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SUPPLEMENT

MARCH, 1939.

THE ROYAL MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

IRISH DIVISION.

THE AUTUMN QUARTERLY MEETING of the Irish Division was held at the Royal College of Physicians, Kildare Street, Dublin, by kind permission of the President and Fellows, on Thursday, November 3, 1938.

The following members were present:

Drs. Dora E. Alman, S. Blake, P. J. Cassin, L. Clifford, P. J. Courtney, W. J. Coyne, F. Deane, J. Delaney, R. F. G. Dixon, J. Dunne, Annie J. Dunleavy, H. J. Eustace, T. L. Foley, P. Grace, D. Hegarty, V. Kelly, C. J. McCarthy, C. Moloney, Evelyn O'Brien, Mary Robson, R. Taylor, R. Thompson, H. St.G. Smith, J. C. Osborne, and P. Moran (Hon. Sec.).

Apologies for unavoidable absence were received from Drs. D. Lothian, B. Honan, John Fitzgerald and R. Leeper.

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

Arising from the minutes the Chairman pointed out that he raised the question of the appointment of an Irish Assistant Editor for the Journal at the last meeting of Council and he was informed that it would be necessary to have a formal proposal from the Irish Division sent in.

It was proposed by Dr. C. MOLONEY, seconded by Dr. P. GRACE, and passed unanimously, "That the Irish Division requests the appointment of a member of the Irish Division as co-editor of the Journal and that Dr. J. McCarthy, Grangegorman Mental Hospital, Dublin, be the nominee of the Division for the post".

The Secretary of the Irish Mental Hospital Matrons' Association wrote asking the Division to arrange a scheme for post-graduate lectures for trained mental nurses and a course in Occupational Therapy.

It was decided to put this matter on the agenda for the next meeting.

The Grangegorman Mental Hospital Committee wrote asking for the views of the Division on the general training of mental nurses and pointing out the obstacles placed by the Minister for Local Government in the way of a scheme put forward by them to provide facilities for their nurses to take general training.

The SECRETARY stated that he had replied giving details of the views of the Division and the steps already taken in this matter.

During discussion it was suggested by members that the Minister might be

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exceeding his powers in this matter and it was agreed that the Secretary should suggest to the Grangegorman Committee that they take legal advice in the matter.

The following nominations (for election at the Spring Meeting) were received:

Hon. Secretary: Dr. P. Moran.

Representative Members of Council: Dr. T. A. Greene and Dr. R. Thompson.

Dr. John Dunne invited the Division to hold the Spring Meeting at Grangegorman Mental Hospital.

The meeting accepted with pleasure Dr. Dunne's invitation and it was decided to hold the meeting on Thursday, April 6, 1939.

The SECRETARY read a circular letter sent out to all mental hospitals in Eire by the Medical Inspector advocating general prophylactic inoculation of all patients and staffs in mental hospitals against typhoid fever.

After discussion it was decided to direct the Secretary to write to the Ministry and to the mental hospitals, and to point out that "Prophylactic inoculation does not solve the problem of endemic typhoid fever in the mental hospitals, and that an effort should be made to isolate 'carriers' and carry out all other necessary preventative hygienic measures, and that it is the opinion of the Irish Division that each R.M.S. should be permitted to use his discretion and decide whether general inoculation was necessary in the special circumstances existing in his hospital."

CLINICAL MEETING.

Dr. R. THOMPSON read a short paper on **"A Case of Epileptiform Convulsions Associated with Congenital Syphilis; Recovery".**

The patient was a boy, aged 11, who had had convulsive seizures in his second, third and fourth years, remained free from attacks until the end of the tenth year, and in his eleventh year had had altogether seven attacks. The description of the attacks left no room for doubt as to their epileptiform nature.

He was a bright, well-developed boy; a physical examination was negative with the exception of slight notching and irregularity of the teeth. His Wassermann was + 3, the mother's + 2 and the sister's + 2. The father refused to be examined.

He was given five injections of bismogenal, 0·5 c.c., in June and July, 1933, followed by four injections of sulpharsenol. Between October and December he had ten further injections of bismogenal.

He had one fit in June, 1933, and one in October of the same year. No further fits occurred and he has remained well since.

Dr. GREENE thanked Dr. Thompson for his very interesting and instructive paper, and for producing practical proofs of the efficacy of his treatment by demonstrating the recovered case.

Dr. EVELYN O'BRIEN then read a paper on **"Insulin Therapy",** being a review of the work being done in Grangegorman Mental Hospital with this form of therapy.

Dr. O'Brien gave a survey of the cases treated, describing complications and difficulties, and gave detailed descriptions of cases which recovered and cases which developed complications.

In conjunction with the paper, Dr. H. J. EUSTACE showed a film of insulin and cardiazol treatments kindly lent by Dr. James, of Moorcroft, Uxbridge.

The papers were spoken to by many of the members present, and Dr. O'BRIEN replied to a long list of queries propounded by speakers.

The CHAIRMAN congratulated Dr. O'Brien and Dr. Dunne on the excellent work being done in Grangegorman with insulin and cardiazol. While no one claimed that these forms of treatment were infallible cures for schizophrenia, results show that they were well worth while carrying out, and might lead to something even better for this distressing malady.

Dr. MOLONEY then read a paper on his **"Impressions of the Swiss Study Tours, 1938".**

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He suggested that, as it was getting late and the members were getting tired after a long meeting, he would read only half of his paper and read the remaining part at the next meeting.

This was agreed to, and Dr. Moloney proceeded to give a very graphic and instructive account of the first part of the tour.

OPENING OF NEW TREATMENT CENTRE AT CRICHTON ROYAL, DUMFRIES.

On October 18 the Directors of the above mental hospital opened an important addition to the hospital buildings, Easterbrook Hall, erected for recreational and therapeutic purposes. The cost of the building and equipment was £60,000.

At the luncheon which preceded the opening, Capt. F. Wickham Weekes, of Barholm, Chairman of the Board of Directors, in welcoming the guests, who were representative of public life in the south-west of Scotland, pointed out that the Directors hoped that the amenities of the new building would maintain Crichton Royal in the forefront of those institutions which specialized in the care and treatment of nervous and mental invalids.

Dr. P. K. McCowan, the Physician-Superintendent, explained the purposes and uses of the new centre, emphasizing the important part which physical medicine played in the treatment of nervous and mental disorders, and pointing out how Easterbrook Hall would help the Crichton Royal to attain the ideal of making life in hospital approximate as nearly as possible to life in the world outside.

The opening ceremony was performed by Dr. C. C. Easterbrook, who resigned the post of Physician-Superintendent in March, 1937, after thirty years' service, and to whose foresight and initiative the present building is largely due. In opening the building, he thanked the Directors for the honour they had done him in naming the building after him, and gave a short history of the progress of the hospital during the 100 years of its existence. He referred to the numerous additions to the institution since the foundation-stone of the original Crichton Hall was laid in 1835. Modern wards, villas and nursing homes had been added, as well as the Memorial Church in 1897; and later model, a home farm, with tuberculin-tested herd, an artesian water supply, pathological laboratories, etc.

Sir Arthur Rose, of the General Board of Control in Scotland, replied for the guests. He complimented the Board of Directors on the general excellence of their hospital, and in particular on the new facilities for treatment, which they had seen that day. He deplored the public attitude to mental illness, particularly when it was possible in such places as the Crichton to receive every possible attention and service that one could possibly wish for, and that modern science could provide.

The architect for the building is the Hospital's Clerk of Works, Mr. J. Flett, who drew up his plans in close consultation with Dr. Easterbrook. The building is of local red sandstone, and comprises:

(1) In the centre a large recreation hall capable of seating 1,000 persons, fitted with a Gaumont-British duophonic cinematograph apparatus, and suitable for concerts, theatrical performances, dances, etc.

(2) On the north side are situated the canteen and café, library and reading room, occupational therapy department, hairdressing saloon, dental surgery, operating theatre and sterilizing room, ear, throat and nose department, and electrotherapy department, with rooms for (*a*) galvanic, faradic and sinusoidal electrical treatment, etc.; (*b*) X-ray plant; (*c*) various forms of actinotherapy; (*d*) diathermy and short-wave treatment, etc.; (*e*) rest room.

(3) On the south side, a fully equipped gymnasium, for drill, folk-dancing, gymnastics, badminton, etc., with adjoining—(*a*) a squash rackets court; (*b*) a room for carpet bowls, table tennis, etc. A hydrotherapy department with

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