## SCOTTISH DIVISION.

A meeting of the Scottish Division of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association was held at the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, 242, St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, on Friday, 14 January, 1949.

*Present.*—Dr. Kate Fraser (Chairman), Prof. Ferguson Rodger, Drs. W. Boyd, J. Campbell, H. B. Craigie, E. Cruickshank, A. Dick, Hunter Gillies, E. J. C. Hewitt, M. Knight, J. H. MacDonald, J. McDougall, J. L. McDougall, L. Mill, J. Milne, Haigh Mitchell, A. M.Shenkin, T. R. Spence, R. M. Stewart, M. M. Whittet, T. M. Wilson,A. M. Wyllie, J. Uytman.

*Apologies for Absence.*—Sir David Henderson, Drs. W. D. Chambers, Curran, Ruth Edwards, W. McAlister, McNiven, M. Methven, Moore Taylor.

The Minutes of the last Divisional Meeting were read and confirmed.

Prof. FERGUSON RODGER called attention to an inaccurate description of the duties of the newly appointed Medical Officer of Mental Health in the North-Eastern Hospital Region: this was duly amended.

The CHAIRMAN raised certain points arising from the Minutes. The accommodation for acute psychiatric cases occurring in children in the Western Hospital Region might be ready in about nine months.

The SECRETARY informed the Meeting of a letter designed by Prof. Ferguson Rodger and forwarded to the Secretary of State on the question of a White Paper on the recent Report dealing with amending of the Scottish Lunacy and Mental Deficiency Acts. The reply to this request was non-commital.

*Election of Ordinary Membership.*—The name of S. D. McGrath, M.R.C.P.I., D.P.M., Medical Officer, Crichton Royal, Dumfries, was put before the Meeting, and, after ballot, he was unanimously elected.

*Nursing Legislation.*—The CHAIRMAN asked the Secretary to inform members on this subject. The SECRETARY explained about the issue by the D.H.S. of some eight copies of a memorandum on the subject of proposed new nursing legislation. This was not accompanied by a covering letter. Later it appeared that a note should have been sent asking for representatives from the Division to attend a meeting at the D.H.S. This meeting was, however, attended by Dr. McAlister and the Secretary. The main points under discussion were the reconstitution of the G.N.C. (Scotland), the setting up of a Statutory Mental Nursing Committee, and the provision of Regional Nurse Training Councils. Dr. McALISTER spoke on several points, the most important being that he was opposed to the setting up of the Special Mental Nursing Committee on the grounds that it might tend to widen the breach already existing between Mental and General Nursing.

This subject was then discussed by members, and Dr. BOYD reported briefly on a meeting he had attended as a member of the B.M.A. Education Sub-Committee. After several other members had spoken, it was resolved that the Division should inform the D.H.S. that they were in general agreement with the proposed Statutory Mental Nursing Committee, but hoped that this would not increase the present tendency to isolate mental from general nursing. The Secretary was instructed to inform the D.H.S. on the above resolutions, and also to find out the present position in England.

*Criminal Justice Bill (Scotland).*—The CHAIRMAN regretted that Drs. MacNiven, McAlister and Curran were not present to speak on the Bill, but she asked Dr. Craigie to outline the main points. Dr. CRAIGIE thought that on the whole it was a good Bill, and that the position of psychiatry had been recognized.

Some general discussion followed, in which various members raised certain points. The CHAIRMAN asked all members to write to Dr. Craigie on any controversial matters, as he would be in a position to refer them for further consideration.

*The Mental Health Service.*—The CHAIRMAN called the attention of the meeting to the various points raised and discussed at the last meeting.

(a) *Superannuation.*—There was nothing further to note. It appeared that the letter of protest to a Scottish M.P. had not been sent.

(b) *Secretaries to Management Committees.*—Several members spoke on this subject—in particular, Dr. McDOUGALL, acting Medical Superintendent at Lochgilphead Mental Hospital, reported having trouble through interference by the Secretary in medical administrative matters. Most members agreed that the matter was still far from satisfactory.

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.96.401_Supplement.6 Published online by Cambridge University Press

Dr. MacDonald was concerned about the position of Mental Hospital Farms; he had heard that these were coming under some central control. He felt very strongly that the Medical Superintendent should retain his former position, and exercise an active interest and control in this department of his hospital.

Several members spoke about the apparent lack of uniformity in the distribution of the various memoranda issued by the D.H.S. and R.H.Bs. These were being sent out to Secretaries of Management Committees, who then decided which should be passed to medical superintendents.

The Secretary was asked to write to the D.H.S. and suggest a better method of distribution.

(c) *Mental Health Committees.*—There was little change to report. Dr. Uytman told members of the composition of this Committee in his Region. The general position remained unsatisfactory.

(d) *Domiciliary Visits and Specialist Status.*—The Chairman told the Meeting about the Special Meeting of the Council being held in London on 18 January to discuss Specialist Status and Salary Scales. She regretted that neither she nor the Secretary were able to attend, and asked Dr. J. Milne if he would go. Dr. Milne agreed. There was some discussion on the question of expenses in connection with this and it appeared that this would prove difficult. It was suggested that if all official sources failed, the Division might rally together and give some financial help.

*Any other business.*—Dr. Spence again raised the question of his car allowance, stating that he would be much out of pocket under the new scale of allowances. The Chairman sympathized, but did not think that the Association could do anything about this.

Dr. Spence also raised a point of some considerable importance in regard to the payment of his telephone rental charges. These were being disallowed in the future.

The Chairman asked Dr. Craigie if he could personally bring this matter and possibly the previous matter of car allowance to the notice of the appropriate D.H.S. officials.

Dr. Boyd raised a point about Mental Officers and the Superannuation Act. There seemed to be some serious difficulties about the correct designation of Mental Officers. The Chairman felt that this should be brought up at the next meeting.

Dr. McDougall and other members protested about the lack of adequate publicity of the forthcoming Scandinavian Study Tour. The Secretary explained that he had received a few copies of a notice of this which he had circulated to the Committee of Management.

The Chairman referred to the need to call an Emergency Meeting as soon as the new Salary Scales and Conditions of Service were made known, and this was left to the Secretary to convene.

The next regular Divisional Meeting would take place some time in April, and at this the election of Office Bearers for the ensuing year would be made. The Secretary was asked to arrange for this to be held at a hospital—possibly Bangour or Springfield.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed.

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https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.96.401_Supplement.6 Published online by Cambridge University Press