IRISH DIVISION

THE SPRING QUARTERLY AND CLINICAL MEETING of the Irish Division of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association was held on Thursday, 8 April, 1954, at Dundrum Central Asylum, Dundrum, Co. Dublin, by the kind invitation of Dr. W. J. Coyne, Medical Superintendent. Thirty-one Members were present.

Before the Meeting the Members were shown round the Hospital and grounds, and afterwards were most hospitably entertained to luncheon, at which the Minister for Health was present. A vote of thanks to Dr. and Mrs. Coyne was proposed by Dr. Dunne and seconded by Dr. Weir.

The Minutes of the previous Meeting were read, approved and signed. Apologies for absence were received from 17 Members.

The Summer Meeting was fixed for Tuesday, 29 June, 1954, to be held at the Royal College of Physicians, Kildare Street, Dublin.

Dr. H. J. Eustace was elected Chairman of the Division, Dr. J. N. P. Moore was re-elected as Divisional Secretary and Dr. Eveleen O'Brien was elected Junior Representative Member of Council.

A letter from the Hon. Treasurer was read, indicating that the Council had reviewed very carefully the request of the Irish Division for a reduced subscription, but no modification of the subscription rate was considered possible.

A letter from the Department of Health was read asking for a nomination by the Division of a Member to act on the National Health Council. It was unanimously agreed that Dr. J. Dunne should represent the Division.

After some discussion it was decided, on the advice of the Members from Northern Ireland, that the proposal to invite the Association to hold its Spring Meeting in Belfast be postponed from 1955 to 1956.

A letter from Dr. O. W. S. FitzGerald was read asking for a nomination from the Irish Division to the Education Committee. It was unanimously agreed that Dr. Weir should represent the Division.

There was a letter from the Department of Health announcing the Fifth International Congress on Mental Health to be held in Toronto, Canada, from 14-21 August, 1954, and it was noted it was not proposed to send an Irish representative. The Secretary was asked to write enquiring if sanction for financial support to individual Members would be ratified if their County Manager agreed.

Dr. Honan then presented his communication on the R.M.P.A. Study Tour, 1953. This Study Tour, which lasted from 21 September, 1953 to 1 October, 1953 was organized by the R.M.P.A., so that Members of the party would see representative hospitals in the London district and some provincial hospitals.

Dr. Honan described the day-to-day activities of the Tour and gave details of each of the Institutions visited, with comments, some critical, some laudatory, on the work being done. He contrasted work and conditions in England and Ireland, pointing out that there was much more research work being done in England.

He spoke in glowing terms of the good organization of the party and the kind hospitality given to the Members. He said the party owed a great debt of gratitude to Dr. Maclay and Dr. Isabel Wilson, the organizers.

The Meeting then adjourned, and the Members were entertained to tea by Dr. and Mrs. Coyne.

STUDY TOUR, 1953

The tour was held in England this year and was shared by 4 psychiatrists from Belgium, 1 from Switzerland, 1 from Southern and 3 from Northern Ireland, 7 from England and 2 wives. After it was over a member from abroad wrote of it as "one of the most inspiring and most pleasant experiences of our life", from Northern Ireland came the phrase "I have learned more in 10 days than I could have done in a year's organized endeavour", while one member from home said that it had given him "an entirely new and much broader orientation". There were other expressions of apprecia-

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tion, all going to show that something more than ordinary success had been achieved. The visits gave us opportunity to see buildings, patients, and methods of treatment generally, to exchange views and to enjoy much kind hospitality. The party was a happy one and our colleagues from abroad gave a lively interest to our discussions. But what made the whole so satisfying were the special features (listed below) which were put before us in comprehensive talks and demonstrations. It is indeed encouraging that in the midst of many difficulties, British psychiatry can make this fine contribution. Those whose hard work made it possible will realize how grateful their audiences were.

The first week of the Tour took in the visits of the London and suburban Hospitals and Institutions and the remaining time was devoted to visits in the country so that people who could not spend the whole time on the Tour managed to see one or the other aspects of British Psychiatry.

Unfortunately there was a dearth of the young members of the Association for whom the Tour was primarily intended and the attraction of the younger generation to the Tours remains the major of our problems.

The programme included:

1. Shenley Hospital (lay-out of hospital; regime patients on building work).
2. Harperbury Hospital (hemispherectomy).
3. London County Council, community care work for mental illness and mental defect (a local Health Authority).
4. Paper on mental health work of Ministry of Health and the work of Board of Control (the Central Authority).
5. Meeting with representatives of National Association for Mental Health, in Battersea Pleasure Gardens (propaganda for mental health).
6. Maudsley Hospital (work of a Teaching Hospital).
7. Bexley Hospital (active treatment and regime).
8. Darenth Park (employment of defectives on industrial lines).
9. Belmont Hospital (rehabilitation of neurotics; psychodrama).
10. The Manor, Epsom (teaching of high-grade defectives).
11. Cassel Hospital (post-graduate teaching in psychiatric nursing).
12. St. Andrews Hospital, Northampton (hospital outside the N.H.S. review of research).
13. Carlton Hayes Hospital, Leicester (reclaiming the chronic case).
14. The Lawn, Lincoln (present use of former private hospital).
15. Paper on Psychiatry in the Prison Service.
16. Mapperley Hospital, Nottingham } (hospital without closed wards; community
17. Notts City Child Guidance Centre } care work of Local Health Authority).
18. Warneford Hospital, Oxford (somatotype research).

The members of the party were:

Dr. Ch. Anderson and Mme. Anderson, Prison Psychiatrist, Antwerp; Dr. Barnes, Senior Medical Officer, Ministry of Health and West Group, Northern Ireland; Professor de Busscher, Professor of Psychiatry, Ghent; Dr. Cecile Doniger, Brookwood Mental Hospital, Surrey; Dr. S. Hardwick (1 visit only), Medical Superintendent, Stone House Hospital, Dartford; Dr. Bernard Honan, Medical Superintendent, District Mental Hospital, Cork and Mrs. Honan; Dr. C. W. Kidd, O.B.E., Assistant Administrative Medical Officer, Northern Ireland Hospitals Authority; Dr. H. E. S. Marshall, Deputy Physician Superintendent, Netherne Mental Hospital; Dr. Rademaekers, Medical Director, Gheel Colony and President of the "Société de Médicine Mentale" of Belgium; Professor Rouvroy, Professor of Psychiatry, University of Louvain; Dr. Shapiro, Deputy Medical Superintendent, Harperbury Hospital; Dr. G. M. Smith, Medical Superintendent, Holywell Hospital, Antrim; Dr. D. C. V. Stewart, Junior Specialist in Psychiatry, Brookwood; Dr. W. Stoll, Privat-Dozent, University Psychiatric Clinic, Zurich; Dr. Wadsworth, Medical Superintendent, Cheadle Royal Hospital, Cheshire; Dr. Isabel Wilson, Board of Control.

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