The Annual General Meeting of the Medical Research Society was held at Hammersmith Hospital, Du Cane Road, London W12 0HS, on Friday, 6 December 1974. The following Demonstrations, Symposium and Communications were presented.

DEMONSTRATIONS
1. Retinal neo-vascularization
   A. M. HAMILTON, E. M. KOHNER, J. MARSHALL and J. SHILLINGFORD
2. Sub-cellular fractionation of jejunal biopsies in control subjects and patients with coeliac disease
   T. J. PETERS, J. HEATH, D. CHAPPELL and A. PETRIE
3. Jejunum culture system
   CHRISTIAN L'HIRONDEL
4. Effect of prednisolone on the in vivo absorption of galactose
   R. BATT and T. J. PETERS
5. Programmed electric stimulation of the heart
   D. M. KRIKLER, P. V. L. CURRY, G. KINGABY and E. CALLOWFILL
6. Labilization and stabilization of myocardial lysosomes
   ELIZABETH WELMAN
7. Studies of enzyme release in isolated perfused rat heart
   PAMELA GARLICK
8. Myothermal studies of human muscle metabolism
   R. H. T. EDWARDS, D. K. HILL and M. J. McDONNELL
9. Physiological tests of skeletal muscle function for use in patients
   R. H. T. EDWARDS, G. Hosking, B. Ritchie and A. Young
10. Needle biopsy of skeletal muscle: techniques for morphological and biochemical studies
    R. H. T. EDWARDS, C. MAUNDER and D. A. JONES
11. Physiological mechanisms in evoked heart rate responses
    YOKO KUMAGAI, J. NORMAN and J. WITTWAM
12. Immunological studies in intestinal disease
    M. B. PEPYS and M. WANSBROUGH-JONES
13. Computer solutions of cardio-respiratory parameters
    R. S. SYMONS
14. Measurement of airways resistance and lung volumes in newborn infants
    JANET STOCKS and SIMON GODFREY
15. Regional lung function in infants and children using $^{13}$N$_2$ and a gamma camera
    SIMON GODFREY, NANETTE FREEDMAN, PETER WINLOVE and HAROLD GLASS

SYMPOSIUM: Osteomalacia and Rickets
A. RICKETS IN CHILDREN IN GLASGOW
   G. C. ARNEIL
University Department of Child Health, Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Yorkhill, Glasgow

Runaway inflation, debasement of the coinage and a 'wages freeze' led to widespread rickets in England in the 17th century, diminishing by the 18th. Although the preventive and therapeutic value of cod liver oil was known to Scottish Islanders as early as the 18th century, rickets in the Glasgow area was recognized as widespread and severe during the 1880s being 'all but universal in Glasgow and its suburbs'. This continued into the 20th century.

Although improved housing and cod liver oil produced some moderation of the severe rickets it was not until National Dried Milk was fortified late in the 1939-45 war that a real impact was made. Following the hypercalcaemia scare the level of fortification of dried milks, infant cereals and vitamin D tonics was reduced and infantile rickets again reared its ugly legs in Glasgow's indigenous white infants aged 1–3 years. A series of surveys were carried out into the background diet which made it plain that after the age of 6 months the diet was grossly lacking in vitamin D for as many as 33% of infants. These surveys also revealed the radiological pattern of subclinical rickets, remediable by vitamin D supplementation.

Vigorous propaganda through welfare clinics, health visitors and mass media together with a smokeless sky over Glasgow and improved slums has again largely overcome the problem in indigenous Caucasian children.

The emergence of adolescent immigrant rickets in Pakistani immigrants gave a new twist to the picture coupled with a peak in immigrant infants corresponding to the 'poor whites'. The immigrant adolescent problem has led to many surveys, much advice and a continuing problem. Fortified 'chappatti' flour, films and exhortations in several languages together with leaflets in many scripts has dented but not solved the problem. The sophisticated techniques of investigating the various fractions in the metabolic pathway of vitamin D are fascinating lures but unlikely to solve the practical problem.

B. OSTEOMALACIA IN ASIAN ADULTS AND ADOLESCENTS
S. W. STANBURY
Department of Medicine, Royal Infirmary, Manchester

C. FACTORS INFLUENCING VITAMIN D NUTRITION
T. C. B. STAMP
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, London WN6 AD

Vitamin D-deficiency rickets and osteomalacia among Asian immigrants is an important public health problem in Britain (Arneil & Crosbie, 1963, Lancet, ii, 423; Ford, Colhoun, McIntosh & Dunnigan, 1972, British Medical Journal, ii, 677; Holmes, Enoch, Taylor & Jones, 1973, Quarterly Journal of Medicine, 42, 125) and other popula-