Psychiatrists, but he was, however, now prepared to accept the present recommendations.

Dr. FERGUSON RODGER explained the probable functions of an Area Psychiatrist.

Drs. BOYD, EICKHOFF, MAYER-GROSS and UYTMAN spoke about the position of Child Psychiatry, and the danger of this important subject being split up into two spheres of action as between Education and Health.

Dr. UYTMAN said he blamed the recent Memorandum prepared by the Child Guidance Committee of the Scottish Association for Mental Hygiene. He thought too much emphasis had been placed on the pre-eminence of the Psychiatrist. He now suggested that another meeting of the Sub-Committee on Child Psychiatry appointed by the Division should be held to discuss the matter.

After further discussion the Meeting approved of a suggestion made by Dr. FERGUSON RODGER that a meeting be arranged between the Sub-Committee of the R.M.P.A., The Association of Professional Psychologists and The Association of Psychiatric Social Workers to discuss further this important problem.

The CHAIRMAN then guided the Meeting back to the subject under discussion, and asked for their opinion on the views put forward in Dr. Boyd's memorandum on Area Psychiatrists. The Meeting were unanimous in approving the views expressed, and felt that the Memorandum should be forwarded to Regional Hospital Boards, Local Authorities and those holding teaching appointments.

Any other Business.—(*a*) The CHAIRMAN raised a point about sectional Meetings being arranged at times which did not coincide with quarterly Meetings, thus making it difficult for Members living at a distance to attend. The Meeting agreed on this and recommended that a letter be sent to the Honorary Secretary asking that the possibility of having such meetings at the same time or immediately before or after Quarterly Meetings might be considered.

(*b*) Dr. MACNIVEN referred to Section 5 of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act, which allows of private patients coming into Hospitals being treated by a doctor nominated by the patient and not on the Hospital Staff. He felt that this would raise many serious administrative and clinical difficulties.

Did this clause in the Act refer to cases in Mental Hospitals ? There was some discussion on this point, but no Members were able to interpret the Act. It was agreed by the Meeting that Dr. MacNiven should prepare a short note and send it to the Secretary for transmission to the D.H.S.

Dr. TULLIS demonstrated a new type of Leucotome which he had devised himself as an aid to greater accuracy in leucotomy. This instrument was made by the hospital engineer. Members were very interested in this and expressed their admiration and approval.

Members were entertained to an excellent lunch by the kindness of the Lanarkshire Mental Hospitals Joint Committee and the Medical Superintendent, Dr. W. N. J. Chapman.

The CHAIRMAN, thanking the Committee and the Medical Superintendent, congratulated Dr. Chapman on behalf of the Members for the efficiency of all the arrangements and the excellent lunch.

After lunch the Meeting heard with much interest, a most informative Paper by Dr. RANKIN GOOD on **"The Psychology of the Revolutionary."** Dr. Good took the case of Charles Darwin and dealt very fully with this interesting personality.

The Medical Superintendent then showed Members round the Hospital, including a visit to Hartwoodhill Colony.

SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

THE Spring, 1948, Meeting of the South-Western Division was held by kind hospitality of the Visiting Committee and Dr. T. J. Hennelly, at Cardiff City Mental Hospital, Whitchurch, Glamorgan, on Friday, 2 April, 1948.

Dr. R. G. McInnes was in the chair.

The following were present as Members : Drs. T. J. Hennelly, J. R. Hawkings, D. Lewis, D. E. Jones, G. M. King, J. P. Child, J. McGregor, G. O. Cowdy, J. Spillane, T. R. Thomas, M. W. Annear, W. R. Ashby, K. C. Bailey, T. E. Burrows, G. L. Hutton, F. Golla, W. Rees, R. E. Hemphill and the Hon. Divisional Secretary.

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0368315X48246371 Published online by Cambridge University Press

A large number of guests were present, including most of the members of the Visiting Committee.

Apologies for absence were received from Drs. Fleming, Andrews and Bell.

The Report of the Divisional Committee of Management was received and the following were elected unanimously:

Divisional Chairman: Dr. R. E. Hemphill.
Divisional Secretary: Dr. R. W. Armstrong.
Junior Representative Member of Council: Dr. Delfun Lewis.
No nomination was received for the office of Assistant Divisional Secretary.

Dr. Hemphill was installed as Divisional Chairman by the retiring Chairman, Dr. R. G. McInnes.

The following was elected as an Ordinary Member:

EDWARD HENRY HARE, M.A., M.B., B.Chir. Camb., D.P.M., Assistant Medical Officer, Berkshire Mental Hospital, Wallingford.

The HON. SECRETARY reported that he had received an invitation from Dr. Bailey for the next Divisional Meeting to take place at Tone Vale on 22 September, 1948, and it was unanimously agreed to accept this kind invitation.

A vote of thanks to Dr. T. J. Hennelly and the Visiting Committee of Cardiff City Mental Hospital for their kind hospitality in entertaining members to lunch and tea was proposed by the HON. DIVISIONAL CHAIRMAN and passed with acclamation after the Chairman of the Visiting Committee had made members and their guests welcome.

Dr. HENNELLY read a stimulating paper on the need for an acute regional hospital where intensive treatment of mental illness in its early stages could be given with the object of preventing chronicity and of reducing the burden upon the population of the chronic insane. He suggested that such a hospital would provide for both children and adults, and that its medical staff should be available for teaching and for advising the Courts in psychiatric matters.

A lively discussion followed in which Drs. HEMPHILL, MCINNES, LEWIS and BURROWS took part.

Dr. RICHTER then read a paper, prepared in collaboration with Mr. R. M. L. DAWSON, on **"Biochemical Changes in the Brain During Functional Activity."** He discussed the metabolic requirements of the brain-cells, and mentioned experimental work by Benedict and Smith on the biochemistry, and by Crile on the histological aspects of the subject. He alluded to the difficulty of preserving brain specimens with sufficient speed after death, and mentioned the use of liquid air as a rapid preservative. Dr. Richter showed some experimental results on the effect of emotion on the brain lactic acid content, and these proved to be most interesting, and offered a high degree of confirmation to the thesis that biochemical changes occur in the brain cells as a result of emotion.

The paper was discussed by Dr. GOLLA and the HON. CHAIRMAN, and members heartily agreed with the praise expressed by these speakers.

Dr. W. L. REES then gave an account of his recent investigations on electro-narcosis, in which he mentioned the history and technique of the method, and brought forward evidence which he had collected on its effects upon the cardio-vascular system, blood pressure, blood cell picture, etc. The particular effects upon the lymphocytes in the blood were mentioned and discussed. For the clinical assessment of the value of electro-narcosis Dr. Rees has devised an elaborate rating-sheet which includes various tests of conceptual thinking. He was of the opinion that psychological testing in this relation had been elaborated and improved to a point where it is now possible to assess prognosis before treatment with 80 per cent. accuracy. He concluded that the results of treatment by electro-narcosis were not appreciably better numerically than by other longer established methods, but pointed out that the value of the treatment lay chiefly in the rapidity with which recovery or improvement was achieved. Time prevented a discussion on this very interesting paper.

Dr. REES then conducted members and guests round the laboratories, where demonstrations of various techniques were on view. This concluded a most interesting and enjoyable Meeting.

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0368315X48246371 Published online by Cambridge University Press