She agreed that she had said very little about vocational guidance, and that she skated over the subject of educational psychology. She was aware of all the problems but was not aware of the answers, and she hoped the older psychologists who did know the answers would become vocal about them in the immediate future.

The PRESIDENT said that the large attendance at the meeting in spite of the difficulties of transport, and the attention which had been given to the discussion, showed the interest taken in the subject of child psychiatry. It would provide a stimulus to those who were going forward to deal with it in a Sub-Committee, perhaps to become a Division of the Association.

He proposed a very hearty vote of thanks to the readers of the papers and to those who had taken part in the discussion, which was accorded by applause, and the meeting terminated.

NORTHERN AND MIDLAND DIVISION.

Minutes of Special Meeting of the Northern and Midland Division, held at the Royal Victoria Station Hotel, Sheffield, on Friday, March 3, 1944, at 2 p.m.

Present: Dr. T. C. Graves, President, in the Chair; Drs. J. S. Allen, M. A. Archdale, C. B. Bamford, J. Bonnell, W. E. W. Bridger, H. Burt, H. Dove Cormac, Patricia S. Clarke, P. M. Crowe, T. M. Cuthbert, T. W. Davidson, T. M. Davie, K. K. Drury, C. J. Earl, T. R. Forsythe, F. W. Furniss, D. Gilmour, J. F. R. Goodlad, E. Harrison, E. A. Haslam-Fox, J. Erskine Howie, E. Randal Hull, M. Jeffrey, Major T. S. Johnstone, Drs. A. Kelly, F. Kingston, Major E. H. Larkin, Major S. L. Last, Drs. I. Magee, G. E. Mould, J. R. Murray, N. F. MacKenzie, G. W. MacKay, Duncan Macmillan, I. R. Macphail, J. J. O'Reilly, J. J. O'Riordan, Major J. C. Penton, Dr. E. Power, Drs. E. V. H. Pentreath, Arthur Pool, Major E. Rosenberg, Lt.-Col. J. I. Russell, Drs. E. F. Skinner, H. F. Stephens, G. Talbot, F. T. Thorpe, R. C. Walker, G. Williamson, A. H. Wilson and C. E. H. Turner.

Visitors: Dr. K. B. Cobb, Lieut. J. A. Herd, Capt. Leviten, and Lieut. T. A. Muckle.

The SECRETARY read a letter from the Secretary of the Medical Planning Committee, suggesting the appointment of a Divisional Planning Committee and a Divisional representative to attend the main Planning Committee.

After discussion, it was resolved that a Divisional Planning Committee be appointed, to consist of six members and the Divisional Secretary *ex officio* as convener. The following were elected:

Drs. T. M. Cuthbert, E. R. Hull, J. J. O'Reilly, Lt.-Col. J. D. W. Pearce, Drs. A. Pool, H. Freize Stephens and J. I. Russell.

The PERSIDENT stated that the Terms of Reference would be as defined for the main Planning Committee, and to report to this Division and to the main Planning Committee as and at such times as circumstances dictated.

Dr. O'REILLY suggested that the Sub-Committee should establish liaison with the northern branches of the Medical Superintendents' Association with the view of meeting and discussing with medical superintendents of the general hospitals.

The PRESIDENT replied that non-members of the Association might be invited to attend meetings of the Sub-Committee, but could not be co-opted as members of the Committee, and should not have any responsibility for any opinion forwarded in the name of the Sub-Committee.

Resolved that—

> "In the opinion of this meeting, the Divisional Representative should be given full membership of the Main Planning Committee, and that the Secretary be instructed to make formal application to this effect."

Resolved that—

> "The Divisional Representative be one of the seven members of the Planning Sub-Committee."

DISCUSSION.

Dr. GRAVES explained the origin and purpose of the Interim Report. The Government White Paper left us still in doubt, but it appeared that the principle was accepted that special safeguards were indispensable in a mental health service in which persons might have to be treated against their will. This necessitated a committee with direct and complete responsibility. To that committee a medical superintendent should have direct access, and he should not have to submit any recommendation or report through an intermediate channel of communication. He opposed also the tendency to introduce a dual control in hospital administration. It had been suggested that with a staff of visiting psychiatrists, medical superintendents might be abolished. He hoped he was not going to see that occur.

Dr. DRURY said that for some years there would be a dearth of medical men to staff the hospitals. The Planning Committee should consider means of encouraging men into the specialty. The same applied to nurses. He suggested the institution of a Nursing Diploma to qualify nurses for responsible posts in the extra-mural and ancillary services that were envisaged.

Major LARKIN said the army psychiatrists were particularly interested in the discussion.

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0368315X44245752 Published online by Cambridge University Press

They represented the deputy medical superintendent level of the hospitals and had considerable experience before joining the Army. In their military work they had been given responsibilities in a much wider sphere, and they had in consequence acquired a new conception of the scope of work to be done. The army psychiatrist was called upon to advise on the replacement of misfits into new jobs; and on the fitness of candidates for officer cadetships; they had to deal with people in their working environment and had to shape environment to the patient. In the services the prestige of psychiatry had gone up, and after the war there would be a great call for trained psychiatrists. But psychiatry should not be allowed to lose touch with the mental hospital which was its natural home. The psychiatrist must have good mental hospital experience and maintain close mental hospital contacts. He must not be confined to one of the small pockets of psychiatry if his proper outlook was to be retained. He should be based at a mental hospital, but should be engaged part of his time in duties outside the main hospital. He should mix with general medical colleagues and should be available for forensic psychiatry.

He disapproved of the suggestion that every child who threw a brick through a window should be examined by a psychiatrist.

If a Medical Officer of Mental Health were appointed, he should continue to be a practising psychiatrist, in order to keep up his technical efficiency and to keep in touch with medical problems.

He supported Recommendations 6 and 7 of the Report.

Several speakers emphasized the point that if good men were to be kept in the service they must have wider scope and have experience in all branches of psychiatry. They endorsed the recommendation that free interchange of medical staff should be encouraged between psychiatric units, extra-mural treatment centres and mental hospitals. Many also expressed the view that it was very undesirable that the Mental Health Services should be controlled by the Public Health Authorities, or that the Medical Officer of Health should have any duties in respect of mental hospitals.

Dr. MACMILLAN (Nottingham) proposed that the meeting endorse Recommendations 5 and 6 of the Report, but the proposition was not seconded, although several speakers expressed a similar view.

Dr. RUSSELL said the White Paper placed all hospitals under a new authority concerned with personal health services as distinct from public health services. Hospital staffs and consultants would not therefore come under the control of the M.O.H. nor of a county or county borough. Adequate representation on the local health services councils was more important. The mental hospital should be the H.Q. of the local psychiatric service, and the staff should be employed half time at the several extra-mural centres.

Dr. MOULD said the Licensed Houses provided a service for which there would continue to be a real need. They were the small shops of the service and they had the goodwill of the Board of Control.

Dr. FREIZE STEPHENS said the Planning Committee should discuss the question of training nurses.

Dr. POOL said the Yorkshire Regional Council had recently drawn up a comprehensive scheme under which it was proposed to set up psychiatric units in eight towns in Yorkshire.

Dr. SKINNER thought the training of personnel for the future service was the most important thing. A professor of psychiatry at the teaching unit of a region was required. He would be the head psychiatrist, under whom all the ancillary services could be administered.

Dr. FURNISS supported the recommendation that psychiatric in-patient beds should be provided at voluntary hospitals and psychiatric clinics.

Dr. BAMFORD (and several other speakers) emphasized the desirability of the appointment of a professor of psychiatry as the head of the psychiatric unit of a teaching centre.

Dr. DRURY deplored the absence of definite information regarding the size of the proposed "area."

It was resolved to recommend that paragraph 24 of the Report be deleted.

Resolved that the Spring Meeting of the Division be held at the Royal Victoria Station Hotel, Sheffield, on Wednesday, April 26, 1944, when the Interim Report in the light of the Government White Paper will be further discussed.

SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

MARCH 24, 1944.

Dr. G. W. T. H. FLEMING (Chairman) opened the Discussion *re* the Future of Mental Health Services by reading some of the recommendations of the R.M.P.A. Medical Planning Committee. He stressed the importance of the fifth recommendation that the name of the Board of Control be changed to "The Board of Mental Health," that its powers should include all branches of mental hospitals, that its constitution should be improved and its members better paid. He suggested that the medical officer of health was incompetent to deal with those mentally afflicted, and that a Medical Officer of Mental Health should be appointed for each area.

In dealing with Recommendation 20 he said that the question of vested interests cropped up, and that he would like the opinion of the meeting as to the provision of treatment for the psychoneuroses and psychoses.

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0368315X44245752 Published online by Cambridge University Press