IRISH DIVISION

THE AUTUMN QUARTERLY MEETING of the Irish Division was held at the Royal College of Physicians, Kildare Street, Dublin, by kind permission of the President and Fellows, on Wednesday, 4 November, 1959.

Dr. H. J. Eustace read the first paper entitled **"Educational Psychiatry"**. This was a report of the Committee on which he worked at the World Health Congress in Helsinki and the Conference on Mental Hygiene. They discussed the selection of students which varied considerably in different medical schools. The needs of the teachers was discussed and it was mentioned that older teachers have sometimes a hostile attitude towards the psychological aspects of their cases. The attitude of teachers they found was also dominated by their own specialty. Much good or bad training in mental health principles started with the behaviour of teachers in small details. For instance in Russia great importance was now attached to the behaviour of teachers at the bedside. Careful thought is given to what the doctor says in the hearing of the patient. The function of the teaching hospital had to have a balance struck between the number of staff and the number of patients, so that there was enough time for teaching and enough attention given to the patient. The danger was that the hospital was forgetting its primary aim which is the treatment of the sick, and becoming an institution for the benefit of the doctors, students and nurses. Dr. Eustace then went on to describe the teaching of the medical student, with special reference to psychological medicine; there were many different but frequently complementary methods of teaching discussed. It was decided that an examination in psychological medicine and mental hygiene should be given to the students, as they were unlikely to learn these branches if they were not examined in them. It was also suggested that in post-graduate training frequent refresher courses should be given by a skilled psycho-therapist.

The Paper was discussed by Drs. Robinson, Dunne, Moran and Dr. Eustace replied.

Dr. Eustace then went on to give a short summary of two papers which came from Russia, **"The Principles of Preventing Nervous and Mental Diseases in the U.S.S.R."** by Professor D. D. Fedotov, Director, Central Institute of Psychiatry, and **"Prophylaxis of Psychoses and Neuroses in U.S.S.R."** by Professor E. A. Popov, Titular Member of the Academy of Medical Sciences, U.S.S.R.

These Papers were discussed by Drs. Foley, Dunne, Shea, Moran, Meehan, Dolphin, Egan, O'Higgins and Ryan. Dr. Eustace replied.

The date and place of the Spring Meeting was fixed for the Royal College of Physicians, Kildare Street, Dublin, on Wednesday, 27 April, 1960.

The following Ordinary members were elected:

BRENDA ROSEVEAR MONTGOMERY (*née* BOYDELL), B.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., "Fortrose", Greystones, Co. Wicklow.

L. O'CONNOR, District Mental Hospital, Ardee.

SEAMUS GALLAGHER, Assistant Physician, St. Patrick's Hospital, James's Street, Dublin.

The question of the Mental Health Year 1960 was discussed, and it was decided that the Secretary should send notice to the leaders of psychiatry in each part of Ireland.

Dr. Foley of Sligo brought up the question of the Health Authorities Bill, 1959, and it was decided that Dr. Foley would circularize all the Medical Superintendents with a questionnaire, and the replies should be sent to the Secretary of the Division.

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