WELSH DIVISION

The Welsh Division became a formal entity in September, 1972 with the election of Officers and an Executive Committee. The discussions preceding the setting up of the Divisional machinery were greatly facilitated by the fact that already a very high proportion of psychiatrists in Wales were members of the Welsh Psychiatric Society. This group had already been meeting for two weekends and two single day meetings every year since 1960 with a judicious mixture of clinical lectures and social activities. Discussions therefore centred less on how psychiatrists could be brought together than on how the new Division could be brought into being without losing the benefits of the Welsh Psychiatric Society with its enthusiastic supporters, financial assets and freedom of action and membership. In practice this appears to be working out well and the two organizations continue to flourish symbiotically. The Welsh Division has taken over the organization of some of the clinical meetings and the political functions, and the W.P.S. continues to arrange weekend clinical meetings and to permit a wider link up of professional people interested in psychiatry by its more open membership. The Society has also recently offered an annual prize in psychiatry to students of the Welsh National School of Medicine.

Under the chairmanship of Dr. Marshall Annear, and with Dr. James Cuthill as secretary, the Executive Committee has met on many occasions, and many topics of importance have been discussed both in the Committee and by the wider membership of the Division. The Executive Committee of the Division has been accepted by the Welsh Office as the Advisory Sub-committee in Mental Health to the Welsh Medical Committee. A regular Newsletter was started in June, 1974 to go round three times a year with College news, items of general interest, research news, new appointments, examination successes and a detailed diary of clinical meetings and post-graduate teaching sessions, under the editorship of Dr. Elinor Kapp. Specialist Sections have also been started. The Child Psychiatry Section, under the chairmanship of Dr. Karl Aron, and the Mental Handicap Section, under the chairmanship of Dr. T. S. Davies, have held several meetings. A Psychotherapy Section has also started under the chairmanship of Dr. H. Rosenberg, and a Section for Postgraduate Education with Dr. S. C. Macmillan as chairman.

Dr. Marshall Annear represented the Fellows on Council and Dr. T. Gwynne Williams represented Members. Following the latters' elevation to Fellowship of the College Dr. Jim Cuthill has taken over this function. Dr. Ron Westerholme and Dr. Paul Williams represent the Division on the College Working Party of Trainees.

During the last three years a number of clinical meetings have taken place.

On 13 July, 1973 a day symposium was arranged by the Division to follow the College Annual Meeting at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, and many people stayed on to participate. A number of speakers gave an overview of how the Mental Health Services in Wales had been affected by the reorganization of the Health Service. Other sessions dealt with the direct consequences of the reorganization as felt in the mental hospitals and the community.

In October, 1973 a two day meeting took place at Morgannwg Hospital, Bridgend on 'Psychiatric Postgraduate Education in Wales'. Professor Rawnsley, Dean of the College, discussed the broad aspects of post-graduate training in psychiatry and methods of achieving them, and representatives covered the needs of trainees, medical assistants, trainee general practitioners, overseas graduates and consultants. The conference was followed by an informal dinner for members and guests, and this is now to become an annual event.

General meetings of the Welsh Division took place in November, 1973 at St. Cadoc's Hospital, Caerleon and on 17 May 1974 at Portmeirion, Gwynedd, during a Welsh Psychiatric Society weekend meeting.

In September, 1974 the Child Psychiatry Section of the Division acted as hosts for the College Section to hold their annual study weekend, and the local specialists arranged a programme on 'Research in Child Psychiatry'.

A particularly useful combined meeting of the Welsh Division took place at the University Hospital of Wales from 22 to 24 October, 1974 in conjunction with the Royal College of General Practitioners. The programme was very varied, including lectures, demmonstrations and discussion groups and a symposium of speakers on 'Sexual Problems in Contemporary Life'. Perhaps the greatest value of the meeting, however, was the opportunity it gave for informal contacts between general practitioners and psychiatrists. South Wales is fortunate in having a very active 'Special Interest' group in psychiatry of the Royal College of General Practitioners, and their members supported the conference enthusiastically. The occasion was also memorable for a 'Noson Lawen' —a type of informal social evening much enjoyed in Wales where harp music, singing and extempore

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0007125075306089 Published online by Cambridge University Press

poetry are added to food, drink and friendliness.

A day meeting on 14 December 1974 took place at Morgannwg Hospital where Dr. S. Nam and Dr. Jaigirdar and their teams gave a lecture/demonstration of practical procedures in behaviour therapy. This was followed by Section meetings and a case conference.

A further clinical day meeting took place at Cefn Coed Hospital, Swansea, on 22 March, 1975, and the Annual General meeting of the Division was held in Llandudno on 17 May, 1975.

Research projects at present being carried out by local psychiatrists include work by Dr. David Pierce on acts of self injury, and by Dr. Paul Williams on feedback electroencephalography. Dr. Mohan Bhakta has a number of different evaluative projects in behaviour therapy and Dr. V. Maragakis is doing research on treatment of marital problems. Dr. T. S. Davies has a project in genetic epidemiology in Gwent, and Dr. M. Craft is conducting several other research projects in the field of subnormality. An important development for psychiatric research in Wales was the decision of the Medical Research Council to transfer their Carshalton Unit to Cardiff, and the Welsh Division has been happy to welcome Dr. David Shaw and his team working on metabolic aspects of psychiatry. Another development was the funding by the Welsh Office of a major research project in subnormality, now taking shape under Mr. Roger Blunden, based on Ely Hospital, Cardiff.

Post-graduate training schemes have been encouraged by the Division, and also increased participation by trainees in Divisional affairs. During these three years we have welcomed five trainees to Membership of the Royal College of Psychiatrists and congratulations have been due to a further thirteen who have passed the Preliminary Test and fourteen who have gained the D.P.M.; we have also welcomed fifteen new consultants. We look forward to further progress under the chairmanship of Dr. T. G. Williams of the North Wales Hospital, Denbigh. The Members, Fellows, Affiliates and Inceptors of the Welsh Division now number about 120—few enough to allow for friendly social groupings when necessary, numerous enough to provide a varied group of diverse and stimulating expert opinions.

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THE COLLEGE LIBRARY

Members are asked to note that, as the College Library is at present in storage until suitable space has been allocated for it, *borrowings have been suspended until further notice.*

PSYCHOTHERAPY SECTION

Forthcoming Open Meetings of the Psychotherapy Section are as follows:

Thursday, 20 November: Dr. R. Gosling on 'Internalization of the Trainer's Behaviour in Professional Training'.

Wednesday, 10 December: Professor J. P. Watson and Dr. B. Rosen on 'Developing a Therapeutic Environment on a Psychiatric Unit'.

Both meetings will be held in the West Hall, Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London, W.1, beginning at 8.15 p.m.

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0007125075306089 Published online by Cambridge University Press