Report from Committee of Management.

Dr. Angus MacNiven was re-nominated to the Central Consultants' and Specialists' Committee. It was reported that the question of the Scottish D.P.M. had not been lost sight of and that the matter was still under consideration. The Research and Clinical Section had met in the forenoon and had heard talks from Dr. J. L. Macdougall on "An Assessment of a Phenothiazine Drug", and from Dr. I. J. MacCammond and Dr. Margaret Dewar on "A Survey of the Female Depressive Group in Argyll and Bute". Both these talks aroused great interest and discussion.

There was also a short meeting of the Papers and Discussions Section in the forenoon.

A lengthy discussion took place on the Mental Health Bill. Members present were strongly in favour of a continuance in Scotland of the Board of Control, with wide powers in relation to the Medico-legal side and also the mental health service in general.

The questions of compulsory admission to hospital; the case of high-grade mental defectives, and responsibility for detention and discharge, were discussed. Professor Kennedy said that he was strongly in favour of adopting the English Bill, but the great majority of those present favoured separate legislation for Scotland.

There was divided opinion regarding the question of nomenclature in respect of the responsible person in relation to admissions and discharges. Some favoured the designation "Medical Superintendent", and by implication, people acting on his behalf, while others wanted the designation "Responsible Medical Officer" used in this connection. Of those who were present at the end of the meeting, 16 voted for the designation "Responsible Medical Officer", and 16 for that of "Medical Superintendent".

Thanks are due to Dr. MacCammond and his staff at Lochgilphead Hospital, whose efforts on our behalf made the Meeting such a pleasant and memorable one, and also the Board of Management, in particular Sir George Campbell, the Chairman, who not only presided at the luncheon but also did us the honour and courtesy of attending the meeting of the Division later in the afternoon.

It was agreed that Murthly Hospital, Perth, would be the venue for the next meeting in October, 1959.

IRISH DIVISION

THE SPRING QUARTERLY MEETING of the Irish Division was held at The Royal College of Physicians, Kildare Street, Dublin, by kind permission of the President and Fellows, on Wednesday, 23 April, 1958.

The Summer Meeting was fixed for Wednesday, 16 July, 1958 at The Royal College of Physicians.

Dr. Eamon O'Sullivan, Mental Hospital, Killarney, was elected Chairman of the Division, Dr. Mary Sullivan was re-elected Divisional Secretary, and Dr. C. B. Robinson was re-elected Junior Representative Member of Council.

The following were elected to Ordinary Membership:

PERRY, BRENDAN F., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.M.; Medical Officer, Ardee Mental Hospital, Co. Louth.

Proposed by: P. Moran, T. Foley, Mary Sullivan.

ROBINSON, LOUIS REID, M.A., M.D., D.P.H., D.P.M.; Principal Tutor in Psychiatry, Department of Mental Health, Queen's University, Belfast.

Proposed by: C. B. Robinson, Mary Sullivan, J. Fitzgerald.

A vote of sympathy was passed on the death of the late Dr. Stanley Blake, Portrane, and Dr. Bertie Blake, Carlow, replied on behalf of the family.

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The question was raised whether lectures under the Maudsley Bequest might be held in Dublin, and the Secretary was instructed to write to Dr. Sargant about this. It was also decided that a small sub-committee consisting of Dr. Eustace, Dr. Dunne, Dr. McGrath, the Chairman and Secretary should deal with possible dates and subjects.

A paper on **"Puerperal Mental Illness—a follow-up of 75 cases"** was read by Dr. Mary Martin, St. Patrick's Hospital, Dublin. Dr. Martin stated that mental illness after childbirth was a common condition. The incidence of puerperal mental illness had been variously estimated at 1 in 400 and 1 in 1,200. What was the prognosis and what was the likelihood of a recurrence if the patient became pregnant again? Her paper was a survey of 75 patients who were admitted to St. Patrick's Hospital for the 10-year period January 1947 to June 1957. In her series of cases all illnesses began within six months of childbirth, and in 15 per cent. the symptoms were noted during pregnancy. The type of illness fell into five diagnostic groups: affective psychosis, schizophrenia, schizo-affective psychosis, confusional state, and hysteria. The highest percentage of cases was 28 per cent. of the affective psychosis and 29 per cent. of the schizo-affective psychosis, and there were 15 per cent. of schizophrenia. Modified electroplexy was the treatment of choice in the first four groups. In the hysterical group they had various treatments—carbon dioxide inhalations, modified insulin and electroplexy. In the follow-up ten years later 24 of the affective psychosis group were in normal health, 24 in the schizo-affective group and 15 in the schizophrenic group.

The number of patients who had a subsequent breakdown with pregnancy was very small, 1 in 5. The greater number in her series were in first pregnancy.

Dr. Martin went into the aetiological factors, and whether previous mental illness, or family history or physical illness had a bearing. In her summing up Dr. Martin stated that, patterns of illness being the same, puerperal mental illness was not a psychiatric entity. The prognosis in puerperal mental illness was excellent in respect of the diagnostic classification.

These findings were in contradiction with the findings of Skottowe and Hemphill.

Dr. Martin concluded by saying that conflicting views about psychosis associated with childbirth could only be resolved finally when large-scale studies with careful and personal follow-ups were undertaken.

The paper was discussed by Drs. E. N. O'Sullivan, J. Fitzgerald, J. P. Moore, P. Moran, V. J. Dolphin, W. McCartan, M. Sullivan, P. Cassin, and J. Dunne.

THE SUMMER QUARTERLY MEETING of the Irish Division was held at the Royal College of Physicians, Dublin, by kind permission of the President and Fellows, on Wednesday, 16 July, 1958.

A paper was read by Dr. Crotty of Waterford entitled *Impressions of Scottish Mental Hospitals and English Geriatric Units.* Dr. Crotty dealt especially with the provisions made for old people. He described the Geriatric Units at Stobhill Hospital, Glasgow, and at the West Middlesex Hospital. He then went on to enumerate the various types of help given to the aged—the health visitors, and home helps employed by local authorities, the domiciliary visits by voluntary bodies, including "meals on wheels" and laundry services, and the social clubs. In Finsbury there was a small workshop with 2-hour shifts where simple repetitive tasks were done. The Day Hospital was the next step, of which there was a good example in Nottingham. Some hospitals were providing a "six weeks in and six weeks out" service. Intensive vitamin therapy and rehabilitation work were carried out in the In-patients' units.

The paper was discussed by Drs. E. O'Sullivan, Moran, Fitzgerald, Moore, Cassin, Ramsay, Foley, Meehan and Blake.

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Dr. Fitzgerald suggested that when meetings of the Division were held at country hospitals members should make a contribution towards the day's expenses. It was decided to discuss this further at the next meeting.

THE SPRING QUARTERLY MEETING of the Irish Division was held at the Mental Hospital, Killarney, by kind invitation of Dr. E. N. M. O'Sullivan, on Saturday, 25 April, 1959.

Members were shown over the Hospital before being entertained to lunch by Dr. O'Sullivan in the Lake Hotel. Professor J. Dunne proposed a vote of thanks to Dr. and Mrs. Sullivan, seconded by Dr. P. Moran.

Before the Clinical Meeting Mr. Meagher, Acting County Manager, gave a short talk welcoming the members to Killarney.

Dr. D. J. Hayes and Dr. J. J. O'Connor presented a paper on *Fifteen Years of Insulin Treatment in Killarney Mental Hospital.* Dr. Hayes traced the history of Insulin Coma Treatment in provincial mental hospitals. It was started in Limerick in 1936, in Killarney in 1944. The usual technique was used and recent and chronic schizophrenics were treated. At one time treatment was combined with E.C.T. and in recent years it has been followed up with tranquillizers. Modified insulin treatment was also given in these insulin units. There had been some prolonged comas—one coma lasted a week; there were two cases of status epilepticus which was only controlled by ether anaesthesia. Of the 177 male patients treated 89 had a remission and of the 192 female patients 90 remitted. In the opinion of the authors the results have been worth while.

The Paper was discussed with interest by several members.

The Summer Meeting was fixed (provisionally) for Wednesday, 22 July, 1959, at the Royal College of Physicians, Kildare Street, Dublin.

The subject of 1960 as the Mental Health Year was discussed by Dr. Dolphin. It was decided to set up a Sub-Committee consisting of Drs. Dolphin, McGrath, Dunne, Eustace, Moore and Sullivan. The Sub-Committee was formed to meet and discuss plans for 1960.

Dr. P. J. Grace was elected a member of Association

In the afternoon members were most hospitably received by Dr. and Mrs. E. N. M. O'Sullivan at their home "Airdin", Lewis Road, Killarney, and in the evening there was an informal dinner at the Great Southern Hotel, Killarney.

THE SUMMER QUARTERLY MEETING of the Irish Division was held at St. Patrick's Hospital, Dublin, by kind permission of Dr. J. N. P. Moore, on Wednesday, 5 August, 1959.

Dr. Simpson of the Rochland State Hospital, New York, read a paper on **Multi-disciplinary Psychiatric Research Unit in U.S.A.**

Dr. Simpson commenced by showing a few films of the 8,000 bedded hospital where this Research Unit was located. One of its claims to fame was that it was a patient of this hospital who wrote the book "The Snake-Pit". Dr. Simpson said that the basic research there was on schizophrenia, and he went on to describe what each individual research scholar was doing.

Dr. Simpson's own work was on thyroid. He was interested in periodic catatonia and the adrenal steroids and had investigated a series of cases from the point of view of myxoedema.

The paper was discussed by a number of members: Drs. E. O'Sullivan, Moore, M. Sullivan, Martin, McGrath, Drury, Gallagher, McLaughlin, Fitzgerald and Weir.

The Autumn meeting was fixed for Wednesday, 4 November, 1959, at the Royal College of Physicians, Kildare Street, Dublin.

The following were elected members of the Association: Dr. F. King, Dr. G. J. Coghlan and Dr. K. E. Donnan.

Members were most hospitably entertained to refreshments by Dr. J. N. P. Moore.

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