SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION

THE SPRING MEETING of the South-Western Division was held at Stoke Park Hospital, Stapleton, Bristol, on Thursday 27 March, 1969, by kind invitation of the Hospital Management Committee and Dr. W. A. Heaton-Ward. This meeting, held in conjunction with a meeting of the Mental Deficiency Section, marked the opening of celebrations of the Diamond Jubilee of the Hospital.

Members were escorted on a tour of the hospital and the Burden Institute, and met at 12.15 p.m. for a Reception. At luncheon the meeting was welcomed by Alderman Hebblethwaite, Chairman of the Hospital Management Committee, and Dr. Simpson replied.

Report of the Divisional Committee of Management

The Divisional Secretary reported that the Divisional Committee had met during the forenoon.

The letter signed by fourteen Consultants of this Division concerning psychiatric representation on Hospital Board Committees in the South-West Region had been discussed at length, and Dr. Hilliard kindly attended the Committee for this discussion, since he was the only member of the Association on the Regional Hospital Board. It was decided that the Chairman and Secretary should address a letter to the Senior Administrative Medical Officer and should be authorized to refer the matter to the Parliamentary Committee later if it seemed appropriate.

The question of study leave to attend Divisional Meetings was raised. It is understood that the Wessex Regional Hospital Board now accepts these meetings as suitable for study leave, and thus follows the practice in other Regions.

In discussion of certain educational matters, the notice of the Committee was drawn to the importance of the training of psychiatrists in EEG work. This was the subject of a recent report by the EEG Committee of the Royal College of Physicians; and at the present time there is clearly a serious shortage of whole-time specialists in this subject, and of psychiatrists in training.

The Medical Defence Union has advised an additional item to be signed by a doctor on the form of consent for medical treatment, for patients recommended for ECT who are informal or under a Hospital Order. This reads:

'I confirm that I have explained to the patient the nature and effect of these treatments.'

The report of the Committee was approved by the meeting.

The following candidates were elected to Ordinary Membership:

ADAMS, MARGARET JOAN, M.B., Ch.B., Psychiatric Registrar, Manor Hospital and Weston Lodge Nursing Home, Bath.
Proposed by Drs. H. Neubauer, M. J. Rose, Mary Valvis.

BAJPAI, SHYAM BEHARI, M.B., B.S., Registrar, Herrison Hospital, Dorchester.
Proposed by Drs. E. S. Foote, D. M. Ross, H. B. A. Somaratne.

BEDI, TARLOCHAN SINGH, M.B., B.S., Registrar, Coney Hill Hospital, Gloucester.
Proposed by Drs. D. Lindsay Walker, R. M. M. Hunter, Joan Hudson.

CHEN, CHAR NIE, M.B., Senior House Officer, Morgannwg Hospital, Bridgend.
Proposed by Drs. M. W. Annear, H. Rosenberg, K. S. Jones.

MOSS, ROGER CHARLES SARRA, M.R.C.S. L.R.C.P., Psychiatric Registrar, Bristol Royal Infirmary.
Proposed by Drs. D. F. Early, R. V. Magnus, A. H. Ogden.

PONTY, RALPH, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Registrar, Department of Psychological Medicine, Welsh National School of Medicine, Cardiff.
Proposed by Professor K. Rawnsley, Drs. H. Edwards, A. C. Brown.

OLIVER, JOHN EDWARD, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.M., Senior Registrar, St. Crispin Hospital, Northampton.
Proposed by Drs. A. N. Graham, P. H. Rogers, K. L. K. Trick.

SAKALIS, GEORGE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.M., Senior Registrar, Broadmoor Hospital, Crowthorne, Berkshire.
Proposed by Drs. R. W. K. Reeves, A. Walk, A. McQuaid.

SINGH, AMARENDRA NARAYAN, B.Sc., M.B., B.S., D.T.M. & H., D.P.M., Registrar, Barrow Hospital, Bristol.
Proposed by Drs. P. K. G. Warren, R. D. Neale, M. Nicholas.

TRUEMAN, HORACE REGINALD, L.R.C.P. & S.I., L.M., L.A.H., Clinical Assistant, Glenside Hospital, Bristol.
Proposed by Drs. M. Valentine, A. H. Ogden, R. V. Magnus.

ZOLLMAN, LEO, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.M., Consultant Psychiatrist, Mid-Worcestershire Group of Hospitals; 52 Church Road, Astwood Bank, near Redditch.
Proposed by Drs. A. G. Fullerton, M. G. McColl, M. J. Davies.

The following officers were elected for 1969-70:

Chairman .. .. .. Dr. R. Wallace Simpson

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0007125070309644 Published online by Cambridge University Press

Divisional Secretary	Dr. E. B. McDowall
Assistant Secretary	Dr. H. J. Crow
Junior Representative on Council	Dr. A. H. Ogden

Papers and Discussion

'Dermatoglyphics and Chromosomal Abnormalities in Mental Subnormality'

Professor Penrose presented a large series of slides to illustrate his talk on the development of the science of dermatoglyphics and its application to the study of mental subnormality. He demonstrated the nature of epidermal ridges, of their patterns and the nomenclature of their configurations; an outline of police procedure in measuring and counting the ridges for identification purposes followed.

Proceeding to different categories of patients, Professor Penrose analysed the palmar characteristics in mongolism, and described the variations often found in mosaic mongols, and in trisomy with additional fingers. He described the various trisomies —13–15; 21–22; and 17–18, in which the variations described tend to occur.

In Turner's Syndrome and in different abnormalities of the X chromosome, distinctive patterns are also found. With any chromosome abnormality, in fact, dermatoglyphic variations will be found, but these are not specific to the condition.

'Genetics of Mental Subnormality'

Dr. Fraser Roberts, now 'back in his own hospital' opened an historical introduction to his subject by describing a Mendelian approach to human problems of heredity as like the charge of the Light Brigade —noble but hopeless. Following the Wood Report in 1929 they had tried to separate the 'subcultural' from the 'pathological', and he described a major pioneering research problem at Stoke Park in which all children born within certain limits and resident in Bath on a certain date were studied. After the war, further light was thrown on these two categories.

A certain proportion of higher-grade subnormals do owe their backwardness to a single cause, but the number is very small compared with the whole field; and increasingly more single causes are being separated off from the more severely handicapped.

Dr. Fraser Roberts went on to describe the work of a Bristol Clinic for genetic advice over a period of fifteen years. Nearly 90 per cent of enquiries were from couples who had a child suffering from low-grade mental deficiency. It was important that genetic counselling for mental disorder should be given by a psychiatrist, since informal assessment of the parents themselves is often involved.

In conclusion, the degree of risk involved in certain conditions was quoted in approximate figures as a guide to basic genetic counselling.

'Progress in the Correlation of Mentality and Brain Mechanisms'

Dr. Grey Walter began his talk by mentioning that the Burden Institute has been, and still is, dependent upon Charity—'on something quite simple; Love.' He would speak of recent developments there in the fields of neurosurgery and computer technology. Improved techniques of introducing electrodes into the brain had made it possible to insert about 100 electrodes and to retain them if necessary for months to measure the electrical changes as an index of the electro-chemical changes taking place, the chemical changes of which are not yet known. It is essential that the researching apparatus should be computerized.

How does the brain decide what matters and what doesn't? In the frontal cortex, what to fear and what not to fear? The ability not to respond to what doesn't matter is as important in conditioning as the ability to learn when to respond to what does matter. Electrodes only 1 cm. apart show great variation in responses. Brain function appears to be connected, but there are strict anatomical boundaries, which, however, can be changed. The brain must be programmed, and the pattern of response of a particular electrode may be stationary, therefore, for several months. From regions deep in the brain—orbital or limbic—regular, coherent rhythms occurred once an exceptional situation was comprehended. These observations showed that the brain works in programmed patches, and the patches are widespread over large areas.

When the subject concentrates, rapid rhythms occur. Expectancy (the imperative need to do something) and relaxation (nothing to do) can be distinguished by the response. Thus the observer is able to tell not only what he is experiencing, but also what his intentions are.

Dr. Grey Walter concluded with comments on the Contingent Negative Variation in certain specific conditions. In brain damage, the effects on CNV may be slight; but where a subdural haematoma is present the absence of CNV may be significant. In psychopaths CNV is absent, and there are significant disturbances in neurotic conditions. In schizophrenics there are several anomalies; tremendous variability from trial to trial, and suppression of CNV by trivial distractions. There is also evidence that certain types of schizophrenics may have a characteristic slow wave change.

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0007125070309644 Published online by Cambridge University Press

In the course of the discussion which followed, Dr. Grey Walter referred to work carried out with Dr. O'Gorman on autistic children of whom none demonstrated CNV—that is, they do not engage themselves on any problem.

There was a lively discussion after the three papers had been given, and Dr. L. T. Hilliard proposed the vote of thanks to the three eminent speakers for a most informative and most interesting afternoon of papers and discussions.

NORTHERN AND MIDLAND DIVISION

THE SPRING MEETING of the Northern and Midland Division was held at St. Luke's Hospital, Middlesbrough, on Thursday, 17 April, 1969, by kind permission of the Hospital Management Committee and Dr. T. M. Cuthbert.

In the morning, members made a tour of inspection of the hospital.

The Meeting offered its congratulations to Dr. Cuthbert on his election as the next President of the Association.

Dr. Cuthbert and the Hospital Management Committee were also thanked for consenting to have the Division at St. Luke's when they would also be hosts for the Annual General Meeting of the Association in July.

The following were elected as Officers and to the Divisional Committee of Management:

Chairman	Dr. C. Tetlow
Secretary	Dr. Brian Ward
Assistant Secretary	Dr. D. B. Fowler
Junior Representative on Council	Dr. D. A. Stephens

Committee Members:

Drs. K. Davison, A. Munro, J. D. Richardson, J. M. Roberts, S. Smith, E. L. Sutherland, R. W. Tibbetts and W. V. Wadsworth.

At this point Dr. Tetlow assumed Chairmanship of the Division. He thanked Dr. Wadsworth for his excellent service to the Division as Chairman, to which Dr. Wadsworth responded.

The following were elected to Ordinary Membership of the Association:

ECKERT, JOANNA, M.D., Clinical Assistant in Psychiatry; 4 Burnt Stones Close, Sandygate, Sheffield 10.
Proposed by Drs. J. D. Stirland, D. Black, A. R. Jones.

GOPAL, KARTAR SINGH, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.P.M., Clinical Assistant, Bolton and District General Hospital, Bolton, Lancashire.
Proposed by Drs. G. G. Hay, S. C. Lahiri, J. G. Maden.

HANDLEY, JENNIFER, M.B., B.S., D.P.M., Senior Registrar, North Staffordshire Hospitals Group; City General Hospital, Stoke-on-Trent.
Proposed by Drs. R. M. Phillips, W. B. Spry, E. D. Myers.

HANNA, SHOUKRY MINA, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.P., L.M.S.S.A., D.P.M., Consultant Psychiatrist, St. Matthew's Hospital, Burntwood, Walsall.
Proposed by Professor F. A. Jenner, Drs. I. B. Pearson, W. L. Tonge.

JAYARAM, KADAMBY PARTHASARATHY, B.Sc., M.B., B.S., Registrar in Psychiatry, St. George's Hospital, Stafford.
Proposed by Drs. W. A. Ker, W. M. Cottrell, E. T. Rolston.

JONES, MURIEL LOUISE, B.Sc., M.B., B.S., Ph.D., Registrar, Central Hospital, Warwick.
Proposed by Drs. T. L. Dunn, C. Berry, V. S. Nehama.

KHATRI, ABDUL MAJEED, M.B., B.S., Registrar, St. George's Hospital, Stafford.
Proposed by Drs. H. M. Flanagan, W. A. Ker, W. M. Cottrell.

MALIK, ALI AKHTAR, M.B., B.S., D.P.M., Registrar, Cherry Knowle Hospital, Ryhope, Sunderland.
Proposed by Drs. A. A. Gillis, C. F. Lascelles, Z. Hussain.

MORRIS, JAMES HENRY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.M., Senior Registrar in Child Psychiatry, All Saints' Hospital Group, Birmingham.
Proposed by Drs. H. M. N. Rees, G. K. R. Jamieson, E. M. D. O'Brien.

O'FLANAGAN, PETER MALPAS, L.R.C.P. & S.I., D.P.M., Consultant in Psychiatry, Liverpool Regional Hospital Board; 8 Marlfield Road, Grappenhall, Cheshire.
Proposed by Drs. B. Ward, E. M. K. Irwin, R. R. Steinert.

PEMBERTON, DAVID ALMOND, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.M., Senior Registrar, Shelton Hospital, Shrewsbury.
Proposed by Drs. D. R. Benady, M. D. Enoch, J. Littlejohn.

RICHARDSON, LINDA MARGARET, M.B., B.S., Registrar, Department of Psychological Medicine, Newcastle General Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne.
Proposed by Professor M. Roth, Drs. S. Brandon, C. J. Percival.

ROHATGI, KRISHNA KUMAR, M.B., B.S., Registrar in Psychiatry, West Cumberland Hospital, Whitehaven.
Proposed by Drs. A. W. Drummond, J. R. Burgess, J. R. Stuart.

SAMPSON, GWYNETH ANN, M.B., Ch.B., Senior House Officer, Whiteley Wood Clinic, Sheffield.
Proposed by Professor F. A. Jenner, Drs. C. P. Seager, W. L. Tonge.

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0007125070309644 Published online by Cambridge University Press