6. The following candidates were elected to Membership:

DEVLIN, WILHELMINA LOUISA, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.P.M., Psychiatrist to Lancashire and Liverpool Education Committees; Hazeldene, 155, Victoria Road, New Brighton, Cheshire.

Proposed by Drs. H. S. Bryan, Mary C. Lydon and Muriel Barton Hall.

DUNDAS, J., M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.M., Psychiatrist, Menston Hospital, Leeds.

Proposed by Drs. I. Sutton, J. S. Johnstone and S. Smith.

MOODY, DWIGHT LIONEL, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S., Registrar, Winwick Mental Hospital, Warrington, Lancs.

Proposed by Drs. John R. Beith Robb, W. A. M. Robinson and G. J. Harrison.

NUSSBAUM, ILSE RUTH, M.D.(Berlin), D.P.M.(Dublin), Consultant Psychiatrist Rainhill Hospital, nr. Liverpool.

Proposed by Drs. B. Finkleman, George Egan and D. J. Salfield.

URQUHART, JOHN ARGYLE, M.B., Ch.B., Registrar, Mapperley Hospital, Nottingham; 25, Whittingham, Road, Mapperley, Nottingham.

Proposed by Drs. Duncan Macmillan, H. Fisher and W. L. Jones.

7. *Any other business.*—Dr. PENTREATH asked whether the R.M.P.A. could recommend a standard form giving permission for E.C.T. The President reported that the R.M.P.A. had not as yet attempted this, since other bodies had found it extremely difficult.

CLINICAL SESSION.

Dr. MILDRED CREAK read a paper on **"Psychosis in Childhood."** She said that she would confine herself to the clinical aspect only, but nevertheless succeeded in covering a very much wider field, quoting from numerous authorities as well as her own work, and indicating possible causative factors as well as the theoretical background. She pointed out that quite a number of cases, especially those suffering from early infantile autism, are wrongly diagnosed as defective. She illustrated the mannerisms, appearance and stereotyped behaviour of some of her own cases by means of a short film.

Dr. MARY MACAULEY presented two very detailed and complete illustrative case histories of two patients who presented diagnostic difficulties, and who had been demonstrated in the morning at the Children's Unit.

A very lively discussion ensued, in which—

Dr. ESHER drew attention to children dying of "broken heart," and gave illustrations of undiagnosed attacks of deep depression in childhood.

Dr. EICKHOFF put forward a tentative theory that there was a type of psychosis in childhood due to a failure in the field of sensation, so that the capacity for abstract thinking is absent. These children are unable to evolve a body image, and as a result show bepuzzlement and lack of recognition on seeing themselves in a mirror.

Dr. BURNS quoted a case of total deafness in combination with infantile autism.

Dr. STERN suggested that psychosomatic conditions, such as ulcerative colitis and marasmus were often accompaniments of undiagnosed psychosis.

Dr. WHILES, dealing mainly with children of school age, had found two cases of pure schizophrenic-like reactions in some 2,000 new cases seen in the last four years, but there were four others under observation, and two with psychotic-like reactions, which were, in effect, due to organic conditions.

Dr. GOODLAD requested information on the efficacy of physical methods of treatment.

Dr. CREAK replied to the discussion.

After a vote of thanks, proposed by the Chairman and carried with acclamation, the business concluded with an excellent tea.

SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

THE AUTUMN MEETING of the South-Western Division was held on Friday, 20 October, 1950, at Littlemore Hospital, near Oxford, at the kind invitation of the Hospital Management Committee and Dr. R. W. Armstrong.

Twenty members were present.

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0368315X5124662X Published online by Cambridge University Press

The President, Dr. K. K. Drury, took the Chair at the beginning of the meeting and expressed his pleasure at being present and his intention of visiting all the Divisions during his year of office.

The report of the Divisional Committee of Management was received and the following members were unanimously elected to fill the vacancies on the Divisional Committee of Management: Drs. R. W. Armstrong, Delfun Lewis and Frances Pilkington.

Apologies for absence were received from three members.

The Chair was then taken by Dr. K. C. Bailey, Divisional Chairman, who, in his opening remarks, welcomed the President and expressed the pleasure of the meeting at his presence.

The following was elected as an Ordinary Member of the Association:

WALKER, WILLIAM LUMSDEN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Registrar, Moorhaven Hospital, Ivybridge, Devon.

Proposed by Drs. F. Pilkington, J. M. Gilroy and A. N. Graham.

Mrs. DANBY then read a paper entitled "**Observations on Mental Rehabilitation,**" in the course of which she described several cases. She pointed out the difficulties, both for the patient and his family, which often followed discharge from hospital, and suggested an interim period of residence for the patient in some setting other than that of his own family. She also emphasized the importance of suitable job placement and the necessity for co-operation with the employer and the resettlement officer. Mrs. Danby had also found it useful to place some patients with "tranquil families."

In the discussion which followed, the CHAIRMAN expressed dissatisfaction with the present arrangements for after-care. On this point a letter from the President to Dr. Armstrong (General Secretary), dealing with the unsatisfactoriness of the situation since the repeal of Section 80, Part 2, of the Lunacy Act, was read to the meeting. The PRESIDENT spoke on this subject, emphasizing the lack of provision for the patient who must be discharged "Recovered," but who had nowhere to go and no means of subsistence. The PRESIDENT felt that the matter was one which required immediate attention and positive action. After a discussion, in which some divergence of view was manifest, a Resolution was proposed from the Chair and carried by a majority, in the following terms:

> "That this Division (South-Western Division) is of the opinion that the whole position regarding the prevention of psychiatric illness and the provision of after-care is unsatisfactory, especially since the repeal of Section 80, Part 2, of the Lunacy Act. There is often duplication of function by psychiatric social workers from mental hospitals and duly authorized officers from the local authorities. The South-Western Division requests the Association to review the matter with a view to approaching the Minister concerning the action that might be taken."

Dr. PAUL BERKENAU (of the Park Hospital for Functional Nervous Disorders, Oxford) then read a paper, by invitation, entitled "**Some Impressions of the Recent Congress in Psychiatry at Paris,**" with special reference to Phenomenology. Dr. Berkenau said that he had been specially interested in the discussion on this subject at Paris, since it appeared to throw fresh light on the nature of delusions and other inner experiences in the mental life of patients. The delusion, as uttered, was the final product, and before this there has gone a diffuse inner experience, full of affect, which was ultimately crystallized in delusions. At this point the patient frequently experienced a relaxing of tension. Phenomenology was of great importance, not only for a diagnostic appreciation of abnormal mental states, but also for psychotherapy. The "Phenomenology of the Encounter" with the patient could give valuable indications to the therapist as to the patient's nuances of feeling and attitude.

An interesting discussion followed, in which Dr. SHEPHERD, Mrs. DANBY and others took part. The view was expressed that the emphasis of phenomenology upon the subjectivity of mental life was reminiscent of the attitude of the old-fashioned family physician, who knew what was wrong with his patients by understanding them.

Members and guests were very kindly entertained to lunch and tea by the Hospital Management Committee and Dr. Armstrong. The Chairman of the

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0368315X5124662X Published online by Cambridge University Press

Hospital Management Committee, Mr. J. H. Morrell, welcomed the members and guests at lunch and tea, and he and Dr. Armstrong were suitably thanked by the Chairman of the Division. At the close of the meeting a hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Armstrong for his hospitality was passed with acclamation.

SCOTTISH DIVISION.

A MEETING of the Scottish Division was held on Thursday, 26 October, 1950, at 7, Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh. Twenty members attended and 10 apologies for absence were noted.

Dr. P. K. McCowan was installed as Chairman.

The following were duly elected to Ordinary Membership of the Association:

CROTTY, VINCENT GERARD, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.M., Deputy-Physician Superintendent, Kingseat Hospital, Newmachar, Aberdeenshire.
Proposed by Drs. Adam Milne, W. A. Cramond and E. J. C. Hewitt.

INGLIS, MARGARET ROSE, M.B., Ch.B., House Officer, Kingseat Hospital; 21, Church Street, Woodside, Aberdeen.
Proposed by Drs. Adam Milne, W. A. Cramond and E. J. C. Hewitt.

McNAB, DUNCAN LAMONT, M.B., Ch.B., Junior Hospital Medical Officer, Hawkhead Mental Hospital; 82, Norse Road, Glasgow, W.4.
Proposed by Drs. James Milne, William S. Thomson and J. W. Sandler.

ROBINSON, WILILAM ERNEST, L.R.C.P.&S., Junior Hospital Medical Officer, Hawkhead Mental Hospital; 510, Crookston Road, Glasgow, S.W.3.
Proposed by Drs. James Milne, William S. Thomson and J. W. Sandler.

SWINNEY, GEORGE EWEN, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., Registrar, Kingseat Hospital; Strathleven, Cults, Aberdeenshire.
Proposed by Drs. Adam Milne, W. A. Cramond and E. J. C. Hewitt.

WYLIE, THOMAS ALAN, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., Registrar, Kingseat Mental Hospital, Newmachar, Aberdeenshire.
Proposed by Drs. Adam Milne, W. A. Cramond and E. J. C. Hewitt.

The meeting discussed various matters concerning the Health Service in Scotland, a plan for increasing the autonomy of the Division and the setting up of various Sub-Committees, representation on the General Nursing Council and the respective duties of Medical Superintendents and Secretaries within Mental Hospitals.

IRISH DIVISION.

THE SUMMER QUARTERLY AND CLINICAL MEETING of the Irish Division of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association was held on Wednesday, 19 July, 1950, at Cork Mental Hospital by the kind invitation of Dr. B. F. Honan.

Twenty-nine members and two guests were present.

The meeting opened at University College, Cork, where the President Prof. Alfred O'Rahilly, M.A., D.Sc., D.Phil., D.Litt., delivered an address entitled **"Piecemeal Man."**

Dr. O'Rahilly opened his subject from an historical point of view. He indicated how such original minds as those of Copernicus, Gallileo, Newton and Darwin had in their time introduced revolutionary ideas which the process of time and experience had purified and the thought of succeeding generations ad assimilated until their proper status had finally been assessed. He said that he thought Freud was such another influence. He had discovered facts of fundamental importance in connection with man's mind and it would take time before the process of purification and assimilation had taken place. Although there was much in Freud that he admired and believed to be true, there was also very much which he believed to be false. He warned doctors, and psychiatrists in particular, against the too ready acceptance of all Freud's teachings because this might lead to a flouting of morality and religion. He felt that a doctor's training did not equip him to deal with such questions and pointed out the need for a medical student to have a training in philosophy so that he should be better equipped to assess the work of such men as Freud and take from it the good and reject the worthless. He felt that a

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0368315X5124662X Published online by Cambridge University Press