

Membership of the British Society of Speech Therapists 1935-1944

The British Society of Speech Therapists (BSST) was formed in 1935 with seven founder members. In 1944 BSST amalgamated with the Association of Speech Therapists to become the College of Speech Therapists. During its short life, associateship and membership of BSST were restricted to 'those who are actively engaged in the profession of Speech Therapy' who successfully passed 'the qualifying examinations, following an approved course of training and clinical practice'.

The formal examination requirement for Associateship was initially substituted by a personal interview for those 'who hold Hospital appointments, or who have had considerable practical experience in a Hospital Speech Clinic and are regularly engaged in therapeutic speech work in association with medial practitioners'. Those who showed 'a sufficiently sound and general knowledge of Remedial Speech Work, and are personally suited to it, will be admitted to Associateship of the Society'. In the first instance, such applications had to be submitted before 15 January 1936 (Announcements, *Speech* 1/1, pp. 6-7). This was initially extended to 31 October 1936 (Announcement, *Speech* 2/1, p. 6) and only eventually discontinued in 1939, when the syllabus was finalised. From 1 August 1939, a written and oral examination was required for candidates for Associateship (Announcements, *Speech*, 4/3, p. 7). The syllabus for a two year course was by then available from the BSST Hon Secretary.

We aren't initially told in *Speech* how membership of BSST is achieved, but by 1936 there were two people in that category (Oldrey and van Thal) and by 1937 one more (Wilson). By July 1937, five regulations for 'gaining the M.S.S.T. degree' (see below) had been passed by the Executive, for once syllabuses were adopted and formal examinations started (Announcement, *Speech*, 3/1, p. 5).

1. Each candidate must submit a thesis, on a subject previously agreed by the Council. The thesis must be original and unaided, and on some aspect of Speech Therapy. It should be in a form suitable for publication.
2. Each candidate for membership must have been an Associate for at least one year.
3. Each candidate is required before acceptance as a member, to sign a declaration that his/her occupation is solely or chiefly that of Speech Therapy.
4. Each candidate may be required to attend an interview at which questions may be asked on the theory and practice of advanced Speech Therapy, with or without particular references to the thesis submitted by the candidate.
5. Each candidate is required to send a fee of three guineas when submitting the thesis. This fee covers the reading of the thesis and a personal interview should this be desired by the examining committee.

In her report at the first AGM in 1937, the Secretary (Mrs Nielka) noted four grades within BSST - Fellows (presumably founder members), Members (by thesis), Associates and Student Associates as well as three training centres – those of Miss Kingdon Ward, Miss Beryl Oldrey and Dr Anne

McAllister (*Speech* 3/1, p. 8), ie two in London and one in Glasgow. Full lists of associates and members appear in the following issues of *Speech* - 2/4, 3/3, 4/1, 5/2, 7/1.

| Name of MemBSST | Year first listed as Member | <i>Speech</i> issue | Comment |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Muriel Ferrie | 1935 | 1/1 | Founder member |
| Winifred Kingdon Ward | 1935 | 1/1 | Founder member |
| Lionel Logue | 1935 | 1/1 | Founder member |
| Eileen MacLeod | 1935 | 1/1 | Founder member |
| Anne McAllister | 1935 | 1/1 | Founder member |
| Marguerite Nielka | 1935 | 1/1 | Founder member |
| Mabel Oswald | 1935 | 1/1 | Founder member |
| Beryl Oldrey | 1936 | 1/4 | |
| Joan van Thal | 1936 | 1/4 | Left BSST between 1940 and 1943 - no longer listed by 1943 <i>Speech</i> 7/1, pp. 3-4 |
| Doris Wilson | 1937 | 2/4 | Paper from thesis in <i>Speech</i> 2/2, pp. 11-17? |
| Mr L Campbell | 1938 | 3/3 | Address in Sydney, Australia. Does not appear in the full lists in <i>Speech</i> 4/1 onwards, nor is he mentioned in the list of new MemBSSTs at the 1938 AGM. No publications in <i>Speech</i> . |
| Mr AP Tolfree | 1938 | 3/4 | 'diploma granted' by thesis (<i>Speech</i> 4/1, p. 23). Paper from thesis in <i>Speech</i> 3/4, pp. 18-29? |
| Amy Swallow | 1938 | 4/1 | By thesis (<i>Speech</i> 4/1, p. 23) Paper from thesis in <i>Speech</i> 4/2, pp. 13-20? |
| Muriel Morley | 1939 | 4/4 | By thesis (<i>Speech</i> 4/4, p. 5) Paper from thesis in <i>Speech</i> 5/2, 9-15? |
| Edna Brewitt | 1939 | 4/4 | By thesis (<i>Speech</i> 4/4, p. 5) Paper from thesis in <i>Speech</i> 4/4, pp. 29-33? |
| Margaret Badcock | 1939 | 5/1 | <i>Speech</i> 5/1, p. 6 Paper from thesis in <i>Speech</i> 5/1, pp. 17-27? |
| Mary Dolman | 1943 | 7/1 | <i>Speech</i> 7/1, p. 3 Paper from thesis in <i>Speech</i> 7/1, pp. 10-16? |

| Date | Founder Members | Members | Associates | Source |
|---------------|-----------------|---------|------------|-----------------------------|
| April 1936 | 7 | 2 | 23 | <i>Speech</i> 1/4, p. 7 |
| April 1937 | 7 | 3 | 34 | <i>Speech</i> 2/4, pp. 4-5. |
| May 1938 | 7 | 5 | 63 | <i>Speech</i> 4/1, p. 23 |
| May 1939 | 7 | 7 | 74 | <i>Speech</i> 5/1, p. 8 |
| November 1941 | 6* | 8 | 88 | <i>Speech</i> 6/1, p. 6 |
| July 1943 | 6 | 8 | 92 | <i>Speech</i> 7/1, pp. 3-4 |

*Mrs Nielka died in June 1939