WHITAKER, ROBERT MARTIN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.M., Medical Officer, H M. Prison, Durham.
Proposed by Drs. I. G. W. Pickering, T. M. Cuthbert, H. Richardson.

The following papers were read:

'Steroid Function in Manic-Depressive Psychosis'

by Dr. R. P. HULLIN, Senior Lecturer in Biochemistry, University of Leeds, and Honorary Biochemist, High Royds Hospital.

Lithium salts at dosages commensurate with those given to patients reduce the uptake of radio-iodine by rat thyroid glands and inhibit the activity of the de-iodinase enzyme in the gland. In both patients and experimental animals given lithium, there is a higher concentration of the metal in the thyroid than in various other tissues examined.

These findings have stimulated an investigation of the role of the thyroid in manic-depressive psychosis. Serial metabolic studies carried out on manic-depressive patients exhibiting frequent mood seings have demonstrated changes in thyroid activity as determined by a number of variables such as radio-iodide uptake by the thyroid, serum protein-bound iodine, tri-iodothyromine (T3) and serum cholesterol.

Many of the individual values obtained do not lie outside the fairly wide range of accepted normal values, but the changes seen in an individual patient are much greater than can be explained by methodological variations. The significance of these changes and their possible relationship to the effect of lithium salts will be discussed.

'Drug Addiction and Misuse: an Interdisciplinary Approach'

by Dr. P. H. RACK, Consultant Psychiatrist, High Royds Hospital and Lynfield Mount Hospital, Bradford. Secretary, Bradford Drug Addiction Liaison Committee.

Young people who misuse drugs may become the concern of psychiatrists, but also of general practitioners, police, probation officers, clergy, teachers, youth workers, children's officers and many others. It is desirable that all these agencies should be able to work together. Preventive work in this field should involve a large range of activities, including among others education programmes in schools; the fostering of constructive public attitudes; social and pharmacological research into the causes and effects of drug taking; improved security of potential sources of supply of drugs.

The Wootton Committee (1969) recommended the formation of local committees to improve interdisciplinary collaboration in all these fields. Such a committee has been in existence in Bradford since April 1968 and its work was described.

'The Development of a Self Assessment Questionnaire for Depressive Illness'

by Dr. R. P. SNAITH, Consultant Psychiatrist, Stanley Royd Hospital, Wakefield, and Professor MAX HAMILTON, Nuffield Professor in Psychiatry, University of Leeds.

The questionnaire has been developed as a modification of previous self-rating scales such as the Zung scale. The questionnaire has been shortened by the exclusion of certain items and as a result the correlation with Hamilton's assessor rated scale has increased.

The presentation of the paper included the various stages and techniques by which this modified scale has been developed and also a discussion of its practical usefulness in some research which is being undertaken concerning the treatment of depressive illnesses with drugs and E.C.T. in varying combinations.

Finally, a discussion of the potential application of the new instrument especially in epidemiological work.

'Do Depressive Symptoms Alter with Age?'

by Dr. T. E. NELSON, Lecturer, Department of Psychiatry, University of Leeds, and Professor Max Hamilton, Nuffield Professor of Psychiatry, University of Leeds.

An investigation into whether or not depressive symptoms alter with age.

SCOTTISH DIVISION

A MEETING OF THE SCOTTISH DIVISION was held at Ailsa Hospital, Ayr, on Friday, 19 June 1970.

Dr. Timbury presented the report of the Committee of Management:

(a) It was agreed that the document already circulated in England regarding the Accreditation of Hospitals should now be circulated to all Scottish hospitals.
(b) Dr. Timbury was nominated as the Division's

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deputy representative on the Scottish Council for Postgraduate Medical Education.

(c) The memorandum on the Division's discussion on the S.M.A.C. Report on Forensic Psychiatry was approved for transmission to the Scottish Home and Health Department.

(d) It was agreed to set up a Joint Working Party with the Scottish Directors of Social Work, and Drs. Kershaw Davidson, Morrice and Wolff were elected to the Working Party.

(e) It was agreed that Drs. Aitken and Boyd should represent the Association on the South Eastern Regional Postgraduate Committee.

(f) The following were nominated for consideration as members on the Regional Hospital Boards:

Northern Region: Dr. M. M. Whittet
South-Eastern Region: Dr. J. W. Affleck
North-Eastern Region: Dr. R. A. Y. Stewart and Dr. G. E. Faulkner

After morning coffee Professor Macrae introduced Dr. H. J. B. Miller who had been duly elected Chairman of the Division. Dr. Miller thanked Professor Macrae for his Chairmanship during the preceding three years and then addressed the members, drawing on his experince of psychiatry in Scotland, England and India. Dr. Miller's Address was received with acclaim.

After the Business Meeting, Dr. J. K. Hunter, Director of the Scottish Hospital Advisory Service, spoke on the work of the Service, and there was a lively period of questions and discussion.

The Division is grateful to Dr. Miller and his staff for the generous hospitality offered throughout the day.

A Meeting of the Scottish Division was held at Woodilee Hospital, Lenzie, on Friday, 25 September 1970.

The Division noted with regret the death of Dr. J. M. McAlpin, an Ordinary Member of the Association since 1947.

Dr. Timbury presented the report of the Committee of Management:

(a) A document on training in child and adolescent psychiatry, prepared by the Scottish consultants in child psychiatry had been discussed. The views of members were invited, and it was agreed that these should be forwarded to the Child Psychiatry Section.

(b) The names of Drs. P. B. Whatmore, D. A. Primrose and G. C. Timbury were proposed as the Division's nominees for membership of the Scottish Health Services Council.

(c) The Forensic Section were preparing evidence for the Committee on Criminal Procedure, and it was hoped that this would be available at the next meeting. The views of members on criminal procedure in Scotland as it affects psychiatrists and psychiatric patients were sought, and it was agreed that these should be forwarded to Dr. Whatmore.

The following were elected to Ordinary Membership of the Association:

Baecker, Tadeusz Edward, M.B., Ch.B., Registrar. Murray Royal and Murthly Hospitals, Perth.
Proposed by Drs. W. McClatchey, L. Barclay, C. B. Whatmore.

Burns, Millicent Elizabeth, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.P.E., D.T.M. & H., Assistant in Mental Deficiency, Lennox Castle Hospital, Lennoxtown.
Proposed by Drs. A. Smellie, J. Campbell, W. J. Short.

McLean, Philip Charles, M.B., Ch.B., Registrar, Royal Edinburgh Hospital, Edinburgh.
Proposed by Drs. W. D. Boyd, Sallie Gray, J. W. Affleck.

Maloney, Charles Follon McKim, M.B., Ch.B., Registrar, Bangour Village Hospital, Broxburn.
Proposed by Drs. J. B. Rae, D. E. H. Beattie, A. A. McKechnie.

Savege, Jill, M.B., Ch.B., Registrar, Dingleton Hospital, Melrose.
Proposed by Drs. D. M. H. Jones, J. K. W. Morrice, W. D. Ogston.

Simpson, Richard John, M.B., Ch.B., Senior House Officer, Royal Edinburgh Hospital, Edinburgh.
Proposed by Drs. W. D. Boyd, A. D. Forrest, J. W. Affleck.

Chalmers, George Lovie, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.P., Consultant Physician, Western Infirmary, Glasgow.
Proposed by Drs. G. C. Timbury, W. L. Flanagan, S. J. D. Black.

Smith, Neil Mitchell, M.B., Ch.B., Prison Medical Officer, Glasgow.
Proposed by Drs. R. P. Brittain, F. Stallard, K. R. H. Wardrop.

Smith, John Fairfull, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H., Prison Medical Officer, Glasgow.
Proposed by Drs. R. P. Brittain, G. C. Timbury, W. L. Flanagan.

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