Dr. Angus MacNiven raised the question of the arrangements for the Divisional Meetings. As the Division was growing, he felt the time had come to review the arrangements and it was agreed that this should be discussed at the next Meeting of the Division.

The date and place of the next Meeting was confirmed as 8 December, 1961 at Rosslynlee Hospital, Rosslyn Castle, Midlothian.

The Secretary said it would be helpful if Members could notify him direct of any change of Address as often delay occurred in this regard which could inconvenience Members.

All those present will wish to thank Dr. Angus MacNiven, his Board of Management and staff for the excellent arrangements and hospitality accorded to them.

IRISH DIVISION

THE AUTUMN QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE IRISH DIVISION was held, by kind permission of the President and Fellows, at the Royal College of Physicians, Kildare Street, Dublin, on Tuesday, 21 November, 1961.

Thirty-two members and seven guests were present:

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed.

Dr. D. Carrick read a Paper on Majeptil (thioproperazine), based on a survey of long-term patients treated in Long Grove Hospital. Patients who had been mute and inactive for many years suddenly found their interests awakening.

There were, however, many side-effects of this drug—agitation, respiratory disturbances and pseudo-Cheyne-Stokes breathing.

Dr. Carrick then showed his film in which patients were interviewed before and after treatment.

Dr. Pimley, of Parkside Hospital, Macclesfield, also spoke on treatment by Majeptil. His trial of the drug was divided into two stages—the discontinued trial where the drug was stopped for a few days, and started again, and the continuous trial.

The selection of patients was made under the following headings: first, chronic schizophrenics and then other types, including epileptic psychopaths. The results were very encouraging. Dr. Pimley also mentioned the side-effects, which can be quite frightening at times, e.g., laryngeal spasm, which, however, can be controlled by phenergan intramuscularly. There were two deaths in the series—one on post mortem showed coronary thrombosis and the other paralytic ileus. He used paraldehyde as a sedative in cases showing marked breathlessness and agitation during treatment.

Dr. Power, of Ennis, then gave a report on 31 patients treated—15 male and 16 female—the average term of illness being 7 years. Twenty-one out of these 31 showed some effect after treatment. He used the discontinuous form of treatment, pushing the dosage up to 150 mg. t.i.d. He also mentioned the complications—salivation, pulmonary congestion and cyanosis, which is a danger signal. Anaesthesia may occur, resulting in cigarette burns, and the drug also has been known to reactivate infections. Acute manic cases had the most spectacular results from this treatment.

The discussion was opened by Dr. McCartan, President of the Association, and the following members took part in the discussion: Drs. O'Higgins, M. Sullivan, E. O'Brien, Grace, Hegarty, McGrath, Moran, O'Connor, Cassin, Walsh, Fennelly, Hill.

It was decided that the Parliamentary Committee of the Division should have a special meeting in connection with the proceedings of the Commission of Inquiry on Mental Illness.

The Division have been kindly invited to the Mater Hospital, Belfast, for the Spring Meeting on Wednesday, 25 April, 1962.

Dinner was held in the Gresham Hotel, Dublin, that evening, at which 70 members and guests were present.

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