and logically designed therapeutic trials. If he had, Dr. Slater doubted whether he could have done more than he had. The double-blind trial was not the way to make discoveries, only the way to confirm them. For discoveries one needed something once prized in our medical schools, now thought of less and less account, the flair that came from personal powers of empathy, a wish to understand the patient, a willingness to listen very carefully to what he said, because you knew he was trying to tell the truth as nearly as he could find words for it, and came also from the experience of many years of looking at and listening to hundreds of just such patients, the capacity to sense almost invisible leads, to collate, magically it might seem to the outsider some subtle way in which this particular patient resembled another or others in the past, the capacity to form unconsciously those seminal ideas which seeped up into the pre-conscious and then emerged when the circumstances were there to which they could give the key.

Will Sargant had been endowed by heredity not only with the temperament of the artist, but also with the qualities of the missionary and reformer. His warmth and enthusiasm had been of a mettle to withstand the erosion of the years. No one who knew him but was aware of his tender-heartedness to his patients, and knew also how this was tempered by a keen sense of what was possible. With this force of character the greatness of his achievement could be understood, achievement that would have deserved the highest insignia of success. But what is success in this worldly sense? "Success", John Masefield said, "is the brand on the brow for aiming low."

Dr. Slater closed by saying that the lecture had been as stimulating and controversial as ever.

The Vote of Thanks was carried by acclamation.

Section Meetings

At the meeting of the Mental Deficiency Section Dr. Richard Mein read a paper **"The role of the Clinical Psychologist in the Mental Subnormality Hospital".**

The following papers were read at the meeting of the Research and Clinical Section:

"A Service for the Psychiatric and Social Management of Repeated Acts of Self-Poisoning or Self-Injury" by Dr. R. C. Hicks.

"A Comparison of Patient Populations in Out-Patient, In-Patient and Day Patient Services" by Dr. N. H. Rathod.

"The Use of Statistics in the Evaluation of Comprehensive Psychiatric Services" by Drs. E. R. Bransby and J. Brothwood.

"Evaluation of the Therapeutic Community" by Dr. F. Letemendia.

The Child Psychiatry Section met at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital and Dr. J. H. Kahn delivered the Chairman's Address entitled **"A Suitable Treatment for Cases".** The meeting was followed by the Section's Annual Dinner.

At a meeting organized by the Librarian on the History of Psychiatry Dr. M. W. Annear read a paper entitled **"Madness and Healing in Ancient and Classical Greece".**

The Chairman's Address to the Psychotherapy and Social Psychiatry Section was delivered by Dr. T. F. Main and entitled **"Psychiatrists, Psychotherapies and Psychiatric Settings".**

ANNUAL MEETING 1968

It is regretted that the following Committee and Section Reports were accidentally omitted in the October, 1968, Supplement.

Report of Parliamentary Committee

The Parliamentary Committee met five times during the year and the General Purposes Sub-Committee twice. Working Parties were set up and have prepared memoranda on behalf of the Association on a wide variety of topics of current public policy. These have included evidence to the Committee on the Functions of the District General Hospital, the Royal Commission on Assize and Quarter Sessions (jointly with the Forensic Psychiatry Sub-Committee), the Ministry of Health Joint Sub-Committee reviewing the Health and Welfare Service for Epileptic People (jointly with the Sections of Child Psychiatry and Mental Deficiency), the Select Committee on Estimates of the House of Commons on the Special Hospitals and the Advisory Council on the Penal System review of the Operation of Detention Centres (both the latter jointly with the Forensic Psychiatry Sub-Committee). In many cases the written evidence has been supported by oral evidence on behalf of the Association. Delegations have called on the sponsors of the Divorce Reform Bill at the House of Commons, The Abortion Bill 1967 at the House of Commons, and at the Home Office, and a variety of central departments as well as the British Medical Association and the National Association for Mental Health.

The Abortion Act 1967 received the Royal Assent on 27 October and is now in operation although the social clause is still causing some concern. The Sexual Offences (No. 2) Act 1967 provides that homosexual acts between consenting adults shall no longer be a

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0007125069309476 Published online by Cambridge University Press

crime, increased penalties for the seduction of a minor by an adult, and ensures that male prostitution will be dealt with in similar lines to the present law on female prostitution.

Voting rights of psychiatric in-patients have been urged on the Home Office for some years in view of the fact that the present law excludes from the franchise psychiatric in-patients who are otherwise legally capable. A recent improvement in the overall situation has now been gained in the case of informal patients who still have a home address. It will be possible for such patients to be included in the annual return as to residents, now being provided for use at the canvass this coming Autumn for inclusion in the Electoral Register to be published in February, 1969. A pilot survey is being carried out by the National Association for Mental Health to ascertain what proportion of informal patients is likely to benefit from this recommendation.

Aspects of the problem raised by psychiatric patients of no fixed abode in relation to hostel provision and financial support have been reviewed, especially those arising through conflicts with local authorities. These problems are being raised directly with the central Ministries concerned.

The special Committee appointed by Council to review the Working Party Report on the Organization of Medical Work in Hospitals has expressed general support for the document as a safeguard for the place of clinical administration in District General Hospitals and in Teaching Hospitals. The particular problems raised in the single Psychiatric Hospital are being closely watched and representations are being made to the Ministry Working Party. The absence of a psychiatrist on the Working Party and the need of psychiatric guidance have been emphasized as well as the need for the Chairman of the Psychiatric Division to be elected and his position subsequently ratified. Flexibility should be maintained in order to meet particular local situations.

A recent letter from the Ministry of Health drawing attention to the liability in negligence of consultants in relation to the security of detained patients has been noted and its implications explored. After consultation with the legal advisers to the Defence Societies, this letter has been accepted as a correct appreciation of the law of negligence applicable to detained patients. In this connection the addition of a Restriction Order by the Criminal Courts when a Responsible Medical Officer has only agreed to accepting the patient on a Section 60 Hospital Order has been discussed and misgivings have been ventilated. This topic has drawn attention to the overall lack of high security beds in the Special Hospitals and the need for pilot projects in the Regions for medium security units.

The recent announcement by the Minister in connection with prescription charges was considered, and the conspicuous absence of psychiatric states in the list of exempted conditions was noted. Special representations have been made to the Minister to include chronic schizophrenia, protracted depression, chronic anxiety states and brain damaged children in the list of exempted patients.

Parliamentary proceedings are closely followed by the Committee with the help of Dr. Alexander Walk's careful digest of *Hansard*. Overall scrutiny of legislative and administrative trends has been maintained in spite of increasing complexity of this field of social administration.

Report of the Papers and Discussions Committee

The Committee met on four occasions during the year.

A Sub-Committee was formed under the chairmanship of Dr. A. K. M. Macrae to organize, with our American colleagues, the joint A.P.A./R.M.P.A. Meeting in May, 1968 in Boston.

At the Annual Meeting in July, 1967, a most interesting series of Papers were presented on the contribution of sociology and psychoanalysis to psychiatry.

The November papers were concerned with objective measurements in anxiety and depression, subjects which were again included in the February Meeting, together with drug addiction.

This May meeting was again largely with objective measurement, this time in relation to Psychosomatic disorders and psychiatric aspects of student health. The standard of these papers was high, and showed that scientific measurement can be applied to all aspects of psychiatric disorders.

Report of the Public Relations Committee

The Committee held two meetings during the year.

The principal matters under discussion, apart from routine interventions by members of the Committee to correct misleading statements in the press about (to quote one single example), "Eurovision pop song written by Harley Street psychoanalyst as solution to own problems", were concerned with the future functions of the Committee should the Association achieve the object of becoming a College within the reasonably near future. This amounted in essence to the need for a professional Public Relations Officer

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0007125069309476 Published online by Cambridge University Press

who would be a journalist with a salaried part-time appointment; and the establishment of effective machinery for consultation between the College and Psychiatric Hospitals and Departments of General Hospitals over general matters of policy involving the improvement of public relations, and particularly a deserved increase of public confidence in the identification of the College with enlightened standards of individual patient care. Both these matters were minuted and extensively discussed at the last (7 February, 1968) meeting of the Committee.

The Secretary of the Committee accepted the role of liaison officer between this Committee and the *Bulletin* of the World Psychiatric Association. Active communication is in progress on this front. The Secretary has also undertaken to act as convener for the 7th International Congress on Mental Health, to be held in August this year, his specific contribution in this respect being the role of public information and communication in matters of mental health and sickness.

Report of the Psychotherapy and Social Psychiatry Section

At the Annual Business Meeting of the Section on 10 April, 1968, the following election results were confirmed: Chairman, 1968–69, Dr. T. F. Main; Hon. Secretary, Dr. I. S. Kreeger. Vacancies on the Executive Committee were filled by Drs. R. W. Crocket, D. H. Heard, M. Pines, W. L. Tonge. Dr. K. Weeks has agreed to serve as a co-opted member of the Committee.

Dr. T. F. Main and Dr. I. S. Kreeger were elected representatives of the Section on Council and Dr. I. S. Kreeger the representative of the Section on the Education Committee.

There were six meetings of the Section during the year.

The series of papers entitled "Towards Community Mental Health" presented under the Chairmanship of Dr. J. D. Sutherland, were completed in June and July, 1967, by Geoffrey Gorer speaking on "The Congruent Society" and Professor Norman Cohn on "The Myth of the Jewish World Conspiracy. A case study in collective psychopathology".

Four meetings have taken place under the Chairmanship of Dr. G. S. Prince. In November and December, 1967, Dr. H. H. Wolff and Dr. I. S. Kreeger read papers on "The Training of Psychiatrists in Psychotherapy. Practice, Problems and Principles". In February, 1968, Dr. T. F. Main with a Seminar Group of doctors from the Family Planning Association conducted a demonstration of a Seminar on Psychosexual Problems. In April, Dr. R. F. Hobson read a paper on "Psychodynamic Principles in the Diagnostic Interview".

The Executive Committee has met on six occasions. It has considered a number of issues concerning the future of the Section in the proposed new College, the policy of the *British Journal of Psychiatry* and the adequacy of the Section's representation on the Standing Committees of Council.

The Committee has, at the request of Council, nominated representatives of the Section to serve on Special Committees preparing evidence for the Ministry of Health on the Functions of a District General Hospital, and on the Health and Welfare Services for Epileptic People. It is also organizing a Special Interest Meeting on the Training of Medical Undergraduates in connection with the forthcoming International Congress on Mental Health.

On 1 January, 1968, there were 1,804 members of the Section.

SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION

The Spring Meeting of the South-Western Division was held at Whitchurch Hospital, Cardiff, on Thursday, 4 April 1968, by kind invitation of the Hospital Management Committee and Dr. J. P. Spillane, Physician Superintendent.

Members visited the hospital, and were particularly interested in the Alcoholic Unit, the Professorial Unit, the Industrial Unit and the Geriatric Unit. Members were welcomed by Mr. Arthur Manley, J.P., the Chairman of the Hospital Management Committee; and after a pleasant lunch the Divisional Chairman, Dr. R. W. Simpson, expressed the appreciation of the Division for the excellent arrangements for the visit, especially as it might well be the last official visit of the Division to Wales, in view of the likelihood that a Welsh Branch would be formed in the near future.

Divisional Committee of Management

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

The Committee were informed that it had been agreed by Council that a sum of £50 per year would be available to Divisions and Sections towards meeting the travelling expenses of speakers at their meetings. It was decided that the host hospital at future meetings should be informed that this provision had now been made.

A full discussion had then taken place on Medical Organization in Hospitals, in the light of the recent

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0007125069309476 Published online by Cambridge University Press