

quarters, some of the many subjects being "Restrictive Trade Practices", "Air and Space Law", "Family Relations", "Commercial Arbitration", "Review of the United Nations Charter", "Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy", "Monetary Law", and "Trade Marks".

Members of the Bar who wish to join the Australian Branch are requested to contact the Hon. Sec.-Treasurer Mr. T. K. Hodgkinson of Messrs. Spruson and Ferguson (27-1417) or the President, Mr. Justice Wallace, or one of the local Vice-Presidents, namely, Mr. H. A. Snelling, Q.C. (Solicitor-General for New South Wales), Dr. F. Louat Q.C., or Mr. E. St. John, Q.C.

The Sickness and Accident Fund

The scheme mentioned in the last Gazette has now been launched. A Company formed for the purpose of acting as trustee of the Fund and known as Barristers Sickness and Accident Fund Pty. Limited was incorporated at the end of 1961, and it has recently entered into a trust deed with the Bar Association which was the necessary prerequisite to commencement of operations and, in effect, will have the result that the company will carry out the scheme for the Bar Association.

The first directors of the Company are Meares Q.C., D. G. McGregor, Helsham and Waddell, the members of the Committee which formulated the details of the scheme.

Under the scheme, members may insure themselves against sickness and accident for a minimum period of one year, and, if disabled for any period over one week and not more than one year, will become entitled to weekly payments ranging from £10 to £100, according to premium paid. The premiums charged will at the outset be the equivalent of the weekly sum payable, so that a premium of £10 will ensure weekly payments of £10. As the scheme develops, it is hoped and expected that the premium rate will be substantially reduced.

Premiums paid are deductible for income tax purposes, and the income of the fund is exempt from income tax, so that all profits from the fund will be available to build up a reserve fund to assist in reduction of premiums.

Members of the Bar already covered for sickness and accident can, of course, take out policies in this scheme additionally to their other cover, unless their other policies prohibit it, and it is suggested that any increase in cover should be arranged through the Bar Scheme, even if it is not desired to give up existing policies with other companies. The Directors of the Fund will accept proposals now for policies to commence at a future date, so that those who have policies with other companies expiring later in the year and who propose to change over, can indicate their support for the Fund at the present time.

Liquor Licence

An Extraordinary General Meeting of the members of the Bar Association was held on Friday, the 13th April, 1962, in the Common Room. The meeting carried a special resolution for the alteration of the Articles of Association in such a way as to enable application to be made to the Licensing Court for a conditional liquor licence for the new premises which the Association expects to occupy at the end of 1963.

A proposal for obtaining a liquor licence for the Common Room was first made in 1958 and was discussed at the Annual General Meeting in that year when it was resolved that the matter should be further investigated and, in particular, that the views of members generally should be sought. It will be remembered that at that time it was thought that, to obtain a licence, it would be necessary to form a separate club, to which a lease of the Association's premises would be given, and, in order to make the scheme work, it was felt that it would be necessary to make membership of the club compulsory for all members of the Association.

A number of objections to the scheme were raised, although the views of most members were favourable to the obtaining of a licence. Some of the objections were directed at the formation of a club, the sole purpose of which was the operation of a liquor licence; some members felt that the premises of the Association were no more than adequate in size for the purposes they already served; and others considered that the mixing of different activities in one area was undesirable.

The Council considered all these objections and, after further consideration, came to the conclusion that the Association's Articles of Association could be so amended as to conform to the requirements of the Liquor Act without interfering with the proper functioning of the Association's other activities, but, being conscious of the physical problems which would arise in fitting a bar into the existing space, took no steps to further the matter for the time being.

The rebuilding of Selborne made the establishment of a bar in the Association's premises when they are expanded, a much more practical possibility than before. In the planning of the new common room area, there will be no difficulty in carrying on all the existing functions in a more spacious manner as well as providing for a bar.

The Council, since the resolution was carried, will proceed with an application for a conditional licence for the expanded premises in the new building. The bar when established would not be open during normal working hours, but only, say, between 4.45 p.m. and 7 p.m. and, of course, for the purpose of evening functions of the Association.

The committee which had the responsibility of planning the project put into it a very great amount of work and the Council desires to record its thanks to them.