IRISH DIVISION.

THE SPRING QUARTERLY AND CLINICAL MEETING of the Irish Division of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association was held on Thursday, 26 March, 1953, at St. Vincent's, Fairview, Dublin, by kind invitation of the Reverend Mother Superior of the Community.

Thirty-three members were present.

The members were most hospitably entertained to lunch, and afterwards a vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. COYNE and seconded by Dr. MOLONY.

Dr. W. J. Coyne was re-elected Chairman of the Division, and Dr. J. N. P. Moore and Dr. H. J. Eustace re-elected Divisional Secretary and Junior Representative Member of Council respectively.

The Summer Meeting was fixed for Thursday, 16 July, 1953. The invitation of Dr. G. M. Smith to visit Antrim which was kindly given at the last meeting was gratefully accepted.

The following was elected to Ordinary Membership :

MILLIKEN, JAMES ROSS, M.B., B.Ch., Principal Registrar in Psychiatry, Belfast Child Guidance Clinic and Claremont Street, Hospital; 22, College Gardens, Belfast.

Proposed by Drs. M. Evelyn Lothian, D. B. M. Lothian and B. P. Glancy.

The motion proposed by Dr. DUNNE and seconded by Dr. O'SULLIVAN was discussed by the proposer and by Drs. MORAN, H. J. EUSTACE, HONAN, FITZGERALD, MOLONY and CASSIN. Eventually it was agreed that the matter be postponed until the Spring Meeting of next year. Meanwhile, inquiries were to be made by the Secretary on the following three points :

(i) The possibility of a reduction in subscriptions for Irish members.

(ii) The possibility of a reduction in subscriptions for recently qualified members.

(iii) The possibility of an amnesty for lapsed members who wish to re-join.

Dr. COYNE then presented his communication entitled **"Guilty but Insane."** He modestly described an admirable summary of the medical and legal attitude to the McNaughten Rules as a few notes on criminal responsibility. He pointed out that where gross symptoms of mental illness were present and the patient was unfit to plead there was no real problem. It was in the case of lesser mental abnormality that more difficulty and confusion of thought occurs. One of the difficulties was in phraseology—such terms as " insanity " were legal and not medical terms. He suggested that a better term than " insanity " would be " legally incapacitated." He quarrelled, too, with the use of the word " guilty " in the case of people who are mentally ill; he felt that in these cases, the word " culpable " would be more just. He suggested that first of all a criminal should be tried without reference to his mental state; if it was questioned during the trial, then he should subsequently be examined by a panel of psychiatrists.

The communication was discussed by Drs. HONAN, MULLIGAN, ROBINSON, DAWSON, DUNNE, MOLONY, O'SULLIVAN and CASSIN. Dr. COYNE replied and the meeting adjourned.

NORTHERN AND MIDLAND DIVISION.

THE SPRING MEETING of the Division was held on Wednesday, 8 April, 1953 at Crumpsall Hospital, Manchester, by kind permission of the Medical Superintendent and his Management Committee.

In the morning Crumpsall Hospital, including the Psychiatric Unit, was inspected by members, and the neighbouring Springfield Hospital was also inspected through the kind co-operation of Dr. Blair.

Members sat down to an excellent lunch at 1 p.m., guests including Dr. Ramsay, Senior Administrative Medical Officer of the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board and former Medical Superintendent of Crumpsall, and also the Matron of Crumpsall. Dr. DONALD MACMILLAN, in the absence of the Chairman, expressed the thanks of the Division for the generous hospitality shown them.

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