THE

JOURNAL OF MENTAL SCIENCE

[*Published by Authority of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association.*]

SUPPLEMENT

JANUARY, 1940.

ROYAL MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING.

A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of the Association was held on Wednesday, November 8, 1939, at 11, Chandos Street, London, W. 1, to consider recommendations passed by an extraordinary meeting of the Council held on October 18.

On the motion of Dr. W. F. MENZIES, Sir Hubert Bond was unanimously voted to the chair in the unavoidable absence of the President.

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS.

The CHAIRMAN announced that there were four candidates recommended for membership. Particulars of their qualifications and the offices they held had not been circulated in the ordinary way, but the Council considered the applications in every case to be eminently satisfactory.

The HON. SECRETARY (Dr. Gordon Masefield) then read the nominations, which were as follows:

MAATJE VERA BUHRMANN, M.B., Ch.B., Cape Town, Medical Officer, Fort Napier Institution, Pietermaritzburg, Natal.
Application signed by Dr. A. Jennings Ironside.

STANLEY GEORGE JAMES, M.D., M.Ch., M.R.C.P., D.P.M., Deputy Medical Superintendent, Rampton State Institution, Retford.
Application signed by Dr. Frank Schneider.

JAMES BROWNE, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., Assistant Medical Officer, Botleys Park Colony, Chertsey, Surrey.
Application signed by Dr. D. Magrath.

FRANCIS REITMANN, M.D.Budapest and M.D.Vienna. Engaged in research unit at the Maudsley Hospital.
Application signed by Dr. R. S. Kennedy.

A ballot was taken and all four were unanimously elected, Dr. THOMAS and Dr. MCCARTNEY acting as Scrutineers.

THE ASSOCIATION'S EXAMINATIONS: WAR-TIME PROCEDURE.

The HON. SECRETARY said that the agenda of the present meeting simply stated that it had been called for the purpose of considering the recommendations of the extraordinary meeting of the Council held on October 18. Perhaps it would be just as well to refresh the memory of those present as to what had occurred.

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0368315X4024237X Published online by Cambridge University Press

Soon after the outbreak of hostilities it became obvious that something must be done with regard to the business of the Association, and after consultation with two senior members, namely, the President and Dr. Smith, he had a small leaflet sent round to say that owing to the state of emergency it was not possible to carry on the normal activities of the Association and that a further notice would be sent as soon as possible. The second thing that appeared essential was that there must be something in the nature of a pause before any definite decision was reached, at least that seemed to be the wise procedure; there had been a certain amount of criticism even on that, but that only showed the vitality of the Association and acted as a stimulus to the Hon. Secretary. The next thing was to call an extraordinary meeting of the Council, which the President authorized, and this was held on October 18, when the main business was the consideration of the future of the examinations during war-time. Certain recommendations were passed by the Council, and it was agreed that a special meeting of the Association should be summoned for November 8 to consider them and to give the Council full executive powers during the emergency.

The HON. SECRETARY then proceeded to read the recommendations of the Council as follows:

The following Recommendations were passed by the Council, and it was agreed that a Special Meeting of the Association be held on November 8 to consider these Recommendations and to give the Council full executive powers during the war.

The Council recommended that the Nursing Examinations should continue to be held, and adopted the following emergency regulations:

"Superintendents to make their own arrangements to procure the services of an extern Examiner, Nurse Examiner and Invigilator, submitting these arrangements direct to the Registrar for confirmation and approval.

"Should distance, petrol restrictions or lighting difficulties make it impossible to obtain assistance from another hospital, the Registrar to have the power to allow the Superintendent and Matron to conduct the Examination. There should be little difficulty in obtaining the services of an invigilator as heretofore.

"In consequence of these emergency instructions the following temporary changes in the Regulations and Rules will be necessary:

"Any Regulation or Rule causing difficulty will be interpreted by the Registrar in the light of these general instructions.

"Reg. 4: Medical and nursing examiners, invigilators and technical coadjutors as defined in 1(*g*), (*h*), (*i*) and (*j*) shall be nominated by the Examination Area Secretary and approved by the Registrar. Omit 'by the Examination Area Secretary and'.

"Reg. 13: A nurse transferred by a local authority from one institution to another institution of the same authority will be recognized as complying with the requirements of paragraph 12. Omit 'of the same authority' and insert 'under the Hospital Emergency Scheme'.

"Reg. 15: (*b*) In each year a separate course of 20 lectures on subjects named in the syllabus, given by the medical staff. Each lecture shall be approximately one hour's duration. Attendance at 15 lectures in each course is essential.

"(*c*) In each year 15 demonstrations with practical instruction given by a competent officer. Attendance at 12 demonstrations in each course is essential.

"Where the required number of lectures and demonstrations have not been given owing to war conditions, the Registrar has the power to accept entries on the recommendation of the Medical Superintendent.

"Reg. 20: (*b*) The written part of the Preliminary and Final Examinations shall be held twice a year on the first and second Mondays in May and November, commencing at 9 a.m. precisely, and lasting till 12 noon.

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" Omit words ' twice a year on the first and second Mondays in May and November ', and insert ' on dates to be fixed by the General Secretary and Registrar '.

" Reg. 20 : (*d*) The written examinations shall take place on the days fixed (20 (*b*)) . . . . (See 20 (*b*).)

" Reg. 34 : No motion affecting the fundamental conditions laid down in these Regulations may be moved at any meeting of the Educational Committee unless such motion has been placed on the Agenda circulated before the meeting. Delete this Regulation.

" Regs. 43–56 : These Regulations deal with the Boards of Examiners and the setting of the Papers. The Papers are to be set by correspondence. The Chairman of the Educational Committee to make the necessary arrangements with the Examiners. Should there be a shortage of Examiners the Divisional Secretaries, in conjunction with their Chairmen, are to make nominations on application to them by the Secretary of the Educational Committee.

" Reg. 58 : The nurse examiner must not come from an institution connected in any way either with the institution from which the medical examiner comes, or with the Examination Centre. Delete this Regulation."

The Council further recommended that an Examination be held on December 11, 1939, and that the Preliminary Examination take place from 9 a.m. till 12 noon, and the Final Examination from 1 p.m. till 4 p.m. on this date.

The Registrar proposed that the Registrar's office be moved to his private address—Littleton Hall, Brentwood, Essex—and the Council approved this suggestion.

The question of General Meetings being held during the war was discussed, but no recommendation that General Meetings be continued was made.

The Council recommended that the holding of Divisional Meetings be left in the hands of Divisional Committees.

The HON. SECRETARY, after reading the recommendations, said that the Council also proposed that the holding of divisional meetings should be left in the hands of the divisional committees. The question of general meetings of the Association to be held during the war was also discussed, but no recommendation was made, and therefore he took it that that subject was open to the consideration of the present meeting.

The CHAIRMAN asked whether the recommendations had been circulated to members generally.

The HON. SECRETARY replied that they had only been sent to the members of the Council, but each training centre had received from the Registrar a digest of them. Obviously it was necessary to get on with the details if the examinations were to be held successfully as soon as December.

The CHAIRMAN said that, not himself being a member of the Council, he felt entitled to express appreciation of the great amount of attention and care which the Council had given to this subject. They had dealt in detail with some very important points, and while he would be the last to attempt to curtail discussion, he hoped that members would not be too meticulous in raising points of detail.

Dr. G. W. T. H. FLEMING moved that the recommendations of the Council be accepted *en bloc*.

Dr. A. A. W. PETRIE seconded and mentioned that the recommendations had been before the Education Committee at an earlier meeting that day. The Secretary of the Education Committee had been through the various rules and regulations in order to see what alteration they required to meet the relaxed procedure, and to make the examinations practicable.

The CHAIRMAN asked whether any amendments to the recommendations were forthcoming, and none being proposed, he put them as a whole to the meeting.

The recommendations were adopted unanimously.

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Holding of General Meetings in War-time.

The Chairman said that the meeting was also asked to consider the question of holding general meetings in war-time. Was the Secretary prepared to give a lead?

The Hon. Secretary (Dr. Masefield) said that personally he thought there would be difficulty in obtaining scientific papers to be read at the ordinary quarterly meetings. At the same time he thought that a general meeting of the Association should be held in May. This would take the place of the quarterly meeting normally held at that time.

The Chairman pointed out that in view of the annual meeting in July the business before the May meeting would be very important.

The Hon. Secretary said that, of course, the question of officers for the ensuing year would come up at that time.

Dr. Elizabeth Casson said that she took it that by a May meeting was meant a full quarterly meeting, with committees and so forth, as well as a general meeting. She proposed that the Association hold a general meeting in May, but that if possible the quarterly meetings should be held as usual.

The Chairman said that that would be a little difficult.

Dr. Noel Burke asked whether a proposition could be taken that the meeting be held in May, but that meetings at other times be held at the discretion of the Council.

Dr. Casson was willing to modify her proposal in that sense.

The Chairman, after consultation with the Hon. Secretary, said that it would make the officials easier if nothing was incumbent upon them before May. He thought that the simple proposal to have the meeting in May was the wiser course. In reply to Dr. Burke, who asked whether it would be called a quarterly meeting, the Chairman said that the proper term was a general meeting as distinct from a divisional one.

Dr. Kenneth Drury pointed out that according to the regulations general meetings might be either annual or quarterly, so that "general meeting" would be the proper term.

Dr. Burke said that if there appeared to be good reasons for holding an earlier meeting, and to expect that members would come, it was for the Council to arrange it, but the resolution would not bind them to do anything except to call a meeting in May.

The Chairman said that that could always be arranged. Bye-law 110 would deal with it.

Dr. Casson moved that a general meeting be held in May, and other meetings at the discretion of the Council.

The Chairman said that the last part of that resolution was what they were rather hoping to avoid.

Dr. Casson then moved that a general meeting be held in May.

Dr. Burke seconded.

Dr. Petrie asked whether it would be a one-day or a two-day meeting, because this made a good deal of difference to members attending from a distance. The present was virtually the November meeting, and although it had been contracted into one day a great deal of business had been done.

The Hon. Secretary hoped that in the course of one day a meeting might be held of the Standing Committees, the Council, and also the general meeting of members.

Dr. W. F. Menzies thought that some members were rather too optimistic in supposing that any meeting at all would be possible in war-time. During the last war, according to his recollection, no meetings were held, and the President, Dr. Thompson of Norfolk, occupied his office for four years. How was it possible for a member who was the only medical officer left in his hospital to get away? Who was going to take his place? In the last war he was alone in that position for a

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year and a half, and about two days every week he had to go to the Pensions Board. When the Board of Control had invalided men available they distributed them to the mental hospitals to help in the work there, but these were not as a rule members of the Association. There seemed to be very little chance of getting scientific papers in war-time. He did not know what happened to the *Journal of Mental Science* in the last war. In any case he did not think they would succeed in any form of meeting, and therefore he suggested that no attempt be made, and that the programme be washed out for the period of the war. He also suggested, as he had done at the Council meeting, that a special committee be constituted, to consist of the President, the Honorary Secretary, the Registrar, the Treasurer, and the Chairman of the Education Committee. Probably the Committee might be strengthened by some other members of the Education Committee, because the examination for nursing certificates should be kept on, and every effort made to carry it through. There were numerous other things to be considered, as, for example, the research and clinical work. If men could be found to carry this on, by all means let it be done. The same was true of divisional meetings. Again, there was the question of the Gaskell Gold Medal. No assistant medical officer would have a chance of working up for that in war-time, and the same applied to the Certificate in Psychological Medicine and to the Bronze Medal. He suggested that the Education Committee was hardly the body to be given power to act in all these directions, but if some of its members were added to the emergency committee he thought it would be all right.

The CHAIRMAN said that one of the points mentioned by Dr. Menzies had already been dealt with, namely, the holding of divisional meetings. This would be left in the hands of divisional committees. The question of the annual meeting would come up at the meeting proposed to be held in May, and could have full discussion then. As for research and clinical activities, it seemed eminently sensible that if men could be found to do good work in these directions, they should be encouraged to do it.

The motion that a general meeting be held in May was carried unanimously.

Dr. PETRIE suggested that the question of the award of the Gaskell Gold Medal and the Bronze Medal should be left in the hands of the examiners. If papers of an adequate standard were presented, he did not see why the awards should not be made as usual. It would be pointed out that with regard to the Gaskell Medal members who were on war service would not have an equal chance, but he was sure the examiners would be very careful not to make the award to an unsuitable candidate, and to withhold it altogether if a suitable candidate did not come forward. The examiners would be failing in their duty if they did not take into consideration all the bearings of this question. The position was rather different from what it was in the last war, because now there was conscription from the beginning, and there was no question of a man who ought to have volunteered being able to secure the award while others were engaged in war service.

Major DONALD ROSS thought it would be wiser to leave all these points to the meeting in May.

Dr. MENZIES: You might not succeed in getting a quorum then.

Major ROSS, continuing, said that in his view they should do their best to carry on all the activities of the Association. He recalled the fact that in the last war there was a tremendous flow of papers of all kinds, and he hoped that the same thing would be true on this occasion.

Dr. FLEMING, who was requested by the Chairman to say what the position of the Journal was in the last war, said that as far as he could make out it was actually increased in size. The smaller journals appeared after the war had ended.

Dr. ELIZABETH CASSON said that a divisional meeting in her area, which was called since the war started, was one of the best attended meetings they had ever had.

The CHAIRMAN said that he gathered that Dr. Petrie's proposal was that these various matters, namely, the Gaskell Gold Medal, the Bronze Medal and the Certificate in Psychological Medicine be left in the discretion of the examiners.

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0368315X4024237X Published online by Cambridge University Press

Dr. PETRIE said that he was prepared to put his proposal in that form. He added that Dr. Noel Harris and himself were appointed examiners last July, so that their appointment would carry on over the next occasion for the award. The Gaskell award came in May. He could promise on behalf of his colleague and himself that they would not give the medal to any unsuitable person.

Major ROSS seconded Dr. Petrie's proposal that these questions be left in the hands of the examiners.

This was agreed to.

POLICY OF THE JOURNAL.

The HON. SECRETARY said that Dr. Fleming, as one of the Editors, might say a few words on the policy of the Journal during the war.

Dr. FLEMING said that it was the policy of the Editors to carry on exactly as before. At the moment they had closed the January number, and they had papers already in hand for March. One or two papers from America were promised. He saw no reason for any interference with the Journal at all. Naturally they were in the hands of the Treasurer, but the Treasurer told him that financially they were reasonably comfortable. They proposed to publish as usual six numbers in the year. There had been a proposal to issue the Journal monthly, but that would have to wait in the meantime.

The CHAIRMAN said that he thought they were all agreed that it had been very pleasant to meet together, and he was grateful to the large number attending, especially knowing the distances that some of them had travelled.

Dr. DRURY said that the Registrar had asked him to mention that there had been approximately 2,400 entries for the examination to be held in December.

The meeting then concluded.

SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

THE AUTUMN, 1939, MEETING of the South-Western Division was held, by kind invitation of Prof. F. L. Golla, at the Burden Neurological Institute, Stoke Lane, Stapleton, Bristol, on Thursday, October 26, 1939.

Apologies for absence were received from Dr. R. W. Armstrong (Chairman), Dr. G. Clarke, Dr. A. Shepherd, Dr. G. M. de Rudolf and Dr. J. S. Horsley.

In the absence of the Chairman, Dr. Helen Boyle, the President of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association, kindly consented to take the Chair.

DR. HELEN BOYLE IN THE CHAIR.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved and signed by the Acting Chairman.

The following members were present: Drs. T. M. C. Speer, W. M. Pinkerton, D. H. H. Thomas, G. W. T. H. Fleming, J. J. Mason, R. G. McInnes, J. Biggs, J. McGarvey, R. M. Norman, J. A. Fraser Roberts, R. Sessions Hodge, John Russell, S. M. Allan, D. Prentice, J. L. Clegg, W. R. Dawson, James M. Rutherford, E. Casson, C. W. Ewing, F. L. Golla, R. J. A. Berry, Helen Boyle, M. Abdy Collins, and S. Edgar Martin (Hon. Divisional Secretary).

The following attended as visitors: Drs. E. Stengel, P. C. Barbour, J. M. Ling, G. L. Lyon-Smith, C. M. Barker, and Mrs. J. E. Ewing.

The following was elected as an Ordinary Member:

JOHN WALSH, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.M., Assistant Medical Officer, Plymouth Mental Hospital, Blackadon, Ivybridge, Devon.

Proposed by Drs. D. Menzies, S. Edgar Martin and P. W. Carruthers.

The HON. SECRETARY reported that Dr. R. G. McInnes had kindly offered to have the Spring, 1940, Meeting (to be held on April 25, 1940) at The Warneford, Oxford, and his kind invitation was unanimously accepted.

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0368315X4024237X Published online by Cambridge University Press