IRISH DIVISION

THE SUMMER QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE IRISH DIVISION was held at St. Loman's Hospital, Mullingar, on Thursday, 25 June, by kind invitation of Dr. P. F. O'Brien, Medical Director.

On arrival at the Hospital the members were welcomed by the Manager and Chairman of the Longford-Meath-Westmeath Mental Hospital Board, and the Medical Director, and generously entertained to lunch. Dr. Mary Sullivan, Divisional Chairman, suitably thanked the hospital authority, and the staff for the facilities for the meeting and the very generous hospitality.

The Boileau and Boyd Cup, for the Annual Golf Competition played at Mullingar, was presented to the winner Dr. J. G. Cooney.

A letter was received from the President of the Association regretting his inability to attend the meeting.

The following was elected to Ordinary Membership:

McEVOY, MICHAEL PAUL, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. Senior House Officer, St. Davnet's Hospital, Monaghan.

Proposed by Drs. J. V. Glass, B. D. Courtney, P. B. Crilly.

Elections to Divisional Committees resulted as follows:

Committee of Management:

Chairman and Hon. Secretary, with Dr. E. C. O'Gorman, Junior Representative on Council, Drs. B. McCaffrey, S. D. McGrath, Desmond Kelly, B. P. Laverty, R. S. James, and D. J. Bradley. Also W. F. McAuley (Child Psychiatry Section) and V. Molony (Mental Deficiency Section).

Education:

W. B. McConnell, T. J. Fahy, David Dunne, A. Carney. Two vacancies exist for co-option from Northern Ireland members.

Parliamentary:

Drs. J. A. S. Mulligan, T. J. Brennan.

Papers and Discussions:

No nominations were received. On the proposition of Dr. McCormick and Dr. McCarthy it was agreed the Management Committee should form a small sub-committee for this purpose.

The Chairman and Hon. Secretary to be *ex officio* members of each committee.

Correspondence:

A letter from the General Secretary with enclosure from the Ministry of Health and Social Security for Northern Ireland, indicating that one of the Division's nominees, Dr. Enda Casement was being nominated for election to the proposed Northern Ireland Council on Post-Graduate Medical Education. Members expressed satisfaction that psychiatry would have separate representation. A letter from the Minister for Health acknowledging the request to have representation from the Division at the negotiations on Staffing Structure in the Local Authority psychiatric services, and stating a further letter would be sent.

An extract was read from the Report of Council to the May Quarterly Meeting: 'Council endorsed the full support and approval given by the Education Committee for the programme of Training which had recently been promulgated in Dublin'.

A letter from the General Secretary re nominations to a panel of Assessors for Advisory Appointment Committee for the Northern Ireland Hospitals Authority. The Secretary undertook to ascertain what numbers would be required for an adequate panel, in addition to those already put forward.

A letter from the General Secretary conveying formal approval of Council to the establishment of a Mental Deficiency Section in the Irish Division. Dr. V. Malony's nomination as acting secretary of the proposed Section was confirmed.

Dr. W. O. McCormick gave details of a proposal to have a joint meeting of the Irish Division and the Belfast Post-Graduate Medical Centre during the Academic Year 1970–1971. The members expressed general approval, and referred the matter to the Management Committee.

A discussion on the most suitable days for meetings arose on a letter from Dr. M. A. O'Kelly, Cork, suggesting that meetings on Saturdays would greatly assist country members, and asking that the matter be voted on. It was the general view of the meeting that a similar arrangement a few years ago was not successful, and that mid-week meetings were preferable. Consideration of arrangements for one such meeting each year was referred to the Management Committee.

It was decided to hold the next meeting in Dublin at the end of October, date and venue to be arranged by the Secretary.

Dr. John Owens presented a paper 'An Analysis of a Chronic Mental Hospital Population'. This was an interim presentation of many items in relation to

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long-stay patients, including age, social and marital status, occupation, area of residence, age at entry, family history, diagnosis and many others. The difference in rates per 1,000 in the three contributing counties was noted, and other indicative variations; and possible factors were suggested. He discussed further the additional lines of inquiry which might clarify some of the social, economic, hereditary, and epidemiological factors which seemed to be involved.

The paper gave rise to a lively discussion by Drs. D. D. Kelly, McCarthy, McCormick, McConnell, Scally, McCaffrey, Mc M. Ramsay, Dunne, O'Brien, and McLaughlin. Dr. Owens replied to the various points raised.

The Chairman congratulated Dr. Owens on an interesting presentation, and thanked those who contributed to the discussion.

Dr. Sullivan then proposed a vote of thanks to Dr. O'Brien, the Hospital Board, and the members of the medical, nursing and catering staff for the very excellent hospitality, which was passed with acclamation.

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