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SUPPLEMENT

OCTOBER, 1945.

THE ROYAL MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

QUARTERLY MEETING.

A QUARTERLY MEETING of the Association was held in the Birmingham City Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham, on Thursday, May 31, 1945, under the Presidency of Lt.-Col. A. A. W. Petrie, R.A.M.C., *C.B.E.*, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S.Ed., D.P.M.

The Lord Mayor of Birmingham attended at the commencement of the meeting to welcome the Association to the City. He wished the members a happy and memorable meeting.

The Minutes of the previous Quarterly Meeting had not then been published, and were not therefore submitted to the meeting for confirmation.

OBITUARY.

The PRESIDENT said that it was with the deepest regret that he had to speak of the death of Sir Hubert Bond, *K.B.E.*, D.Sc., M.D.Edin., LL.B.Lond., F.R.C.P., M.P.C., Emeritus Lecturer on Psychiatry, Middlesex Hospital; Senior Commissioner, Board of Control; Ordinary Member since 1892, General Secretary 1906–12, President 1921–22.

Sir Hubert's work was too well known to need reiteration; he had served the Association unstintingly, and he would be greatly missed.

The members stood in silent tribute for a few moments.

REPORT OF COUNCIL.

The HON. GENERAL SECRETARY (Dr. Gordon Masefield) gave the report of Council as follows:

The Council adopted a proposal by the Revision Committee that an Emergency Committee of Council shall be appointed to deal with matters of urgency which arise between meetings of Council. The Emergency Committee to consist of the President, Immediate Past-President, the Treasurer, Hon. General Secretary, and the Chairman and Secretary of the Committee dealing with the matter in hand.

The Medical Planning Committee has been called into being again to receive a report of a meeting of Representatives of Mental Health (appointed by the Negotiating Body for the profession) and the Ministry of Health. Unfortunately it has not been possible to circulate the Report of the Conference as it is still in the confidential stage. Representation from the Association is now required, and the Council has appointed the following members: Lt.-Col. Petrie, Drs. K. K. Drury, T. P. Rees and W. Gordon Masefield.

The Annual Meeting will be held on September 4 and 5, and possibly the 6th, in London, Lt.-Col. Petrie having consented to continue in office until July, 1946.

The Editors reported that 600 copies of the Special Number of the *Journal* are in process of being printed, although they, and the next issue of the *Journal*, are temporarily delayed owing to the Government's demand for printing for the forthcoming election.

A full discussion took place on negotiations with the General Nursing Council concerning the Association's examinations, and it was decided that negotiations should continue, and that a report should be made to the Association in September (or November) and ratification obtained from the Association before the negotiations are completed.

The Parliamentary Committee's recommendation that delinquent children should be examined away from the precincts of the magistrate's court was approved.

Dr. MASEFIELD moved the adoption of the Report.

Dr. GRAVES seconded and this was carried.

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Dr. T. P. Rees said there was one serious omission on the list of nominations to Council, that of the retiring General Secretary, the most experienced member of the Association on the Council. He would like to add his name to the List.

The President said that the nominations would be put forward at the September meeting and the alteration could be made then.

Paper.—"Neuropathological Problems arising from Leucotomy," by Dr. Alfred Meyer, Central Pathological Laboratory, Maudsley Hospital (see p. 411).

Paper.—"The Physiology and Pathogenesis of Amnesia," by Dr. F. A. Pickworth, Birmingham Joint Board of Research in Mental Diseases.

Discussion.

The President thanked Dr. Pickworth for his long and interesting paper, which comprised so many subjects that it must have been very difficult for him to compress such an amount of information into such a short time. It could be said that the paper was a psycho-physiological paper, with some emphasis on the physiological side and the various causations of amnesia. He had hoped that Dr. Pickworth would have mentioned the electro-encephalogram, which was thought to be useful in dealing with post-traumatic cases as showing the unstable cerebral dysrhythmia which was so liable to occur in these cases.

He was not very clear whether Dr. Pickworth ascribed amnesia to bomb-damaged people. He was not entirely satisfied that it was an amnesia because there had been an opportunity of studying what people did hear, both the damaged and the undamaged, and the undamaged within a certain zone very definitely did not say that they had heard anything. That was in people who apparently had avoided any serious traumatic damage, and certainly had no obvious damage which needed external attention. Everybody who was very near to an upset displayed an inadequate or posterograde amnesia. Their statements were quite plain—"Things came in; I heard nothing." All who were near these explosions knew that explosions at a distance were much louder than the ones which were close. He did not think that was entirely an amnesia and a repression. People did complain of a considerable instability. When one talked to normally stable people they said they felt an intense restlessness which lasted from one to three days. These were people who had never complained and who had carried on, but had been very near to such upsets. There, again, they always said that things simply came in and that they heard nothing. They had not received a crack on the head to develop the ordinary signs of concussion with concomitant haemorrhage and so on. Perhaps others might briefly express some opinions on this.

Dr. Thomas Graves said that he had been associated with Dr. Pickworth in this work for many years and had followed his descriptions with very much interest. Dr. Pickworth had helped very much to show the dependence of abnormal mental symptoms upon vascular conditions. It had been observed that clinically, actually in a case on the operating table during the drainage of a sphenoidal empyema, there was a facial change, and the patient's face no longer exhibited the phenomena of fear when he came round. That must reflect on Dr. Pickworth's specimen, which he put on the screen, that the inflammatory change and the whole toxic condition of that sphenoid was reflected on the sympathetic plexus, on the carotid vessels, so causing the alteration of the facial muscles. He hoped members would be able to see Dr. Pickworth's specimens at the medical school because they were exceedingly interesting.

Dr. Ford Robertson, speaking as a colleague of Dr. Pickworth, endorsed what the President and Dr. Graves had said. The paper covered a very wide subject and some of it was of great interest. He was sorry there was not time to think through some of the intricacies of the subject, but he hoped when the paper was published in the Journal that more time could be devoted to its study. Dr. Pickworth must have spent many years on technical work to have been able to produce such a detailed study.

LUNCHEON.

During the meeting the Association were entertained to luncheon by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham in the Banqueting Room of the City Council House.

The Lord Mayor (Alderman W. T. Wiggins-Davies) said that it gave him great pleasure to welcome the Association to the Second City of the Kingdom. The last time that the Association met in Birmingham was in 1925 under the Presidency of the late Sir Frederick Mott, who was remembered for the fine work he had accomplished in mental research.

This year the country was at last freed from a great part of the strife of the past six years, and he hoped that the Association's victory meeting in Birmingham would not only be happy but memorable.

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Since becoming Lord Mayor he had visited the mental hospitals in the City with which many members of the Association were connected, and he had been amazed at the great work which was being done under what could only be described as major difficulties.

It was perhaps not generally realized what a great contribution the mental health service had made to the Emergency Medical Services. Birmingham, for instance, had vacated its most recently built mental hospital at Hollymoor, and with a nucleus of medical, nursing and administrative staff, augmented by directed personnel, had cared for over 10,000 patients of all categories during its 2½ years as an emergency hospital, when it was taken over by the War Department as a military hospital. Birmingham would be very glad to have it back in its own possession again.

Many of the mental hospitals and mental deficiency colonies throughout the country had had their accommodation restricted by these service calls and their staffs had been sadly depleted. Those who had remained behind to carry on the great work of healing the mentally ill had borne a great burden, and all looked forward to the time when, with a full staff, sufficient accommodation and improved treatment facilities, the progress of the past could be maintained and possibly accelerated without labouring under the strain of war circumstances.

That the Association had continued to exist for over a hundred years showed that special needs existed and continued. There was no doubt that but for the Association's pioneer work the lot of the mentally unstable, through no fault of his own, would be a very poor one. He trusted that pioneer work would continue, and that even greater work would be accomplished in the years which lay ahead. One of the important functions of the Association was the education and training of young men and women to carry on the work.

Dr. Graves had informed him that during his Presidency of the Association from November, 1940, to May, 1944, he had signed nearly 5,000 parchments certifying entry into the Association's Register of qualified mental nurses. He would like to pay his tribute to mental nurses. Theirs was indeed a labour of love.

These successes during the dark years of the war gave promise for the years to come, and with some of the finest brains in the medical profession continuing the research which had been begun, one could look forward with satisfaction to the future, and know that those who became mentally ill would have a first-class chance of complete recovery.

It was therefore a matter of great pleasure to welcome a body of men and women working for the benefit of humanity, and to say "Thank you" for the work which they had done and would do in the future.

The PRESIDENT, in acknowledgment, said that the members realized they were sojourning in one of the greatest and most progressive cities in the British Empire, one which provided the Empire with everything from tin-tacks to Prime Ministers. The Association should have visited Birmingham four years before when Dr. Graves became President, and remembered that a deep debt of gratitude was owed to an elderly statesman who with an umbrella went to Germany to get breathing space for the great fight which had now terminated in the victory to which the Lord Mayor had referred. The elderly statesman in question had been a holder of the position of Lord Mayor, which gave an idea of the high status of civic work in Birmingham. That work was not confined to individuals; it was to be seen in every branch of the municipality. He had seen a great building rising which was obviously going to be one of the greatest hospitals in the world.

Aspects of mental health had always been progressively dealt with in Birmingham. The Lord Mayor had referred to his old teacher, Sir Frederick Mott, who came to the City, and in conjunction with Sir Gilbert Barling and Dr. Graves set up a research laboratory with which Dr. Pickworth had been associated, and that work had been carried on since the time when the Association met in Birmingham under Sir Frederick Mott. There always had been the outlook of progress and that would continue.

The Lord Mayor had referred to some of the work which the Association had accomplished. It had grown from 40 or less members in 1840 to over 1,000 members. It had a number of sections—Child Psychiatry, Neuroses, sections dealing with delinquency and other social problems which affected every great city. Many of the people who did the most useful work in the world were neurotics and needed help; vocational guidance for children was a very important work in connection with educational services, and all these things came within the range of a unified and comprehensive mental health service which it was hoped would be set up under the Acts now in process of being drafted.

The Association was trying to be a living and vital association. It was trying to help in the mental health of the community, and not merely to deal with the results of the disastrous failure of mental health. The point of attack in all medicine was prevention, and that was what the Association was aiming at. It aimed at providing proper mental health for the community, and with a great progressive municipality like Birmingham, it would develop this work and be in the forefront of progress. The integration of the general hospital and mental hospital was very much to the fore to-day. The Royal College of Physicians, the British Medical Association and the Association had jointly recommended such a course, and it was hoped that a suitable number of beds for early cases would be set up in all the great municipal and voluntary hospitals. This would happen in Birmingham, and with that great integration the progress of mental health would be of great benefit to the community at large. All preventive services should commence before complete disease occurred and that was what the Association was aiming at; that

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was an aim which Birmingham would be the first to support and forward, as they had ever been in the vanguard of progress.

EX-PRESIDENT'S VALEDICTORY ADDRESS.

"Some Observations on the Reduction of Distinctions drawn between Mental Ill-Health and Physical Ill-Health," by THOS. C. GRAVES, B.Sc., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S.

The PRESIDENT said that they had listened to a fascinating series of cases, and had had a wonderful exposition of the vital and energetic way in which the work was done in the Birmingham area. It was given to few lecturers to keep the undivided attention of his audience in the way that Dr. Graves had done.

There was the question of comment on a presidential address which, generally speaking, was banned, and he thought that that ban applied to valedictory addresses as well as to opening presidential addresses.

Dr. Graves had been the Association's father and guide during one of the most difficult phases in the life of the Association, and for the way in which he had guided them through this war and brought them to the victory day in Birmingham the members could not be too grateful. He attended meetings with the greatest regularity under the most difficult conditions, and no one could have held the Association together as he had done. He added to their debt by the kindly hospitality and entertainment which he and Mrs. Graves had organized during the past two days, and both Birmingham and the Association would remember the meeting with the greatest feelings of gratitude and inspiration. He would propose the heartiest vote of thanks to Dr. and Mrs. Graves for all that they had done previously and during the past two days. Applause.)

Dr. GRAVES, in acknowledging, said that he and Mrs. Graves had enjoyed doing the work, and his wife had helped to keep things going while he had voyaged to London. He was very glad the members had been able to visit Birmingham, and if their interest had been stimulated he hoped they would come on some other occasion. If the aim of the White Paper was to be attained it could not be along lines other than those over which they had been travelling for the past 25 years.

NOTICES BY THE HON. LIBRARIAN.

The Library is open to members between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Books are issued to borrowers between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., and between 2.30 and 4.30 p.m.; Saturdays, between 10 a.m. and 12 noon.

The Hon. Librarian will endeavour to obtain, as far as possible, any books on psychiatry and allied subjects required by members.

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3. Books and journals are sent carriage paid from the Library, but members are responsible for the books from the time they leave the Library until they are received back.

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8. All communications should be addressed to "The Librarian, Royal Medico-Psychological Association, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W. 1."

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