Council approved the following dates for the meetings to be held in 1960:

February 10 and 11, in London.

May 3 and 4, in Birmingham.

July 11-15, at Cane Hill Hospital and in London.

November 17 and 18, in London.

Papers

A Symposium on **"The Treatment of the Psychopath"** by Drs. T. C. N. Gibbens, Peter Scott and Trevor Roper.

The Maudsley Lecture

The thirty-fourth Maudsley Lecture was delivered in the Barnes Hall of the Royal Society of Medicine by Professor Alfred Meyer, late Professor of Neuropathology in the University of London, entitled **"Emergent Patterns of the Pathology of Mental Disease".**

Seminars

Seminars were held at St. Bartholomew's Hospital as follows:

"Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia and Intersex Phenomena."
Dr. E. F. Scowen.

"The Treatment of Parkinsonism."
Dr. J. Aldren Turner.

"Patterns of Innate Behaviour in Lower Vertebrates."
Dr. A. J. Marshall.

"Methods for the Study of the Mode of Action of Paraldehyde and Methylpentynol."
Dr. J. P. Quilliam.

"Emotional Factors in Skin Diseases."
Dr. P. F. Borrie.

"An Evaluation of New Drugs for the Treatment of Depression."
Dr. W. Linford Rees.

SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION

The Spring Quarterly Meeting of the South-Western Division was held at Cefn Coed Hospital, Swansea, on Friday, 17 April, 1959, by kind invitation of the Hospital Management Committee, and Dr. T. P. Riordan, Medical Superintendent.

During the forenoon members were taken on conducted tours of the hospital. At the luncheon preceding the meeting members and guests were welcomed by Alderman Richard Gronow J.P., Chairman of the Hospital Management Committee, who expressed regret that Dr. F. E. Pilkington was indisposed, but remarked that it was appropriate that Dr. Ian Skottowe was acting as the Divisional Chairman, as Dr. Skottowe had been the first Medical Superintendent at Cefn Coed Hospital. Dr. Skottowe returned thanks on behalf of the Division.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Divisional Secretary reported that the Divisional Committee of Management had accepted Dr. W. Lumsden-Walkers' kind offer to accommodate the Autumn (1959) Meeting at Hortham Hospital, Almondsbury, Bristol.

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0368315X60243057 Published online by Cambridge University Press

The Committee regretted that neither of the Division's nominees (Dr. I. Atkin and Dr. A. J. Galbraith) had been appointed to the new Wessex Regional Hospital Board, but expressed satisfaction that Dr. A. J. Galbraith had been appointed a co-opted member of the Mental Health Committee of the Board.

The Committee nominated Dr. T. P. Riordan to succeed Dr. I. Atkin as the Divisional representative on the Executive Committee of the Psychotherapy and Social Psychiatry Section.

The following officers were elected:

Chairman: Dr. F. E. Pilkington.

Secretary: Dr. A. J. Galbraith.

Assistant Secretary: Dr. R. W. Simpson.

Junior Representative on Council: Dr. E. B. McDowall.

The following Candidates were elected unanimously to Ordinary Membership:

CAPSTICK, ALAN, B.A., B.Sc., M.D., D.P.M., Senior Medical Officer, Whitchurch Hospital, Cardiff.

MONRO, MAY, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., Junior Medical Officer, Coney Hill Hospital, Gloucester.

NOBLE, JAMES GORDON, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. (Ed.), L.R.F.P.S.G., Junior Medical Officer, Tone Vale Hospital, Nr. Taunton.

O'DONNELLAN, PADHRAIC JOSEPH, L.A.H. (Dublin), Resident Physician, St. Ann's Hospital, Canford Cliffs, Bournemouth.

POLLITT, GEOFFREY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.M., Surgeon Lieutenant-Commander, Royal Navy.

PAPERS

"Emotional Changes in Normal Pregnancy—Investigation into Primigravidae." Dr. R. Dearden described the results of her investigation, which included the use of a questionnaire. The main finding was that approximately 50 per cent. of women develop some degree of emotional disturbance, particularly depression, and the replies to the questionnaire suggested some correlation with unconscious rejection of pregnancy. These disturbances were not of a serious nature and no specific treatment was required in this series.

"School Phobias." Dr. G. Crosse described School Phobia as a form of "Separation Anxiety". He said that this syndrome was frequently accompanied by marked somatic symptoms, and that the patients were not truants in the ordinary sense and showed no aggressive anti-social behaviour at home. Dr. Crosse drew attention to the dependency needs of the parents in these cases and that the child involved was often the "baby of the family". In treating these problems he said it was important to maintain good relationships with the school attendance officer, whose authority should be supported. The children should not be excluded from school and every avenue should be explored to facilitate their return. From the psychotherapeutic point of view the main aim should be to allow the child to ventilate underlying aggressive tensions.

"Some Morbid Reflections on E.C.T." was the title chosen by Dr. J. Lister for his paper, which was originally described as "The Influence of E.C.T. on Electrocardiograph Pattern". Dr. Lister considered that it had been profitable to expand the scope of the subject, although electrocardiography was one of the principal items on which his findings were based. He drew attention to the frequency with which E.C.T. entered into the treatment of new admissions and his investigations of a series of 354 consecutive female admissions to Cefn Coed Hospital showed that 62 per cent. had been treated with E.C.T. If senile cases, for whom no active treatment had been contemplated, were excluded, the proportion of treatable cases having E.C.T. amounted to 72 per cent. His electrocardiographic investigations revealed that 35 per cent. of patients receiving treatment showed

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E.C.G. changes, which he regarded as significant. He then reviewed the mortality statistics, and suggested that although there had only been 90 deaths directly attributable to E.C.T. in a period of 8 years as reported by the Board of Control, giving a mortality rate of 1:2,300, deaths occurred after E.C.T. much more frequently. In his own series there had been 20 deaths within one year after treatment. Five of these could be excluded on other grounds, but 15 (9 per cent.) remained, in which E.C.T. could not be entirely absolved. He also drew attention to the increased risk in the older age groups and, in view of the possibility of myocardial damage, he considered that an E.C.G. should be a routine procedure in all cases over the age of 45. It was also suggested that the feeling of well-being following the treatment might lead to excessive physical activity and was a potential danger. Dr. Lister indicated that his findings had not been subjected to statistical control, and that pre-treatment E.C.G. records and serial records after treatment should be obtained.

"A Clinical Trial of Tofranil in Depressive States" was described by Dr. S. C. Macmillan, who reported that a positive response had been obtained in 46 out of 75 cases. There had been no serious side-effects and Tofranil treatment was regarded as suitable for out-patients (25 per cent. of the series). The scale of dosage, however, had been rather less than the range recommended by the manufacturers of the drug. In practice it had been found that 25 mg. twice or three times a day was sufficient. Dr. Macmillan concluded that Tofranil was a drug of distinct value in the treatment of depression and should be tried for a period of 14 days before regarding it as ineffective.

"Perspectives in Preventive Psychiatry." In the short time at his disposal Dr. Riordan gave a most interesting, comprehensive account of the developments which were taking place in Cefn Coed Hospital and in the area which it served. He drew attention to the value of socially orientated therapies and the benefits which had been derived from conferences and discussions within and outside the hospital involving all staff grades, general practitioners, and representatives of the local health authority. He described the Mental Health Centre which had been planned in Swansea, and mentioned that the sum of £9,000 had been provided by the Nuffield Provincial Trust Fund.

In view of the number of papers which were presented, discussions in each case had to be restricted to questions by members, but it was obvious that all the papers had stimulated great interest and would have been discussed at length if time had permitted.

Brigadier R. Phillipson proposed a vote of thanks to the speakers and recorded his appreciation of an excellent meeting.

NORTHERN AND MIDLAND DIVISION

THE AUTUMN DIVISIONAL MEETING was held at St. Luke's Hospital, Middlesbrough, on Tuesday 7 October, 1958, by kind permission of the Hospital Management Committee and the Medical Superintendent, Dr. T. M. Cuthbert.

Many members went on a conducted tour of the Hospital in the morning, being particularly impressed with the combined Reception Unit and Out-Patient Department.

Those who were not otherwise engaged were entertained by a W.H.O. film on Alcoholism.

Members were welcomed at lunch by the Vice-Chairman of the Management Committee in the absence of the Chairman through illness. Dr. McCoull thanked the hosts for their kind hospitality and a short speech was made by the Chairman of the Regional Hospital Board, who was accompanied by his Senior Administrative Medical Officer.

Twenty-nine members were present and apologies were received from 34 members.

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0368315X60243057 Published online by Cambridge University Press