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SUPPLEMENT

OCTOBER, 1953.

STUDY TOUR IN SWITZERLAND, 1952.

THE Party left London on 19 September, travelled by rail and boat and returned on the 28th. We were thirteen, not as it turned out, unlucky! This was a delightful tour. In the eight days abroad we paid as many as twenty medical visits: we had a free day for seeing the lovely old village of Stein-am-Rhein; after leaving one hospital we voyaged on the Lake of Thun, and in Geneva we saw the Palais des Nations, arrangements having been made for us by Dr. Hargreaves of the W.H.O.

In all the hospitals which we visited hospitality was generous and often transport was provided also; it is not possible here to thank our kind hosts individually; we are very grateful to them. Professor Stähelin had arranged lunch in his hospital and tea in a home; dinner was given by Messrs. Sandoz (who had earlier shown a film on the effects of drugs on waltzing mice). Professor Bleuler gave a Swiss country dinner; Professor Klaesi provided a lunch and a delightful hour of music; at the meal at Münsingen there were flowers for each of us, at Malévoz there was a Raclette, or competitive eating of toasted cheese; in Geneva the hospital committee gave us lunch in a restaurant by the lake, where we had an opportunity of meeting a number of notable people of the town. These things may be told in this journal, for they enabled us to make professional friendships and to carry on many psychiatric arguments, and they will show readers that a study tour is not all hard work.

Talks on the work done were given at most hospitals, and in addition Dr. Haffter spoke on therapeutic abortion and sterilization; this was our first study session, and gave us at once an insight into the great difference between the use of these measures in Protestant Switzerland, where they are freely employed for psychiatric reasons, and our practice at home. Professor Manfred Bleuler gave us what was a historic lecture on the development of the theory of schizophrenia by his father. Dr, Repond, in describing the community care of all sorts of cases, physical and mental, by trained psychiatric social workers based upon his hospital, again told us of something which does not exist in this country. In Geneva we were helped by Professor Flournoy, a corresponding member, in Zurich by Dr. Hedwig Walder, a member, and in Stein by Mme. Gysin, who kindly guided and accompanied us.

Nine hospitals were visited by the whole party; others were visited by one or two or more. Each could choose what interested him, and in the evening we met with many different ideas to exchange. This experiment was entirely successful, and is to be repeated, we hope, on future tours.

The following were visited by the whole party:

1. Psychiatric Out-Patient Clinic, Petersgraben, Basle. Here Dr. Haffter spoke.

2. University Psychiatric Clinic, Friedmatt, Basle. Professor Stähelin and his staff showed us this old-established hospital and its good work.

3. Erlenhof School for difficult boys. As we arrived we saw some of the lads returning from rifle practice! In the home we were impressed by the regime, under Herr Muller.

4. University Psychiatric Hospital, Burghölzli, Zurich. Here, where so many famous psychiatrists have worked, we heard and saw much of interest from Professor Bleuler.

5. University Psychiatric Hospital, Waldau, Berne. Professor Klaesi led us,

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with a running commentary, round his hospital with its specially coloured walls and individual techniques. He also took us to—

6. Farm Colony for discharged patients at Gurglisbad. The patients live in simple conditions and work within sight of the Jungfrau, Mönch and Eiger.

7. The University Psychiatric Clinic at Münsingen was shown to us by the staff in the absence of Professor Muller. This hospital is known as one where insulin treatment was early adopted and developed.

8. Maison de Santé, Monthey, Malevoz. The well-known head of this hospital, Dr. Repond, had had his hand upon the arrangements for the tour for over a year; he showed us and told us much.

9. University Psychiatric Hospital, Bel Air, Geneva. Here the emphasis was on research into brain structure, by methods described and demonstrated by Professor Morel.

The remaining hospitals were visited by some of us, as below:

10. Case conference at Burghölzli, on treatment by the method of Rosen.

11. Children's Psychiatric Clinic, Mannedorf, shown by members of the staff in the absence of Dr. Lutz.

12. Visit conducted by Dr. Walther Buhel, to cases in single care in the Canton of Zurich.

13. Case conference, psycho-analytical, under Professor Bally and Dr. Boss.

14. Visit to fine new buildings of the Kantonspital, Zürich.

15. Epileptic Klinik in Zürich, where, again in the absence of the Director, we were shown what was done by the staff; an outstanding item is electroencephalographic research on a wide range of cases.

16. The Old Psychiatric Hospital on the beautiful island of Rheinau (Professor Binder away).

17. Visit by some of our party interested in community care, to the Medical Officer of Health of Zürich, Dr. Pfister, who is a psychiatrist.

18. Meeting and discussion with Dr. Meyer, Director of the Jung Institute, with a further visit by a Jungian of our number, to the Institute.

19. To private mental hospitals in Zug, under Catholic management, visited and enjoyed by one of our members from Ireland.

20. A School for mentally defective children at Clair Matin, Geneva, conducted by Mme Hugenin and medically supervised by the Professor of Paediatrics, who came to meet us and show us cases.

The party included Dr. Bamford, Dr. Beccle, Dr. Furniss, Dr. Garmany, Dr. Glass, Dr. MacDougall, Dr. McLeay, Dr. Molony, Dr. Salzmann, Dr. Sandison, Dr. Stern, Dr. Weir and Dr. Wilson.

The total cost (including what was paid before leaving England) was about £55 per head: some spent more. There was permission to exceed the £25 travel allowance from the Bank of England. The tour may seem expensive by comparison with simpler expeditions, but it was not so if the distances travelled, the comfort and the variety of it are taken into account, as well as the rich professional experience.

THE ROYAL MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

SOUTH-EASTERN DIVISION.

THE SPRING MEETING of the Division took place at Warley Hospital, Brentwood, Essex, on Tuesday, 21 April, 1953, by kind invitation of Dr. G. S. Nightingale and the Hospital Management Committee.

On a bright Spring day about fifty members were entertained to lunch by the Hospital Management Committee, whose Chairman, Alderman C. E. S. Blackmore, welcomed the Division. Dr. Nightingale gave an interesting historical account of the hospital, which this year celebrates its centenary.

At the meeting afterwards the attention of members was drawn to the Study Tour in this Country arranged by the Association for September.

The Annual Election of Officers then took place and the following were re-elected to the various offices:

Chairman: Dr. W. MCCARTAN.
Secretary: Dr. J. G. HAMILTON.
Assistant Secretary: Dr. S. W. HARDWICK.

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