complaints and suggestions could be channelled. In many hospitals also there were regular ward meetings which provided an excellent opportunity for patients to make suggestions and raise complaints. It was felt that the administration of most mental hospitals was such as to encourage a free flow of communications and that complaints and suggestions were quite freely made. It was also pointed out that to have too firm an apparatus for dealing with complaints and suggestions would be disturbing to some patients. The Secretary was instructed to report to the Working Party incorporating these views and pointing out the statutory functions of the Mental Welfare Commission.

Social Work and the Community. The Scottish Home and Health Department had invited the Division to make comments on the White Paper on Social Work and the Community. They had requested that these comments be given by 31 January, 1967. It was agreed that the Committee of Management should meet in January in order to draw up a Memorandum which should be submitted to the Department, but that it could not be submitted to the Department until it had been approved by the Division at the March Meeting.

Papers

In the morning Dr. M. J. Harfst presented a paper on a trial of 'Heminevrin'. Considerable interest was expressed not only in the content of the paper but in the methodology of the trial.

Dr. R. N. Antebi read a paper on **"Absconders"** which was part of a study he had carried out while in Birmingham. This paper also stimulated a very lively active discussion. The Division is grateful to both speakers for presenting such interesting papers.

The Division would wish to thank Dr. Dymock and his Board of Management for the excellent arrangements made for the meeting and for the kind hospitality provided.

The next meeting was fixed for Friday, 10 March, 1967 in Edinburgh.

IRISH DIVISION

The Spring Meeting of the Irish Division was held on 4 March, 1967, by kind invitation of the Reverend Mother and Dr. P. Pearse O'Malley, at the Mater Hospital, Belfast.

Members lunched at the Midland Hotel, by invitation of Rev. Mother Superior.

The meeting was held in the Nurses Training School attached to the Mater Hospital.

Dr. P. Pearse O'Malley read a paper entitled **"Impotence: a Clinical Study".** He discussed a series of 25 cases referred to him from local marriage guidance clinics, and gave the case history and diagnosis. Most of the cases were anxiety states and some depressives, and a few paranoid schizophrenics. When the underlying psychiatric condition was treated the impotence usually improved.

Mr. Gilligan, a surgeon, gave the organic causes which came his way for treatment, and said that in every case he took a careful history and complete blood and urine test, and did urethroscopy. He discussed cases occurring after pelvic injury and mentioned the medico legal complications.

The papers were discussed by Drs. Glass, Moore, McGrath, Bradley, Whiteley, D. Eustace and Professor Gibson.

At the Business Meeting which followed, it was reported that only four nominations had been received for the Divisional Committee of Management, and these members, Dr. S. D. McGrath, Dr. D. J. Bradley, Dr. Hugh Gath and Dr. J. J. Meenan, were unanimously elected.

The Northern Ireland members were asked to forward two names who would be co-opted at next meeting.

Dr. M. Heffernan gave a report on the Sub-Committee meeting with the Irish Medical Association to discuss the prescribing of drugs.

The next meeting was fixed for Saturday, 10 June, 1967, at St. Davnet's Hospital, Monaghan.

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