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SUPPLEMENT

MARCH, 1940.

ROYAL MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

IRISH DIVISION.

THE AUTUMN QUARTERLY MEETING of the Irish Division of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association was held in the Royal College of Physicians, Kildare Street, Dublin, by kind permission of the President and Fellows, on Thursday, November 2, 1939.

The following members were present:

Drs. R. R. Leeper, T. A. Greene, P. J. Cassin, P. Grace, J. Fitzgerald, J. Dunne, D. B. Lothian, R. Taylor, C. B. Molony, T. A. Conlon, P. O'Doherty, T. Foley, P. J. Courtney, J. F. Fitzgerald, W. J. Coyne, H. J. Eustace, B. Blake, J. N. Moore, J. Delaney, H. StG. Smith, and P. Moran (Hon. Sec.).

Dr. G. N. Curran, Clinical Assistant, Grangegorman Mental Hospital, was also present.

The SECRETARY read correspondence which he had with the Department of Local Government and the General Nursing Council regarding the appointment of a member of the Association to the General Nursing Council.

A letter from the General Nursing Council showed that in the last three years approximately one-third of the candidates sitting for the Council's examinations were mental nurses.

A letter from the Local Government Department merely referred to a previous letter which stated that the Council had already been constituted for the five-year period ending December 31, 1943.

The SECRETARY was directed to write again to the Ministry requesting an undertaking that the first medical vacancy on the Council would be filled by a member of the R.M.P.A.

He was also directed to report fully on the matter to the Irish Medical Union, and to request one of the medical members to raise the matter in the Dail if the reply from the Minister was not satisfactory.

The SECRETARY reported that he had written to the Ministry urging reform of the Lunacy Laws, and calling attention to previous representations in the matter. No reply was received.

Dr. DUNNE, Chief Resident Medical Superintendent, Grangegorman Mental Hospital, reported that Dr. Leeper and he had been asked to meet the Chief Justice to discuss informally this matter, and had done so. He pointed out to the Meeting that it was an urgent necessity that something should be done to permit of the admission of voluntary patients to our public mental hospitals.

The SECRETARY was directed to write again to the Ministry on the matter, and it was also agreed to report on the position to the Irish Medical Union, with a

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view to getting the support of that organization in the demand for the necessary reform.

The following were, after ballot, declared members of the Association :

PATRICK JOSEPH KELLY, L.R.C.P.&S.I., L.M., D.P.M., Assistant Medical Officer, Mental Hospital, Limerick.

JOHN M. MEENAN, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., L.M., D.P.M., Assistant Medical Officer, Grangegorman Mental Hospital, Dublin.

The following nominations (for election at Spring Meeting) were handed in : For (*a*) *Divisional Secretary :* Dr. P. Moran ;

for (*b*) *Two Representative Members of Council :* Dr. S. Blake and Dr. C. B. Molony.

Dr. H. STGEORGE SMITH extended an invitation to the Division to hold the Spring Meeting at the Stewart Institution, Palmerston, and the invitation was accepted with acclamation, the meeting to be held on Thursday, April 4, unless that date proved unsuitable for Dr. Smith.

Dr. J. FITZGERALD called the attention of the Meeting to difficulties which had arisen in some areas in getting back " escaped " patients, owing to a too literal interpretation by some Civic Guards of a circular from Headquarters dealing with the matter.

No other member had experienced any such difficulties and it was decided to take no action in the matter.

Dr. COYNE spoke on the subject of patients absent on trial, and inquired what was the usual procedure adopted by medical superintendents at the end of the trial period. It transpired that the practice varied in different mental hospitals, and it was agreed that this was a matter concerning which it would not be wise for the Division to attempt to define rigidly the regulations.

CLINICAL MEETING.

Dr. JOHN DUNNE, Chief Resident Medical Superintendent, Grangegorman Mental Hospital, read a series of notes on **" Interesting Cases "**, and produced the case-histories, charts and special reports dealing with each case.

He described two cases in which the mental condition was due to a " low " form of septicæmia. A peculiar feature of both these cases was that a growth of *Staphylococcus aureus* occurred after eight days' culture.

He pointed out the charts of these cases—in which the temperature was taken hourly—and demonstrated the slight rises which occurred with marked irregularity. He stressed the importance of taking the temperature hourly in doubtful cases that look toxic, and in which the morning and evening chart shows no abnormality. M. & B. 693 with soluseptasine was used in these two cases, and both made a rapid recoveries.

Another of his patients appeared to be a typical schizophrenic ; she showed no improvement with either insulin or cardiazol, but rapid and complete recovery took place when she was treated with stilbœstrol.

Many of the members present discussed the cases described. Dr. CURRAN, Clinical Assistant, Grangegorman Mental Hospital, gave details of the treatment given in each case, and Dr. DUNNE replied to queries and criticisms by members.

The meeting then terminated.

SCOTTISH MENTAL HOSPITALS' PATHOLOGICAL LABORATORY.

FORTY-FIRST REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR THE YEAR 1938.

THE Board announces a successful year's work during which the objects of the scheme for pooling the resources of interested hospitals to carry out research on a scale impossible to any one of them alone have been creditably sustained. The

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