IRISH DIVISION

THE SPRING QUARTERLY MEETING of the Irish Division was held on Wednesday, 11 April, 1962, on the kind invitation of the Rev. Mother Superior, and of Dr. P. P. O'Malley, at the Mater Infirmorum Hospital, Belfast. Thirty-eight members and three visitors were present.

The meeting commenced with lunch at the Mater Hospital. A vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. McCartan and seconded by Dr. O'Higgins.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed.

Dr. P. P. O'Malley read a paper entitled **"Problems in the Management of Psychiatric Patients in a General Hospital—a Fifteen Year Survey".**

The paper was discussed by Drs. McCartan, Dunne, Rahill, Sullivan, Blake, Whiteley, Weir and O'Higgins.

An exhibit on the effects of E.C.T. on the peripheral circulation was demonstrated by Dr. Leo McArdle, who gave a talk and answered questions.

The date and place of the Summer Meeting was fixed, on the kind invitation of Dr. Moore Johnston, at Omagh on Wednesday, 27 June, 1962.

Dr. C. B. Robinson, Purdysburn Hospital, was elected Chairman of the Division, Dr. Mary Sullivan was re-elected Secretary, and Dr. John Fennelly was elected Junior Representative on the Council of the Association.

A letter from the Department of Health of the Republic of Ireland regarding the nomination of a representative on the National Health Council was read, and Professor Dunne was again nominated.

A letter from the National Association for the Mentally Handicapped of Ireland was read, asking if the Association would affiliate with them, and the Secretary was instructed to write to the Secretary of the National Association stating that the Division had no power to affiliate, but would like some representation on the Council.

A letter from Dr. O. W. S. Fitzgerald regarding Refresher Courses for General Practitioners was read and the Secretary was instructed to get in touch with the secretaries of the College of General Practitioners in Ireland and ascertain their views on the necessity of such courses.

The question of the new title for the Journal was discussed, and the general opinion of the meeting was that it was a pity to change the title, but as this had now been agreed to by the Council of the Association, there was nothing the Division could suggest in the matter.

In the evening Dr. and Mrs. O'Malley entertained members to an excellent performance in the Lyric Players Theatre, and to supper afterwards.

THE WORLD PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

The following statement has been received from the President of the Association, Prof. D. Ewen Cameron:

The World Psychiatric Association was established in June, 1961, during the holding of the Third World Congress of Psychiatry in Montreal. It arose as a most necessary phase in the exceptional growth of psychiatry. As professional and public knowledge of the extent of mental illness has grown, it has become clear that the united efforts of psychiatrist and of citizen, of government and of science, must be called upon.

There is a demand on every side for information about mental illness—for plans for training and research—for service and prevention and public education. Fortunately, there is a common factor in the psychiatric problems of the various countries. Experience with organization, with treatment, with training, with the fostering of research can be shared and each can build upon what his neighbour has learned.

To foster this exchange is one of the vital purposes of the World Psychiatric

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Association. In other fields of Medicine this exchange between one country and another through the medium of a world organization has met with lively success and the World Health Organization now recognizes over fifty non-governmental world health bodies—some of them operating in fields related to our own.

This is the second reason for setting up the World Psychiatric Association and bringing it into active work with the greatest expedition; for it is most necessary that psychiatry should have a world body to enable us to meet in discussion, in planning and decision, and also to represent us in conference and in debate with other non-governmental world health bodies.

In the most recently established nations, hospitals are being built, new university departments are being founded, research laboratories have been set into operation. In the older countries, every measure is being taken to ensure that the most progressive psychiatric facilities are available to every citizen.

Reports from a rapidly expanding network of psychiatric centres are passing into the journals. In turn new journals appear every year. Monographs and textbooks in numbers beyond the reading capacity of any single individual are now in every library. Training units are thronged by men and women seeking to equip themselves for their future careers in psychiatry.

New national societies are appearing everywhere—some concerned with professional matters—some devoted to scientific discussion. All these are supported on a wave of public interest and a demand for service which is constantly growing.

Again, a World Psychiatric Association is essential to bring together and to link this widespread growth of psychiatry.

In setting up the World Psychiatric Association, advantage was taken of the fact that there was already in existence the International Organization for the Holding of World Congresses. It had been responsible for the First, Second and Third World Congresses of Psychiatry. Since it was already supported by over thirty nations, it was agreed that the World Psychiatric Association should be formed by amending the constitution of the International Society for the Holding of World Congresses, and that the further constitutional changes should be brought forward for discussion at a special meeting of the General Assembly which is to be held in Geneva in the summer of 1962. Geneva is to be the site of the incorporation of the World Psychiatric Association and an office will be maintained in that city in order to facilitate our relations with the World Health Organization and other world bodies.

The objectives of the World Psychiatric Association as presently defined are as follows:

> To promote the prevention and cure of psychiatric illness and to join with our colleagues in medicine in raising the level of health throughout the world by:
>
> (*a*) The exchange of information concerning the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of psychiatric illness;
>
> (*b*) The encouragement of teaching of psychiatrists and all categories of ancillary psychiatric personnel;
>
> (*c*) The stimulation of research and exchange of research information;
>
> (*d*) The establishment of working relations with the World Health Organization, UNESCO, and all appropriate bodies;
>
> (*e*) The establishment of regional and continental sections within the framework of the Association;
>
> (*f*) The holding of regular world congresses, and of regional and continental meetings, under the auspices of the Association.

At the organizing meetings of the Third World Congress, three committees were set up. The first was a committee on constitution. The terms of reference of this committee are to bring in recommendations concerning further constitutional changes for consideration by the General Assembly in the summer of 1962. The

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second committee is on publicity and public relations. The main function of this committee is to see to it that the existence and objectives of the World Psychiatric Association become as broadly known as possible both to psychiatrists and to their other medical colleagues and to the public. A third committee is on finances with the task of making recommendations regarding the financing of the Association.

There are approximately 107 different countries. Many of these countries have several national psychiatric societies and it has been agreed that more than one society from one country can become members of the World Psychiatric Association. A number of countries have as yet no national psychiatric organization and, in these instances, consideration is being given to a plan whereby associate membership in the World Psychiatric Association may be made available to leading psychiatrists in such countries pending the establishment of a national psychiatric association.

There are crucial demands and decisions awaiting us. For in this period of exceptional social transition, great stresses and great opportunities alike are born. Everywhere psychiatry is on the move—going forward on a breadth of front and with a speed unmatched within Medicine.

It is the anticipation and the hope of the Officers that national societies in all countries not yet represented will come forward with all possible speed to join us in the great enterprise of building a vigorous, vital and powerful World Psychiatric Association.

Montreal, Canada, 16 January, 1962.

FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PSYCHOSOMATIC MEDICINE AND MATERNITY

This Congress will be held in Paris from 8-12 July, 1962, under the Presidency of Professor Jean Ravina.

Papers will be read on the Psychological and Sociological study of women in relation to pregnancy and childbirth; the psycho-physiology of labour pains; psychosomatic preparation of childbirth; and others.

British speakers will include Drs. Norman Morris, Linford Rees and Elizabeth Tylden.

Further particulars and Registration Forms can be obtained from the Secretary, R.M.P.A.

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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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