their comments and suggestions and that the matter be further discussed at the Autumn Meeting.

It was pointed out that membership lists of Sections were vague and incomplete, and it was suggested that all Scottish Members be given an opportunity of restating their desires *re* membership of various Sections in order to bring membership rolls up to date.

The Committee of Management had considered a memorandum on the Kilbrandon Report which had been prepared by a special Sub-Committee, and decided that this should be circulated to all members in time for discussion at the Autumn Meeting.

The date of the next meeting was fixed for Friday, 1 October, 1965 at Lochgilphead.

On Friday, 18 June, Members were given an opportunity of visiting the Psychiatric Units in and around Aberdeen—Kingseat Hospital, Ross Clinic, Royal Cornhill Hospital, the Children's Hospital, and Wellwood Unit, Woodlands Home. In the evening a most successful dinner was held in the Recreation Hall at Kingseat. On the morning of Saturday, 19 June, three papers were given.

Dr. James G. Henderson gave a paper on **"Psychiatric Symptomatology and Vitamin B12"** including the result of a pilot study and the design of a more elaborate assessment of admissions for a period of one year. Dr. Henderson's paper provoked considerable discussion and stimulated much interest in the question of Vitamin B12 deficiency states.

Dr. Cecil B. Kidd read a paper on **"Old People in Mental Hospitals in the North-East Region"**, in which he gave an analysis of the patients over 65 in all the mental hospitals in the area, together with information about their background and detailed information about their physical and mental states.

Dr. John H. Evans, B.Sc., gave a very stimulating paper on **"Computer Techniques in Psychiatry"**.

The Division will wish to thank the Board of Management for the Aberdeen Hospitals and Dr. Ronald A. Y. Stewart for the excellent arrangements and generous hospitality which had been shown to the Division.

IRISH DIVISION

The Summer Quarterly Meeting of the Irish Division was held on Saturday, 29 May, 1965, on kind invitation of Dr. N. B. O'Higgins, at St. Joseph's Hospital, Limerick.

The members were most hospitably received to lunch at the Royal George Hotel, Limerick, on the kind invitation of Dr. and Mrs. O'Higgins.

Dr. Berrington read a Paper entitled **"Re-Socialization and Repairing the Damage"**.

Dr. Berrington traced the history of industrial therapy in mental hospitals in England, and said that it was a very slow process. He recommended a sheltered life outside hospital for long term patients, with remunerative work. There were three stages in re-socialization: (1) Structural; (2) Sociological; (3) Extension into Community. Hostels were the ideal solution, where patients resided and went out working in various industries.

Dr. Berrington reported on progress of the hostel system in Northern Ireland. The first hostel had 10 beds, and there were now 9 hostels with 70 beds in Northern Ireland.

The paper was discussed by Drs. Moore, Hayes, McCarthy, O'Connor, Hill, Moran, O'Higgins, Power and Blake.

A motion was proposed by Dr. O'Higgins and seconded by Dr. Moore, that the Secretary should write to Dr. Peter Irwin thanking him for his good wishes, and expressing the members' appreciation for the work he had done for the Irish Division. This was carried unanimously.

The next meeting was fixed for The Royal College of Physicians, at a date to be arranged later.

After the meeting the members were entertained to tea by Mrs. O'Higgins, at "Elmhurst".

MENTAL DEFICIENCY SECTION

The Annual General Meeting of the Mental Deficiency Section was held at Rampton Hospital on Thursday, 29 April, 1965, by kind permission of the Ministry of Health and Dr. D. R. K. Street, Medical Superintendent.

Members were taken on a conducted tour of the hospital and much interest was shown in the wide range of skills taught. After lunch the business meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Dr. G. McCoull, who announced the resignation of the

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Secretary of the Section, Dr. Alexander Shapiro. In thanking Dr. Shapiro for his fourteen years' service in this post, Dr. McCoull congratulated him on his election as Chairman of the International Committee on the Scientific Study of Mental Deficiency and his Presidency-elect of the International Association for the Scientific Study of Mental Deficiency. It was announced that the next International Conference would be at Easter 1967, probably in the South of France.

The main business of the meeting concerned the report by the Sub-Committee on the Training of Specialists in Mental Deficiency, which was accepted and referred to Council.

PAPER

Review Tribunals, with Special Reference to Rampton Hospital

by Lt.-Col. C. E. J. Freer, D.L., J.P.

Chairman of Review Tribunals, Sheffield Regional Hospital Board

Colonel Freer pointed out that those selected to become Chairmen and members of Tribunals were given little previous instruction in their duties. Nevertheless, in the Sheffield Region the hundreds of appeals heard at Rampton and the much smaller number at other hospitals had passed off smoothly and almost without untoward incident. This was partly because of the constant help and co-operation of the doctors concerned. It might be thought by some that every time a patient was ordered to be discharged the Tribunal was telling the Responsible Authority that it had erred; this, however, was not his idea of the situation. In almost all cases such decisions were reached after much hesitation—there had never been in his recollection a clear and obvious case for discharge—and were due to different degrees of importance attaching to the same set of facts. There were occasions when the doctor might wish, in the patient's interests, to complete and perfect his work, whereas the Tribunal might feel that this factor was outweighed by other considerations.

In the 15 Regions, up to the end of 1964, there had been 4,031 cases heard, and 431 patients had been discharged—a little over 10 per cent. The figures for Rampton were as shown in the Table.

Of the 48 discharges, 20 could be regarded as successes; reports from Mental Welfare Officers showed that they had settled down and were giving no trouble. Of the remainder, 3 had died, about half-a-dozen were "unsatisfactory" for one reason or another; in 10 cases no report was available. Eight patients had found their way back to Rampton or to some other mental or mental subnormality hospital; these were clearly the Tribunal's failures.

Members of Tribunals always welcomed the presence of relatives and friends, though at times it was essential to limit the numbers actually attending. In about 20 per cent. of the cases heard at Rampton there had been some form of representation on the patient's behalf: sometimes by a solicitor or member of the Bar, more often by members of the Council for Civil Liberties. On the whole Tribunals encouraged representation; however, in the past there had been one or two Council for Civil Liberties representatives who did not appear to have appreciated either their own job or that of the Tribunal.

He supposed that every hospital, of whatever type

Table

	Appeals		Total	Discharged	Percentage of Discharges (approx.)	Classification			
	M	F				Subnormal	Severely Subnormal	Psycho-paths	Mentally Ill
1961	120	19	139	7	5	2	1	4	–
1962	108	33	141	9	7	5	2	2	–
1963	163	55	218	15	7	8	2	4	1
1964	157	34	191	17	9	9	4	3	1
Total	548	141	689	48*	–	24	9	13	2

* Including 39 men and 9 women.

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had a brush with the Press from time to time, and Rampton was no exception; but on the whole the relationship between Press and Tribunal has settled down to an amiable armed neutrality, and the Tribunals were usually left in peace. When the Press had attended hearings, they had been given every courtesy and help by the Hospital Authorities here; they had observed his own request not to publish the names of the members of the Tribunal, and no one could have objected to the subsequent published reports.

This paper gave rise to a lively discussion, and brought home to members from other hospitals the great amount of time which had to be devoted by medical staff at Rampton to the preparation of reports for, and giving evidence to the numerous Mental Health Review Tribunals held at the hospital.

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