Child Clinics.

Bristol Children's Hospital
Child Guidance Clinic, Bristol
Bristol Royal Infirmary
} In association with Bristol Mental Hospitals Group.

.....President

.....Date

IRISH DIVISION.

THE SUMMER QUARTERLY AND CLINICAL MEETING was held on Thursday, 16 July, 1953, at Holywell Hospital, Antrim, N. Ireland, by kind invitation of Dr. Gilbert M. Smith, Medical Superintendent.

Twenty-one members and one guest were present.

The members and guest were most hospitably entertained to Lunch. At a Reception beforehand, SIR FRANK MONTGOMERY, Chairman of the Hospital Committee, welcomed members of the Association. Dr. COYNE in replying thanked Dr. Smith for his hospitality and the motion was seconded by Dr. H. STG. SMITH. The Clinical Session followed.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read, approved and signed.

The date of the Autumn Quarterly Meeting was fixed for Wednesday, 4 November, 1953, at the Royal College of Physicians, Kildare Street, Dublin.

The Secretary reported that Dr. H. J. Eustace was ineligible to act a fourth year as Junior Representative on Council. On the motion proposed by Dr. SMITH and seconded by Dr. MOLONY, Dr. James Mulligan was unanimously elected to succeed him.

The Boileau and Boyd Perpetual Challenge Cup competed for annually on the morning of the Summer Meeting was won by Dr. C. B. Molony.

The following election to Ordinary Membership was made:—

PERRY, JAMES FLACK, M.D., D.P.M., Consultant Psychiatrist, Holywell Hospital, Antrim.

Proposed by Drs. C. B. Robinson, G. M. Smith, and J. N. P. Moore.

Dr. G. M. SMITH then presented his communication entitled **"The Therapeutic Value of Administrative Psychiatry."** Dr. Smith pointed out that the function of the mental hospital psychiatrist, especially the medical superintendent, should not be purely clinical. The value of the physical methods of treatment in psychiatry had perhaps tended to overshadow the importance of the setting in which these treatments are carried out. Dr. Smith expressed the view that the foundation of all methods of treatment in psychiatry must be a high level of custodial care.

He stressed the need for psychiatric supervision of every branch of hospital activities apart from the specific treatment of the individual patient. The manner of the patient's reception in hospital and his first impressions there, the general amenities and comforts, the catering service, the training of the nursing and other staffs, should all be the active concern of the mental hospital psychiatrist. He pointed out the advantages of such amenities as cheerful restaurants, milk bars, etc. If the doctors laid too much stress on the physical methods of treatment, not only were chronic cases liable to be neglected, but even the general amenities provided for recent cases. He believed the National Health Service emphasized too much the clinical side of psychiatric work and too little the adminstrative. He pointed out the danger of the ancillary services assuming an unduly important place in the life of the hospital, when many of the personnel had no training in the treatment of mental illness. He suggested that it would be better to have occupational therapy supervised by trained nurses, the occupational therapist merely acting as a technical adviser.

While he thought it was a good thing that doctors working in a hospital should have clinical freedom and autonomy, there was a necessity for a central medical figure who had interest in the hospital as a whole and who could co-ordinate the work of the various departments. He described an experiment in group nursing which he had started in Holywell—one nurse was responsible for the entire care of a small group of patients, including their occupation and recreation. While it was too early yet to assess its value, the preliminary results were most encouraging.

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0368315X53247212 Published online by Cambridge University Press

He ended with some observations on possible dangers to the mental health of the community inherent in the Welfare State. The communication produced a very lively discussion in which the following members took part: Drs. MORAN, DUNNE, COYNE, O'MALLEY, ROBINSON, MOORE, MULLIGAN, LOTHIAN, CASSIN, H. STG. SMITH, MOLONY, MCLAUGHLIN.

Dr. SMITH then entertained the members to tea and the Meeting adjourned.

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The Hon. Librarian will endeavour to obtain, as far as possible, any books on psychiatry and allied subjects required by members.

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8. All communications should be addressed to " The Librarian, Royal Medico-Psychological Association, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W.1."

Circulation of Journals.

The following journals are available at the Library:

Acta Psychiatrica et Neurologica.
American Journal of Mental Deficiency.
American Journal of Orthopsychiatry.
American Journal of Psychiatry.
Annales Médico-Psychologiques.
Archives of Neurology and Psychiatry.
Brain.
British Journal of Addiction.
British Journal of Medical Psychology.
British Journal of Psychiatric Social Work.
Bulletin of World Federation of Mental Health.
Digest of Neurology and Psychiatry.
Excerpta Medica, Neurology and Psychiatry.
Howard Journal.
International Journal of Psycho-Analysis.
Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology.
Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease.
Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry.
Journal of Psychology.

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