreed, I think, that it would be desirable to make inquiries and select such a number of lady doctors as would enable each ~~Division~~ <sup>Station</sup> to have one or two within reasonable reach.

I have now looked at the list you showed me and perhaps the best way to get the numbers down to something reasonable might be first of all to write a duplicate<sup>d</sup> letter to each one, saying that the Police may ~~have~~ need occasionally to consult a lady doctor on certain types of cases (which you might stipulate) and asking whether the lady in question would be willing to deal with such cases, if requested to do so. You would have to mention also what fee would be payable.

This will no doubt reduce the list a good deal. If there are still too many, I imagine all you could do is ask your Divisional Surgeons if they have any preference for, <sup>knowledge of,</sup> particular ones.

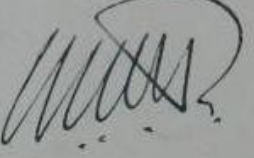
  
13/4/34

31

Cemo.

letter might be on the lines of

31A perhaps.

  
18/4/34

nothing back attached. (32A)

31. 5.35

*[Handwritten signature]*

33.

A.C.C.

You will remember speaking to me about this, and you agreed that the directions to apply to the "nearest lady doctor" would not be satisfactory.

Dr. Jones has now obtained a list of lady doctors scattered about London (32A). This involves some change in the draft orders.

Perhaps you could kindly get this done in your Dept.

A

34.

A.C.C.

*[Handwritten signature]*  
2/6

32a somewhat complicates this matter if we can assume that the many lady doctors who have not replied to 31a do not wish to be called to undertake the necessary examinations.

On this assumption the position will be that no lady doctor will be available on C.D.J. and Z divisions, and one only on each of A.B. F.H.L. and N divisions.

A case in point (there are many) would be that Croydon would have to rely on the one doctor on 'L' (the nearest) some 6 miles away, to attend to their cases, if she happened to be at home. Whether she would attend at such a distance for the authorised fee is also to be considered.

[P.T.O.]

Home Office file

Case 2

41

D.3.

It would be a mistake to print the list of lady doctors in G.O. This would mean an amendment of G.O. every time a new one was appointed or an old one retired which is not worth while. It would be far simpler to send a copy of the list to the Stations where the list is to be kept and to send the information to each Station when any alteration to the list takes place. A.3., I suppose will do this as the C.M.O. will let them know of any change. In other words, the Station Bible will be the Station list and not General Orders.

*Mc*  
30.7.34.

42.

(My addition of the "NOTE" at the end of 39a was not intended to include the list of lady doctors in the addition to General Orders, and I understand from C.6 that the misunderstanding has been cleared up.)

Referred to A.2 and S.3 re the C.6 memo 42A.

*Ernestina*

1/8/34

D.3.

43

*C.M.O. / This file came to S3 first. Will regard to 42a, as far*

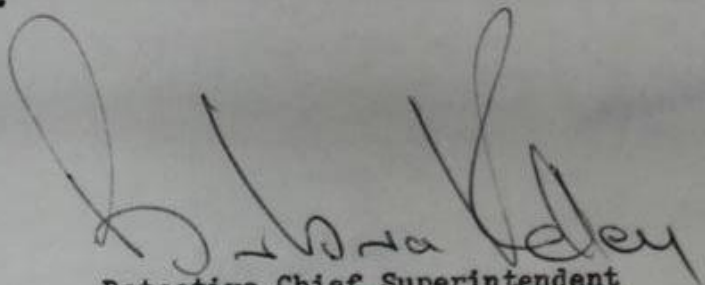
C.1 Branch

Re: PUBLIC RECORDS ACT, 1958

To The Chief Registrar (thro' D.1 Branch)

The attached papers (212/61/320) have been detached from 212/62/863 and 212/68/559, 3/68/7, 48/57/113. All these dockets in some way concern the appointment of women doctors by police to conduct medical examinations. This docket deals with the inception of the policy to use women doctors to examine female victims of sexual offences. It has been used from time to time to answer questions from Members of Parliament or organisations, such as British Medical Association and National Council of Women.

The other papers mentioned above are in action with A.C.A. and A.C.C.

  
Detective Chief Superintendent

10th September, 1934

3 Crime (G.O., pages 417-9, paras. 329 to 343) Offences against Women and Children.—

See XX

Additional para. 331A.

331A. (1) Whenever a woman or girl of any age is believed to have been the victim of a sexual offence and a medical examination is desirable, it is to be made by a lady doctor if one is available, unless the person (or her parent or guardian if she is under 16) requests that a male doctor be employed.

(2) A list of lady doctors willing to attend in such cases must be kept at each Station. If none practises in the Station area, the nearest must be sent for. In any case where she resides a long distance from the Station she should be summoned by telephone and informed that a car will be sent to convey her to and from the Station if desired. The patrolling officer's or other car should be sent if the suggestion is accepted.

(3) Remuneration will be in accordance with Sec. VII, paras. 130 to 136.

Prisoners (G.O., page 325, para. 41) Sexual Offences, etc.—Medical Examination.—

See XIX

Addition to para. 41.

At end of para. add " (For examination of victims of such offences, see Sec. XX, para. 331A.)"

General Orders to be noted as so amended, the addition to para. 41 being made forthwith in manuscript.

NOTE.—The following lady doctors are willing to undertake the above examinations:—

Division.

- A. Dr. E. H. Bone, 86, Porchester Terrace, W.2.
- B. Dr. L. Tweed, 503, Fulham Road, S.W.6. *B. DR. C. GAFF, 105, EATON TERRACE, S.W.1*
- F. Dr. H. Mills, 21, St. Mary Abbots Terrace, W.14. *DR. DR. K. V. RYBWIN GIBSON*
- G. Dr. M. N. Russell, 84, Canonbury Road, N.1. *47 ROSENTH PARK ROAD, N.W.1.*
- G. Dr. E. C. I. Focke, 59, Hyde Road, N.1.
- H. Dr. H. Billig, 198, Cable Street, E.1.
- K. Dr. K. Heanley, 1a, Warwick Road, E.12.
- K. Dr. G. M. Langdon, 86, Brunswick Road, E.14.
- K. Dr. ~~E. C. I. Focke~~ <sup>K. THURBY</sup>, 243, Roman Road, E.3.
- L. Dr. P. D. Dixon, 43, Brixton Hill, S.W.2.
- M. Dr. M. Berkeley, 173, Kennington Road, S.E.11.
- M. Dr. M. K. Green, 41, Creek Road, S.E.8.
- N. Dr. L. M. Potter, 31, Highbury Place, N.5. *M. DR. K. H. MATHEWS, 5 CARLETON Gdns, N.19.*
- P. Dr. B. F. Lovibond, 3, Oakeroft Road, S.E.13. *P. DR. META JACKSON*
- P. Dr. A. F. Allport, 33, Earlsthorpe Road, S.E.26. *10 RAVENS COWNE PARK CATFORD SE.8*
- ~~P. Dr. E. M. Lynton-Low, 31, Fairfield Road, S.E.12.~~
- R. Dr. ~~V. EDLAND, 42 SOUTH STREET, GREENWICH, S.E.10.~~
- R. Dr. ~~E. G. O'NEILL, 46 CHAIN ROAD, S.W.1.~~
- S. Dr. R. Bradley, 13, Eton Villas, Eton Road, N.W.3.
- S. Dr. M. F. Hayward, 13, Eton Villas, Eton Road, N.W.3. *S. DR. KATHLEEN TRESILIAN, 18 WOOD STREET, BARNET.*
- S. Dr. G. W. Everett, Elstree Cottage, Elstree, Herts.
- S. Dr. E. M. Pakeman, 122, Hendon Lane, N.3.
- T. Dr. F. S. Barry, 102, The Avenue, W.13.
- T. Dr. E. D. Cook, 169, Spring Grove Road, Isleworth.
- V. Dr. M. M. Ingram, Crestway House, Dover House Road, S.W.15.
- V. Dr. D. H. Lukis, 52, Kingston Road, New Malden. *V. DR. M. CANTHER, EASTCOT, EMER LANE, ESSEX.*
- W. Dr. ~~C. K. Burnett, 31, Albert Bridge Road, S.W.11.~~ *V. DR. M. CANTHER, EASTCOT, EMER LANE, ESSEX.*
- W. Dr. B. Mitchell, 6, Church Street, Epsom.
- X. Dr. O. N. Roper, 64, Dene Road, Northwood.
- X. Dr. G. E. M. Olive, Grove House, North Road, Southall.
- X. Dr. E. C. Hudgell, 75, Craven Park Road, N.W.10.
- X. Dr. M. Giles, 2, Hinde Road, Harrow on the Hill. *(SEE (21)A)*
- X. Dr. ~~M. M. Harwood, 1, Ashely, Pombroke, Ruislip.~~
- Y. Dr. T. Johnston, "Woodcroft", Windmill Hill, Enfield.
- Y. Dr. M. A. Baker, "Cleeve", High Street, N.14.
- Y. Dr. F. M. Pereira, 42, Colney Hatch Lane, N.10.
- Y. Dr. K. M. McKeown, 12, Arundel Gardens, N.21.
- Y. Dr. C. E. Mathias, 70, Rokesley Avenue, N.8.
- Y. Dr. E. E. Stephens, 3, Sefton Avenue, N.W.7.
- Z. Dr. K. C. Vost, 13 GALPIN'S ROAD, THORNTON HEATH

Any alteration in the above list is to be notified to A-2 (Medical) Branch.

(Corres. 212/Gen/21).

Dear Madam,

The Commissioner of Police has decided that the medical examination of females in sexual offences shall in certain circumstances be carried out by a lady doctor, and I am to inquire whether you would be willing to have your name included on a panel of lady doctors who can be called upon to conduct such examinations if the necessity arises in your locality.

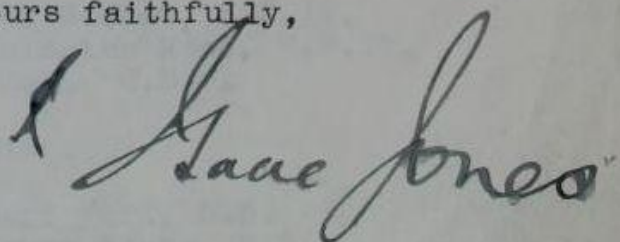
The authorised fee is 5/- during the day (8 a.m. to 8 p.m.) and 10/6d. during the night (8 p.m. to 8 a.m.).

Conveyance to the Station by police cars would be arranged if possible.

Such cases are liable to involve subsequent attendance at Court to give evidence and the fee in that event would vary from 15/9 to £3.3.0. according to distance and time.

No reply to this letter is necessary if you do not wish your name to be included on the panel.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Isaac Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'I'.

Chief Medical Officer  
Metropolitan Police

The Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis has under consideration the question of the medical examination of females, believed to have been the victim of a sexual offence, being conducted by a lady Doctor, unless her parent or guardian, if she is under the age of 16 years, requests that a male doctor be employed.

The authorised fee for such examination is the grant of a certificate of 5/- for a day call and 10/6 for a night call. In distinguishing between the day and night call the following hours have been decided upon: day- 8a.m. to 8 p.m.: night 8 p.m. to 8 a.m.

In the event of the Doctor residing at a distance from the Police Station requiring her attendance, a car will be sent for her conveyance.

I would point out that the examination of the patient may be followed, at a later date, by a subpoena for her attendance at Court to give evidence, for which the authorised fee, dependent upon the distance and time occupied, varies from 15/9d. to £3.3.0.

I shall be obliged if you will kindly let me know whether you are prepared to undertake this work in order that your name may be recorded at the Police Stations in the

METROPOLITAN POLICE.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT,

New Scotland Yard,

29th day of November, 1933.

- 1 -

To Superintendent

Attached is a draft (22b) for the revision of G.O. in accordance with minute 21.

In the first clause I have put the age of 16 with reference to the consent of the parent of a girl: it is a point for consideration whether this is too old or too young.

In the second clause I have suggested the use of a police car to convey the doctor if she lives a long distance away: it will ensure her early attendance and obviate questions of charges for travelling expenses. If the idea is considered suitable it is possible that A and D departments may have some comment to make on it.

The reports and minutes on this file only relate to the examination with respect to sexual offences, and consequently I have not drafted anything to deal with the other cases where females are medically examined. These are when she is drunk (G.O. page 326, pars 51 to 57) and when she is ill (G.O. page 345, pars. 204 to 206). I suggest that it will be most satisfactory for the existing orders to stand with respect to these circumstances.

Jesse W. Keech.  
Chief Inspector.

30 A.B.

3

for approval

20a

**METROPOLITAN POLICE.**

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**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT,**

**New Scotland Yard.**

1st day of.....November.....1933.

(1)

To Superintendent.

With reference to minute 19 it is difficult to draft a paragraph in G.O. until certain matters are settled, which apparently have not yet been considered beyond the last words in A.C.C.'s minute 4.

Is a station officer simply to send for any lady doctor in the district, or is a particular one to be called?.

If this is left to his discretion is a list of lady doctors to be kept in each station?.

If a particular one is to be called the selections will have to made. Are the views of the Chief Medical Officer to be taken on this?.

Will questions of remuneration arise, or is it to be taken that the existing G.O. (pages 137 and 138, pars 130, 135 and 136) is sufficient?.

There is another matter not clear. The word "girl" is used through the reports and minutes; for the purpose of the new G.O. up to what age is a female a "girl"?.

I beg directions on these matters.

*Jesse W. Keech.*  
Chief Inspector.

Jesse W. Keech.

Chief Inspector.

2.

To A.C.C.

Submitted as at "A". I have had compiled lists of lady doctors actually in practice and these shew their practising addresses on the various station areas.

throughout the Metropolitan Police District.

Another list (20b) shows Station areas which at present have no lady doctors practising, and it will be seen that some of the Station areas on which much indecency takes place are on this list. Of course, lady doctors can be found within a mile or so of those particular Station areas.

If the matter becomes an order, I think the Station Officer should understand that he is to send for the nearest lady doctor unless there are known local reasons to the contrary. On the other hand perhaps it might be considered advisable for Station area lady doctors to be selected by the Chief Medical Officer and appointed in the same way and at the same fees as Divisional Surgeons.

Divisional Surgeons and Deputy Divisional Surgeons fully understand what fees are allowed as in the quoted paragraph, and unless similar arrangements are made with selected lady doctors we shall be troubled with all kinds of demands for fees.

With regard to the definition of "Girl". Some unmarried females even up to the age of 21 are quite young, and are purposely kept childish by their parents. If this matter becomes an order, I suggest that "Girl" should be any unmarried female under the age of 21.

I have studied Minute No. 4, and my experience compels me to entirely agree with it. Surely Divisional Surgeons are capable enough and do create such a professional atmosphere as to take the child's mind far away from the terrifying experience she received at the hands of the man who assaulted her.

hands of the man who assaulted her.

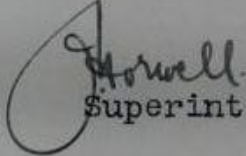
It thus appears that the making of an order for the  
calling in of a lady doctor on all occasions where the  
person/

person to be examined is a girl must be preceded by some elaborate arrangements such as selection of lady doctors for Station areas.

On the other hand I do feel that the present situation could be met by instructions to all Station Officers that parents or guardians in these cases are to be asked whether a lady doctor would be preferred to the Divisional Surgeon, and in the case of a girl over the age of 18, that she herself be asked to choose. This system would prevent any complaint arising.

All Stations possess a Special Enquiry Register containing the names and addresses of all practising doctors of both sexes.

20<sup>11</sup>/<sub>33</sub>

  
Superintendent.

Secy. I like this better

Minute for H.O. papers.

The Commissioner agrees that it is wrong to ask witnesses, particularly children, to touch suspects on identification parades and he <sup>proposes to</sup> has altered the wording of sub-paragraph (n), paragraph 55, Section 20 of General Orders (page 372) by substitution for the words 'to touch' <sup>the words</sup> 'to point out'.

With regard to the question of the employment of a woman doctor to examine children in cases of criminal assault or cases of a similar nature, the Commissioner proposes, if the Secretary of State agrees, to issue instructions that, if a woman doctor can be found within a reasonable distance and time, she is to be called to examine girls unless a definite request is made for a male doctor.

He will also emphasise the importance in all these children cases of having some woman whom the child can trust present at the time of the examination.

*JMK*  
13.10.1933.

Draft minute for H.O. papers.

---

S. of S.

The Commissioner agrees that when a child is asked to identify a man in a case of criminal assault or cases of a similar nature it is not necessary for the child to pick the man out by actually touching him and he proposes to give directions that the child should be told to point <sup>out</sup> ~~to~~ the man.

With regard to the question of the employment of a woman doctor to examine children in such cases, the Commissioner will, if the Secretary of State agrees, issue instructions that, if possible, a lady doctor must be called to examine girls unless a definite request is made for a male doctor.

Secretary

212/Gen/21  
12th October, 1933.

12A

C.C. C.1

I have read with much interest Miss Wall's memorandum and the rest of the correspondence relating to medical examination of girl and child witnesses. I appreciate A.C.C's point as to the difficulty of producing much evidence in favour of the employment of women doctors for such examinations; Miss Wyles, however, appears to have collected a certain amount of data. The opinion of those in close touch with witnesses and their relations should, I think carry considerable weight. My own experience includes four years' work on sex cases as a C.I.D. Officer attached to the Birmingham Police Force. During this time I attended many medical examinations, and formed an opinion on the subject.

I should like to submit the following points:-

(1) Women Doctors are now numerous, both in private practice and on the staff of Public Authorities. Not only, therefore, should their services be easily secured, but many children and girls must be already accustomed to their attendance in circumstances where, a few years ago, a male Doctor would have been taken for granted.

(2) The conditions in which most medical examinations take place at Police Stations lack the medical atmosphere of a Doctor's consulting room, and are, therefore, the more trying to the modesty of the patient-witness.

(3) The girl or child, on account of the sex experience which she (usually) has recently undergone, does not approach the examination from a normal standpoint. Everything possible, therefore, should be done to conserve her modesty, to relieve her from fear, and to avoid confusing her mind.

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(4) The matter is fully as important for the older girl as for the child. The fact that many of the former, who become witnesses in such cases, are neither modest nor inexperienced, should be regarded as a reason for securing, not

dispensing with, the services of a woman Doctor. The same principle applies to little girls of depraved tendencies.

(5) The little girl may be affected in any of the following ways:-

If the child has been terrified by an indecent assault, or a worse offence, committed upon her by a strange man, the examination by another strange man will bring back to her the terror which she has already experienced.

If, as is often the case, the offence has been committed by a relation or family friend whose right to touch her she has not questioned until she finds herself whisked off to the Police by a dismayed or angry parent, she is doubly confused by finding a male Doctor allowed to do the same thing.

In many cases, the original offences has been a slight indecent assault, and the medical examination necessarily goes further.

In the confusion occasioned to the childish mind by strange surroundings and agitated friends, it will be the foregoing impressions which will remain with her, rather than such explanations as it may be possible for the parent, the Doctor, or the Police to give her. It must also be borne in mind that the examination often takes place before the arrival of the Woman Officer, and that the Male Officer will naturally leave such explanations to the parent. So, if he is hurried, will the Doctor.

For all reasons, and in spite of having worked with more than one male Divisional Surgeon whose tact and wisdom in such cases could not be surpassed, I am convinced that the right course is to employ a woman Doctor.

I strongly endorse Miss Wall's remarks on the

following ways:-

If the child has been terrified by an indecent assault, or a worse offence, committed upon her by a strange man, the examination by another strange man will bring back to her the terror which she has already experienced.

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In many cases, the original offences has been a slight indecent assault, and the medical examination necessarily goes further.

In the confusion occasioned to the childish mind by strange surroundings and agitated friends, it will be the foregoing impressions which will remain with her, rather than such explanations as it may be possible for the parent, the Doctor, or the Police to give her. It must also be borne in mind that the examination often takes place before the arrival of the Woman Officer, and that the Male Officer will naturally leave such explanations to the parent. So, if he is hurried, will the Doctor.

For all reasons, and in spite of having worked with more than one male Divisional Surgeon whose tact and wisdom in such cases could not be surpassed, I am convinced that the right course is to employ a woman Doctor.

I strongly endorse Miss Wall's remarks on the difficulty experienced by Prosecuting Counsel in appreciating

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the circumstances, outlook, and state of mind, of witnesses and their relations among the poorer classes. I would add that not only are the latter incapable of exercising a reasoned choice at such a moment, but many of them are at all times incapable of appreciating the issues involved.

It may be of interest to recall that Sir Leonard Dunning, Late H.M. Chief Inspector of Constabulary, and before that, Head Constable of the Liverpool City Police was in favour of the employment of women doctors for such examinations; and that a Woman Medical Officer has been employed by the Manchester Police for the purpose for some years.

I submit that it would be desirable to make a start in this direction in the Metropolitan Police District, preferably by selecting one or more districts where suitable women doctors are known to be available, and by directing Police to inform witnesses or their relations that a Woman Medical Officer will be called unless they particularly desire the attendance of a Male Doctor. Where the witness is a girl under 21 who is not accompanied by responsible relations, the Woman Medical Officer will be called without any choice being given to the girl. In the event of the girl objecting, unless evidence will be lost by delay, the matter would be left in abeyance until the arrival of the Woman Police Officer who should, whenever possible, be summoned in time to suggest the medical examination to the witness.

*J. R. L.*

Superintendent WP.  
29.9.33.

11A

M E M O R A N D U M

I regret the delay in dealing with Lady Lawrence's letter but the files on the subjects she raises were in action on other matters, and also through pressure of work I could not deal with the question earlier. I saw Mr. Howe at New Scotland Yard on 17th August, 1933.

a) On the question of requiring the child who has been the victim of a sexual offence to touch the man in identifying him Mr. Howe had not heard that the matter had previously been brought to the notice of the Police. He will look into it if we refer the papers. He thought the practice probably arose to prevent an accused person from suggesting afterwards that the child had really identified someone else, as might be argued if the child merely pointed at one person in a row.

No evidence on this point of Lady Lawrence's was given before the Committee on Sexual Offences against Young Persons, nor can I find earlier representations to the Department on the matter. Lady Lawrence's letter suggests that it is not a universal practice.

b) As regards the question of the medical examination being conducted by a woman doctor rather than by a police surgeon who is a man, the subject has been frequently considered by the Department both on recommendation 10 of the Report on Sexual Offences and in connection with representations from voluntary organisations and in answer to Parliamentary Questions.

A summary of various views expressed and decisions arrived at is on 548577/53. Opinion seems ultimately to have advanced to the stage of the answer given to the Parliamentary Question on this latter paper i.e. cases are insufficient to warrant any special appointment but if the child's parents

desire a woman doctor, and if one were available, her services would be utilised.

Lady Lawrence's letter, written in her capacity as President of Workers in juvenile moral welfare, must carry

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weight as these workers deal with the after care of the children who have been assaulted, visit their homes and hear what the parents think and wish. In London and Liverpool at least, part of the salaries and other expenses of this work is provided by the local Education Authority which is some guarantee that the workers are qualified persons doing responsible work in a serious manner.

The objections to taking any active steps towards giving effect to the Departmental Committee's recommendation 10, seem to have been based mainly on Sir Archibald Bodkin's views (given on page 2 of enclosed memorandum - 554702/1); on an opinion that most children are seen by men doctors when they require treatment; and that elaborate and expensive procedure would be a necessary preliminary to effecting any change in police practice.

Before considering the force of these objections it seems worth stating that almost everyone who has considered this question, including Lady Lawrence in her present letter, employs the term "child" whereas the Departmental Committee was on much sounder ground when it recommended that "where the services of a woman doctor are available, the police should call her in to examine and report on cases in which girls have been the victims of sexual offences" and in paragraph 47 of their Report, on which this recommendation 10 is based, they deal with the mental disturbance to "a young girl". It is quite possible that it would involve little difference to a child even if it were a girl as old as 10 or 11 years of age, whether the doctor conducting such an examination was a man or a woman, but a girl of 14 or 15 would certainly appreciate the difference.

As regards Sir Archibald's point of view, I think it is time to say that his experience of these cases would be legal and would not bring him into any general personal contact with the parents of the children whose cases he dealt with. The fact that recommendation 10

Before considering the force of these objections it seems worth stating that almost everyone who has considered this question, including Lady Lawrence in her present letter, employs the term "child" whereas the Departmental Committee was on much sounder ground when it recommended that "where the services of a woman doctor are available, the police should call her in to examine and report on cases in which girls have been the victims of sexual offences" and in paragraph 47 of their Report, on which this recommendation 10 is based, they deal with the mental disturbance to "a young girl". It is quite possible that it would involve little difference to a child even if it were a girl as old as 10 or 11 years of age, whether the doctor conducting such an examination was a man or a woman, but a girl of 14 or 15 would certainly appreciate the difference.

As regards Sir Archibald's point of view, I think it is time to say that his experience of these cases would be legal and would not bring him into any general personal contact with the parents of the children whose cases he dealt with. The fact that recommendation 10 came as a novel one to him almost proves it. The children in these sexual cases are generally from poor homes and so the parents would be very unlikely to complain to the Director of Public Prosecutions of the mental disturbance of a medical examination, especially when they

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would have been told that it was a necessity for the prosecution. To "claim" a woman doctor would never enter their heads, though it is quite probable that they would welcome one if she were available to examine their daughters.

As regards the medical treatment of children, local authorities employ both men and women as school medical officers, parents take their children to panel doctors of either sex, and there is little here on which to base an argument one way or the other. As regards the special examination of girls for venereal disease in the London County Council Remand Homes, women school medical officers are employed in preference to men and V.D. clinics for women and girls are largely staffed by women doctors.

There seem to be no insurmountable police difficulties in London itself in employing women doctors to examine girls, but Mr. Howe thought that sexual offences, in any considerable number, tended to occur in outlying districts, such as Epping Forest, but he could consider their occurrence, by police divisions, if desired.

On the appointment and work of police surgeons, Mr. Howe introduced me to Dr. Isaac Jones, Chief Medical Officer of the Metropolitan Police, and he very kindly gave me much useful information. It appears that police surgeons are part-time officers and are in general practice. They examine both accused persons and witnesses for the police and also treat police officers themselves when ill. They have a small fixed salary and are paid fees for each case. There is no apparent reason therefore why a woman general practitioner in a district might not, without taking on all the duties of a police surgeon for which obviously she is not required, examine women and girls for the same fees. Doctors of both sexes have forensic training, have, when required, to give medical evidence in civil cases in which their patients get involved such as divorce, and both men and women doctors will be equally unversed in police court procedure when they start and will be able to learn what is required of them.

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In a large centre like London with highly organised police services and a plentiful supply of doctors of both sexes, it would seem really desirable to make some limited experiment, in the interests of women and girls concerned in sexual offences, in securing the services of women doctors to examine the cases in areas in which such offences are most numerous. If this can be done parents should be informed that a woman doctor is available as it amounts to practically nothing to leave it to people in poor circumstances to realize that they may make a request for one to be called. It seems hardly necessary to add that this is not a question of the competence of existing police surgeons, but rather, as both the English and Scotch Committees on sexual offences found, a question of doing what is reasonably possible to save the girls possible further distress or mental disturbance.

(Sd) J.I.W.

18.8.33

18.11.31

Mr. S.G. Shaw (Rotary Club of St.Pancras.)

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Sexual offences against children - Examination of  
children by woman police doctor.  
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Committee  
8,577

State that in a recent case the children were  
examined by a man and suggests that in the eyes of the  
children this amounts to a repetition of the offence.  
Asks whether such cases could be examined by a woman  
doctor.

MINUTES.

To C Div. on 18.12.31.

See extract from the Report of the Committee on  
sexual offences against Young Persons within.

The late Director of Public Prosecutions did not  
favour the Committee's recommendation - see copy of his  
observations in 492,077/95.

In 1929, on a letter from the Croydon Borough J.J.  
urging examination by women doctors in such cases rather  
than by male Police Divisional Surgeons, the  
Commissioner of Police expressed agreement with the late  
Directors observations and thought that any alteration  
in procedure was not necessary or desirable - see Mr Archer's  
minute on 492,077/95, H.O. reply to the J.J. on the same  
paper said - "S. of S. is not satisfied that such a  
change is required".

As the present letter asks what has been done to put the Committee's recommendation into practice and whether it is not possible to retain the services of a lady doctor in the Metropolitan Area.

?To Commissioner of Police for favour of observation.

E.C. 30.12.31.

This/

This letter is an elaboration of the first of two points made by the same writer in another letter to Childrens' Dept. of H.O. written the previous day (526743/12). In that letter Mr. Shaw says that this is being dealt with through Police channels, "with I think hopes of an alteration".

Perhaps he has written to the Commissioner.

To Commr. of Police as proposed.

C.R.

30.12.31.

ROTARY CLUB OF ST. PANCRAS.

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Midland Grand Hotel,  
St. Pancras.

165, York Road,  
Holloway, N.7.  
Nov.18th, 1931.

The Rt. Hon. Sir Herbert Samuel, G.C.B., G.B.E. M.P.,  
The Home Office,  
Whitehall, S.W.1.

Sir,

re Sexual Offences against Young Persons.  
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A case has recently come under our notice in this Borough where 9 Children of the age of 12 were assaulted by a man who is now serving 6 months' imprisonment for the offences and in the course of the proceedings these children had to be medically examined by the Divisional Police Surgeon. It appears that this is the normal procedure and of course there is no suggestion that the examination was carried out in anything but a very satisfactory manner.

We do feel however, that this further examination by a man almost amounts in the eyes of the children to a repetition of the offence.

We have been looking into the matter and find that in the Report of the Departmental Committee on Sexual Offences (1925) Page 32, Paragraph 47, the statement is made "There seems to be a real demand for the services of women doctors in these cases".

I am therefore writing to enquire if anything has been done to put this recommendation into practice and, if not, whether it is not possible to retain the services of a Lady Doctor for

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the Metropolitan area, who will be available for examining  
Children in circumstances such as the above?

Awaiting your reply,

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) Stanley G. Shaw,

Past President Rotary Club, St. Pancras.

12A

C.C. C.1

I have read with much interest Miss Wall's memorandum and the rest of the correspondence relating to medical examination of girl and child witnesses. I appreciate A.C.C's point as to the difficulty of producing much evidence in favour of the employment of women doctors for such examinations; Miss Wyles, however, appears to have collected a certain amount of data. The opinion of those in close touch with witnesses and their relations should, I think carry considerable weight. My own experience includes four years' work on sex cases as a C.I.D. Officer attached to the Birmingham Police Force. During this time I attended many medical examinations, and formed an opinion on the subject.

I should like to submit the following points:-

(1) Women Doctors are now numerous, both in private practice and on the staff of Public Authorities. Not only, therefore, should their services be easily secured, but many children and girls must be already accustomed to their attendance in circumstances where, a few years ago, a male Doctor would have been taken for granted.

(2) The conditions in which most medical examinations take place at Police Stations lack the medical atmosphere of a Doctor's consulting room, and are, therefore, the more trying to the modesty of the patient-witness.

(3) The girl or child, on account of the sex experience which she (usually) has recently undergone, does not approach the examination from a normal standpoint. Everything possible, therefore, should be done to conserve her modesty, to relieve her from fear, and to avoid confusing her mind.

(4) The matter is fully as important for the older girl as for the child. The fact that many of the former, who become witnesses in such cases, are neither modest nor inexperienced, should be regarded as a reason for securing, not

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dispensing with, the services of a woman Doctor. The same principle applies to little girls of depraved tendencies.

(5) The little girl may be affected in any of the following ways:-

If the child has been terrified by an indecent assault, or a worse offence, committed upon her by a strange man, the examination by another strange man will bring back to her the terror which she has already experienced.

If, as is often the case, the offence has been committed by a relation or family friend whose right to touch her she has not questioned until she finds herself whisked off to the Police by a dismayed or angry parent, she is doubly confused by finding a male Doctor allowed to do the same thing.

In many cases, the original offences has been a slight indecent assault, and the medical examination necessarily goes further.