THE ROYAL MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

THE AUTUMN 1946 MEETING of the South-Western Division was held by kind hospitality of Dr. R. E. HEMPHILL, at Bristol Mental Hospital, Fishponds, Bristol, on Wednesday, 23 October, 1946.

Present.—Dr. R. G. McInnes in the Chair. Drs. S. M. Allan, K. C. Bailey, F. Bodman, E. Casson, G. A. Danby, T. A. Danby, A. Darlington, D. Early, D. S. Fairweather, G. W. T. H. Fleming, F. Golla, K. A. Graf, P. G. Grant, R. E. Hemphill, T. J. Hennelly, E. L. Hutton, R. M. Hunter, I. H. Jenkins, J. F. Lyons, S. E. Martin, J. Russell, A. C. Sinclair, J. M. C. Speer, A. L. Taylor, and the Hon. Divisional Secretary.

There were eleven guests present in addition.

The Report of the Divisional Committee of Management was received.

Dr. R. G. McInnes was unanimously re-elected Hon. Divisional Chairman for the ensuing year.

The following were elected to the Divisional Committee of Management: Drs. S. E. Martin (Salisbury), R. E. Hemphill (Bristol), J. M. Speer (Devizes), G. J. Bell (Southampton), I. Atkin (Fareham), J. Russell (Exeter), and Dr. T. J. Hennelly (Cardiff).

It was decided to postpone the election of an Hon. Assistant Divisional Secretary for the present.

The following was elected as an Ordinary Member:

HUGH SCOTT FORBES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.M., Psychiatrist to the Devon County Council; Honorary Consultant in Psychiatry, Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, Exeter; 56, Polsloe Road, Exeter.

Proposed by Drs. E. W. Anderson, D. Prentice and R. Eager.

It was left to the Hon. Secretary to fix the place and date of the Spring Meeting, 1947.

A letter from Dr. W. S. Falla was received sympathetically by the Meeting, but no specific suggestions were made or information provided.

The HON. DIVISIONAL SECRETARY read a request from the Secretary of the Educational Committee for the nomination of members for the panel of examiners. It was decided to nominate Dr. K. C. Bailey and Dr. G. A. Danby for the Preliminary Examination, and Dr. S. A. Allan and Dr. G. de M. Rudolf for the Final Examination.

A vote of thanks to Dr. R. E. Hemphill and the Visiting Committee of Fishponds Hospital for their kind hospitality in entertaining Members to lunch and tea was proposed by the HON. DIVISIONAL CHAIRMAN and passed with acclamation.

Dr. HEMPHILL then gave a short introductory account of the demonstration of research work in progress which was to follow, and outlined his conceptions of the physiological approach to certain psychiatric problems.

Members were then conducted on a tour of the laboratories and animal houses by Dr. MAX REISS, who demonstrated the many interesting investigations which were going on under his direction. Members were most impressed by the skilful conversion of disused accommodation at this hospital into laboratories, animal house, photographic room and X-ray room. An exhibition of psychotic and neurotic art had also been arranged by Dr. Hemphill and his medical colleagues, and Members found this also most interesting.

It was generally felt that Dr. Hemphill and his staff had been most successful in arranging an exceedingly pleasant and instructive Meeting at his hospital.

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THE SPRING 1947 MEETING of the South-Western Division was held by kind hospitality of the Directors of The Old Manor, Salisbury, and Dr. S. EDGAR MARTIN with Dr. G. F. ANDREWS, at the Savoy Hotel and at Hume Towers, Bournemouth, on Friday, 25 April, 1947.

Dr. R. G. McInnes was in the Chair.

The following were present as Members: Drs. G. F. Andrews, A. L. Taylor, F. M. Stewart, K. C. Bailey, F. Pilkington, R. M. Hunter, D. Odlum, G. Bell, H. Hill, J. Russell, S. M. Allan, D. Prentice, H. Scott Forbes, T. A. Danby, D. Ellis Jones, J. M. C. Speer, S. E. Martin, G. A. Danby, J. S. Horsley and the Hon. Divisional Secretary.

There were six guests present in addition.

The Report of the Divisional Committee of Management was received and the following were elected unanimously:

Hon. Divisional Chairman . . .	Dr. R. G. McInnes.
Hon. Divisional Secretary	Dr. R. W. Armstrong.
Junior Representative Member of Council .	Dr. W. M. Pinkerton.

It was decided not to proceed to the election of an Hon. Assistant Secretary at present, but to reconsider this appointment at the next Divisional Meeting.

The following were elected as Ordinary Members:

GEORGE HENRY COLLINS, M.B., Ch.B.Glasg., Assistant Medical Officer, Royal Western Counties Institution, Starcross, Devon.
Proposed by Drs. D. Prentice, S. M. Allan and D. C. Dewar.

DELFUN LEWIS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Assistant Medical Officer, City Mental Hospital, Whitchurch, Cardiff.
Proposed by Drs. T. J. Hennelly, R. Ström-Olsen and S. L. Last.

JOHN JOSEPH RYAN, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H., D.P.M., Deputy Medical Superintendent, Royal Western Counties Institution, Starcross, Devon.
Proposed by Drs. D. Prentice, R. Clive Walker and F. E. Kingston.

SIDNEY R. SHAW, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Junior Medical Officer, Somerset and Bath Mental Hospital, Norton Fitzwarren, near Taunton.
Proposed by Drs. K. C. Bailey, J. Walsh and R. Sessions Hodge.

The HON. SECRETARY reported that he had received an invitation for the next Divisional Meeting to take place by kind invitation of Dr. Burrows at Holme Lacey, Hereford. It was left to the Hon. Secretary to fix the date of this meeting towards the end of October, 1947.

By permission Dr. K. C. BAILEY raised the question of forming advisory committees in each region of the South-Western Division to be available for giving advice on questions of mental health to the regional boards when these are constituted. Dr. Bailey was anxious that any such scheme should fit into the framework of the R.M.P.A., and proposed that the Hon. Divisional Secretary should forward to the Hon. General Secretary under Regulation 37 of the Bye-Laws a resolution of the Division that medical groups be set up under the aegis of the R.M.P.A. in each National Health Service region to discuss matters affecting mental health services and make representations to the regional boards thereon. This resolution was seconded by Dr. DANBY and carried *nem. con.*

Dr. G. F. ANDREWS then read a paper on "Alcoholism," in which he reviewed the historical aspects of his subject, discussed the aetiology, and gave an account of past and present methods of treatment. Discussion followed, in which Drs. PILKINGTON, ALLAN, PRENTICE and the HON. CHAIRMAN took part.

Dr. HORACE HILL was prevented by pressure of time from fully elaborating his interesting paper on the subject of "The Use of Combined Injections of Insulin and Histamine in Mental Disease," but he was able to give a brief account of his original technique and described the immediate and remote clinical changes which take place after injection. His paper stimulated a lively discussion, in which Drs. ANDREWS, TAYLOR, BAILEY, HUNTER, ODLUM and the HON. CHAIRMAN took part.

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SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BELGIAN SOCIETY FOR MENTAL MEDICINE AND THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BELGIAN SOCIETY OF NEUROLOGY. ACCOUNT OF VISIT BY R.M.P.A. DELEGATE.

By J. C. PENTON, Lt.-Col. R.A.M.C.

IT was a great pleasure to me to attend the conference of the Belgian Societies of Mental Medicine and Neurology as official representative of the R.M.P.A. during the last week-end of September. Having been stationed for nearly a year in Brussels and Antwerp during 1945–1946, Belgian hospitality was nothing new to me and I wished I had had some British colleagues who had not experienced it before to enjoy it with me. Dr. McArdle, the British representative of Neurology, had, like myself, known Belgium for some months after the liberation. Besides being sumptuously entertained both to lunch and dinner, we were honoured by being received by Monsieur le Bourgmestre in the most famous of mediaeval Town Halls in Brussels and we had the rare delight of inspecting the interior with its remarkable historical and artistic treasures.

Unfortunately my military duties prevented me from attending the psychiatric part of the celebrations in Ghent, but the high standard set during the neurological proceedings was truly amazing, considering how recently Belgium has emerged from an oppressive occupation. I am not competent to criticize the papers which were read to the meeting, and can only express my admiration for Prof. Bremer's delightful style of speaking, so rich in fastidious gesture, and Dr. Laruelle's magnificent display of microphotographs of the spinal column. The appended list of papers read to the meeting is a great tribute to the vigour of Belgian Neurology and Psychiatry, while the fact that the Société Belge de Médecine Mentale and the Société Belge de Neurologie made a joint festival of their separate celebrations, shows a spirit of partnership and common aim between the two related faculties, not always found in this country. It was pleasant also to meet not only Belgian, but Dutch, French and Swiss colleagues, and it was with regret that Dr. McArdle and I found ourselves the only British representatives in a country that lies so near and has such close ties with Great Britain. I greatly hope that if I have the pleasure of attending another such meeting I shall find better British support and I can assure anyone who should attend of a warm welcome.

List of Papers Read at the Meeting.

September 28 : Visit to the Asylum at Melle.

,, 29 : " The Electrical Activity of the Cerebral Cortex," Prof. Bremer ; " Observations on the Process of Ageing in the Brain," Prof. Divry ; " Studies in the Normal, Pathological and Experimental Anatomy of the Nervous System—Results Achieved—Future Plans," Dr. Laruelle ; " Hodographic Methods and Achievements in Neurology," Prof. van Gehuchten ; " The Histopathological Approach to the Problems of Diseases of the White Matter of the Brain," Dr. Ludo van Bogaert.

,, 30 : " The Diagnostic Value of Disorders of the Sweat Mechanism in Medullary Compression," Ectors and Hoffman ; " Sciatica from Lumbar Disc Hernia—Diagnosis by Lipiodol—Operative Indications and Technique—Immediate and Long-term Results," Ectors, Rademecker and Franken ; " Tumours of the Third Ventricle," Ectors ; " Cerebellar, Myoclonic Dyssynergy," Mme. D. Louis-Bar ; " First Anatomical Observation of a Degenerative," Jean Titeca and Ludo van Bogaert ; " Marie's Hereditary Ataxia with Atrophy of the Pallido-Luysian and Papillo-macular Tracts," Mme. M. Andre van Leeuwen ; " Two Clinical Aspects of Congenital Agenesis of the Cerebellum," A. de Haene ; " A Case of Guillaume Barré's Polyradiculitis with Suspended Albumino-Cytological Dissociation," Mme. M. A. Radermecker and De Keuwer ; " Neurological Aspects of Degenerative Inflammation of the Liver," Mme. M. Andre ; " A Case of Acute Necrotic Myelitis," M. J. Radermecker.

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