REPORT FROM COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT, AND MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM

The Secretary said that the Sub-Committee appointed had not yet met the Psychiatric Social Workers and it was suggested that 8 November in Edinburgh would be a suitable date and place, and that arrangements would be made for this Meeting.

The postponed Meeting of the Committee of Management to consider further the White Paper, "The Law Relating to Mental Illness and Mental Deficiency in Scotland", was arranged for Friday, 9 November, in Glasgow.

Dr. Stalker's reply from the Registrar of the General Nursing Council was read to the Meeting and it was decided that meanwhile no further action be taken.

A letter from Professor Kennedy about a Post-Graduate Course in Edinburgh was read. The Secretary was requested to transmit to the other Professors a copy of the proposals contained in this letter.

A letter from Dr. Devlin, the Secretary of the West of Scotland Association of Psychiatrists, had been considered by the Committee of Management and further consideration was given to it at the Divisional Meeting.

Gratitude was expressed to Dr. Devlin for bringing up the question of an Institution for Psychopathic patients. The Division as a whole decided to ask Dr. Inch (Department of Health) to present, as soon as convenient, a paper on the present position in relation to the treatment of psychopaths in Scotland.

The second question raised by the Association of Psychiatrists in the Western Region was the matter of the structure of Hospital Medical Establishments, and the Secretary was instructed to ask Dr. Angus MacNiven, the Division's representative on the Central Consultants' and Specialists' Committee, to keep this matter in mind when it arises for discussion by that body.

The Committee of Management reported that they were satisfied with the present representation of the Division on the Central Health Services Council—Professor W. M. Millar and Dr. P. K. McCowan. It was agreed to put forward no further nominations meanwhile, but that an opportunity would be welcomed to do this in the future. This was unanimously agreed.

Dr. John MacDougall raised the question of a Scottish D.P.M. and asked that this matter be reconsidered by the Division. He was strongly supported by several Members, and the Division agreed to consider this question in more detail before the next Meeting.

The next meeting of the Scottish Division was fixed for Friday, 14 December, 1956, to be held at Bangour Village Hospital, by kind invitation of Dr. A. K. M. Macrae, the Physician Superintendent and his Board of Management.

SUB-COMMITTEES

The Forensic Psychiatry, on this occasion, was the only Sub-section that met. An interesting Paper was read by Dr. Allan A. Bell. It was illustrated by lantern slides. Early documents used in the legal certification of patients were shown. Dr. R. M. Stewart was in the Chair and moved the vote of thanks.

IRISH DIVISION

THE SUMMER QUARTERLY AND CLINICAL MEETING of the Irish Division was held on Wednesday, 4 July, 1956, at St. John of God Hospital, Stillorgan, by kind invitation of the Prior and Community, and Dr. D. McGrath.

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The Members were entertained most hospitably to lunch. A vote of thanks was passed by Dr. Fitzgerald.

The November Meeting was fixed for Wednesday, 7 November, 1956, at the Royal College of Physicians, Kildare Street, Dublin.

Dr. K. McDaid, St. Patrick's Hospital, Castlerea, was unanimously elected an ordinary member.

It was proposed by Professor Dunne and seconded by Dr. Glass that a Papers Committee be formed to arrange for communications at future meetings. This motion was passed unanimously, and Drs. V. Glass, Monaghan; D. McGrath, St. John of God Hospital; P. Meehan, Clonmel; Eithne O'Sullivan, Grangegorman and J. Shea, Ballinasloe, were elected.

The Secretary was also asked to send official recommendation to the Department of Health and R.M.S. that facilities be afforded to members of this Committee to attend meetings of their Committee in Dublin when necessary.

Dr. John Ryan then read his communication on the Open Door system in Mental Hospitals, referring particularly to Warlingham Park Hospital, where in 1942 all but four wards were opened, and there were now no locked doors at all.

A group system of administration became necessary owing to the relatively small staff (150 nurses and 12 doctors to 1,100 patients).

In two occupational therapy units it was found that mixing male and female patients contributed greatly to contentment and easy management of patients.

Groups were organized for deteriorated patients, for the insulin units, alcoholics, neurotics and psychopaths.

The Physician-Superintendent accompanied by some of the staff presided over a new patient conference every week and the patients' suggestions were as far as possible acted on.

There was a very advanced system practised with neurotics of the younger age group. A unit consisting of 10 men and 10 women was housed in a corner of the grounds. Treatment consisted of a series of discussion groups with a planned background of work and recreation. The patients themselves did all the work, domestic duties, etc. They were encouraged to speak of their personal difficulties and problems.

He concluded that the open door system was a major step in the humane treatment of the mentally ill. The combination of freedom and occupation could cause a change for the better in the chronic patient which bordered on the miraculous. The open door was but a prelude to still greater advances in the welfare and eventual cure of their patients.

The Paper was discussed by: Doctors J. Fitzgerald, J. Shea, V. Glass, B. Ramsay, D. McGrath, J. Dunne, B. Honan.

Dr. Ryan then replied.

The Autumn Quarterly and Clinical Meeting of the Irish Division of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association was held at the Royal College of Physicians, Kildare Street, Dublin, by kind permission of the President and Fellows, on Wednesday, 7 November, 1956.

Twenty-nine Members were present.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed.

The Spring Meeting was fixed for Wednesday, 1 May, 1957 at Mullingar Mental Hospital, by kind invitation of Dr. Fitzgerald.

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Dr. W. A. Gordon MacCallum, Senior Registrar, St. Luke's Hospital, Armagh, was unanimously elected an Ordinary Member.

Dr. C. B. Robinson, Purdysburn Hospital, Saintfield Road, Belfast, was nominated as representative of the Psychotherapy Section.

Dr. M. E. O'Sullivan raised the question of permission being refused by the Department of Health for Assistant Medical Officers to attend Maudsley Bequest lectures in London. Dr. Dolphin, in reply, stated it was part of the economy drive.

Dr. Moran proposed that it be recorded in the minutes that the Division noted with regret that, owing to the financial position, assistant medical officers cannot be sanctioned to attend the Maudsley bequest lectures in London. This was seconded by Dr. Honan.

Dr. Eamon O'Sullivan then read his paper on **"Impressions of some Psychiatric Hospitals in U.S.A."**

His trip to U.S.A. was confined to Minnesota and its surrounding States. He described St. Paul, the capital city on the Mississippi river, where the population is mostly of Swedish, German and Irish descent. He visited the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, where the psychological and neurological unit is on the tenth floor. It is a diagnostic centre and patients are referred to suitable surroundings and hospitals for treatment.

He described a quiet "run around" of the Rochester State Hospital, having 1,000 acres of ground. He was impressed by their up-to-date kitchen, deep freeze unit, etc.

Moose Lake Hospital, built 20 years ago, has accommodation for 1,000 patients. It is comprised of detached buildings with central kitchen and tiled subways.

Dr. O'Sullivan was struck by the fanatical use of drugs, mostly the tranquillizers, valuable as palliatives. In pushing Serpasil and Largactil the depression was countered by Ritalin.

Drs. Shea, D. McGrath, Moran, N. Moore, E. O'Brien, T. Foley, F. Barnes, Dolphin, J. P. Hill, C. B. Robinson and C. Kidd spoke in the discussion and Dr. Eamon O'Sullivan replied.

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