SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

THE SPRING, 1944, MEETING of the South-Western Division was held by kind invitation of the Committee of Visitors and Lieut.-Col. R. W. Armstrong at Littlemore Hospital, near Oxford, on Thursday, March 23, 1944.

Apologies for absence were received from the President (Dr. T. C. Graves), Drs. R. E. Hemphill, F. Dudley, J. W. Leech, E. Barton-White and others.

Dr. G. W. T. H. Fleming was in the Chair.

The following were present: Drs. J. Gould, G. W. T. H. Fleming, C. Davies-Jones, Major F. Stuhl, Drs. H. B. Hill, R. G. McInnes, B. W. Armitage, E. Casson, F. M. Stewart, Lieut.-Col. R. W. Armstrong, Capt. G. Tayleur Stockings, Drs. E. Hagedorn, N. Moulson, F. L. Golla, B. Hutton, D. H. H. Thomas, J. Johnston Mason, E. Laval, and S. Edgar Martin, Hon. Divisional Secretary.

The following attended as visitors: Drs. Sophia Lucas, A. Guirdham, Major W. R. Reynell, Drs. R. W. Kosterlitz, E. M. Handfield-Jones, Dagmar Wilson, A. M. Stewart, Robert Biggall, Delgado, and Tytler, and Mr. Morrell (Chairman of the Visiting Committee).

The following were elected as Ordinary Members:

JOHN AUGUSTINE KELLEHER, L.R.C.P.&S.I., Assistant Medical Officer, The Old Manor, Salisbury.

Proposed by Drs. S. Edgar Martin, P. W. Carruthers and J. P. Westrup.

ARTHUR GUIRDHAM, M.A., D.M.Oxon., D.P.M., Medical Superintendent, Bailbrook House, Batheaston, Bath.

Proposed by Drs. S. Edgar Martin, P. W. Carruthers and J. P. Westrup.

The Report of the Divisional Management Committee was received and the following recommendations approved:

On the retirement of Dr. G. W. T. H. Fleming as Chairman, after this meeting, Dr. S. Edgar Martin to be Chairman, Lieut.-Col. R. W. Armstrong having kindly undertaken to do temporary Secretary's work.

Dr. S. Edgar Martin and Dr. R. E. Hemphill to be Representative Members of Council, and Dr. S. Edgar Martin to be nominated to serve on the Nursing Advisory Committee.

Dr. J. W. Leech to be asked if he would kindly have the Autumn, 1944, meeting to be held on Thursday, October 26, 1944, at Wilts County Mental Hospital, Devizes. In view of difficulties of travelling, petrol shortage, etc., Dr. Fleming thought it would be advisable to have the meeting as central as possible.

Dr. FLEMING opened a discussion *re* the future Mental Health Services, and the following raised various points and contributed to an animated and interesting debate on the subject: Dr. GUIRDHAM, Lieut.-Col. R. W. ARMSTRONG, Dr. R. G. MCINNES, Capt. G. T. STOCKINGS, *R.A.M.C.*, Drs. C. DAVIES-JONES, ELIZABETH CASSON, B. ARMITAGE, JONATHAN GOULD and other members.

The following were appointed as a Medical Planning Committee for the Division: Drs. G. W. T. H. Fleming, S. Edgar Martin, R. G. McInnes, R. M. Bates, R. E. Hemphill, N. Moulson, and Major F. Stuhl, *R.A.M.C.*, with instructions to appoint a representative on the main committee.

The Chairman of the Visiting Committee (Mr. MORRELL) welcomed the members at lunch and hoped they would have a pleasant meeting. He apologized for the state of the Hospital, but knew that they would realize this was due to shortage of labour, materials, etc.

Dr. FLEMING proposed a vote of thanks to Lieut.-Col. Armstrong and the Visiting Committee and this was passed with acclamation. After the meeting members were kindly entertained to tea.

Dr. HORACE HILL, M.R.C.P., Medical Superintendent, Laverstock House, Salisbury, read a paper on **"Dementia Praecox in Juvenile Delinquency,"** and the following took part in the discussion: Dr. N. MOULSON, Major REYNELL, Dr. R. G. MCINNES and Dr. F. L. GOLLA.

Dr. JONATHAN GOULD, M.B., M.R.C.S., Assistant Medical Officer, Littlemore Hospital, Oxford, read a paper on **"Psychotic Reactions to Sexual Trauma in Girls."**

Capt. G. TAYLEUR STOCKINGS, *R.A.M.C.*, read a paper on **"Schizophrenia in Military Psychiatric Practice,"** and Dr. FLEMING, Major STUHL and others took part in the subsequent discussion.

IRISH DIVISION.

THE AUTUMN QUARTERLY AND CLINICAL MEETING of the Irish Division of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association was held in the Royal College of Physicians, Kildare Street, Dublin, by kind permission of the President and Fellows, on Thursday, October 28, 1943.

Members present: Dr. John Dunne, in the Chair; Drs. J. F. Fitzgerald, P. J. Irwin, P. Grace, S. Blake, B. F. Honan, P. Moran, W. J. Coyne, R. Thompson, P. J. Cassin, R. D. Brennan, E. O'Brien, D. Hegarty, T. Geraghty, B. Moran, J. W. Weir, P. Mallie, T. Conlon, M. Gallagher, H. Ingouville-Williams, N. B. O'Higgins (Hon. Sec.).

Apologies for unavoidable absence were received from Drs. D. B. Lothian, J. Fitzgerald, P. J. Kelly, E. N. M. O'Sullivan, C. B. Maloney.

Before reading the minutes the HON. SECRETARY thanked the Division for their kind vote of sympathy passed at the last meeting. He also thanked the Division for electing him as Hon. Secretary. The minutes of the previous meeting were then read, approved and signed.

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The following nominated candidates were, after ballot, declared unanimously elected as Ordinary Members of the Association:

Rev. Bro. WHITAKER, M.B., B.S., R.U.I., House of St. John of Gods, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin.
Proposed by Drs. J. Dunne, J. Fitzgerald and N. B. O'Higgins.

MICHAEL J. KENNEFICK, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H., D.P.M., Mental Hospital, Cork.
Proposed by Drs. B. F. Honan, J. Fitzgerald and C. Carey.

Nominations were received for the posts of Divisional Secretary and Representative Members of Council for election at the Spring Meeting, 1944.

The SECRETARY informed the meeting that, with regard to item 6 on the agenda, he had called on the Registrar of the General Nursing Council. He said that he was informed that there was a notice of motion in the name of Dr. Kearney, Inspector of Mental Hospitals, requesting that the decisions notified in these circulars be reviewed and rescinded at the meeting of Council to be held on November 5, 1943. The Secretary said that he had been asked by the Inspector to request the Chairman to ask the meeting not to discuss the matter.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that while the members were fully entitled to discuss the question, it might be wiser to await further developments and thus not prejudice the position. This was agreed to by the meeting.

In view of travelling and catering difficulties it was decided that the Spring Quarterly Meeting also be held in the Royal College of Physicians, Dublin.

CLINICAL MEETING.

Dr. JOHN DUNNE, Chairman, spoke of the tardiness of those attached to the staffs of the provincial mental hospitals in bringing forward papers and material for discussion at these clinical meetings, and said that he hoped that these hospitals would not leave this duty entirely to the Dublin hospitals; such would easily develop into a habit and be detrimental to interest in and discussion at the clinical meetings, and he thanked Drs. O'Sullivan and D. Hegarty, of Grangegorman Mental Hospital, for preparing at short notice and bringing forward an account of clinical cases.

Dr. D. HEGARTY then read an account proposed by Dr. D. O'Sullivan and himself of cases treated by Electro-convulsive Therapy. In all they reported on 103 cases so treated and gave figures of results obtained. The speaker summarized their results and views upon the treatment by saying:

(*a*) That little or no benefit is obtained in schizophrenics.

(*b*) That in cases of depression the mood is changed to one of euphoria and there is thus obtained a lifting of the depression.

(*c*) That early treatment is particularly necessary.

(*d*) That while the eradication of septic foci was important in the building-up of the general health of the patient, septic foci were relatively unimportant as a factor in the causation or prolongation of mental disease.

Many members spoke on the paper, and Dr. Hegarty was congratulated on the detailed and able manner with which he had presented his review. Many speakers stressed the necessity for the closest psychotherapeutic contact with patients undergoing E.C.T., and pointed out that, in the enthusiasm for the new and spectacular, the older and well-tried therapeutic methods should not be forgotten. Other speakers spoke of the poor results obtained with E.C.T. in schizophrenia, and it was suggested that if a case of schizophrenia recovered with this therapy, one ought carefully to reconsider and revise the diagnosis.

Dr. HEGARTY replied to questions and to points raised, and then at the request of the Chairman gave an account of an interesting clinical case in which some doubts had been raised as to the proper diagnostic label to affix.

THE SPRING QUARTERLY AND CLINICAL MEETING of the Irish Division of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association was held in the Royal College of Physicians, Kildare Street, Dublin, by kind permission of the President and Fellows, on Thursday, March 30, 1944.

The following members were present: Dr. John Dunne in the Chair and subsequently Dr. P. Moran, Drs. J. F. Fitzgerald, P. Grace, J. Kearney, W. J. Coyne, J. Fitzgerald, P. J. Cassin, M. F. Andrews, J. R. Taylor, P. J. Courtney, D. J. Sullivan, D. Hegarty, P. J. Aird, J. V. Dolphin, J. M. Meenan, M. F. Dixon, B. Moran, M. Sullivan, H. J. Eustace, M. F. Andrews, J. R. Shea, M. Gallagher, and N. B. O'Higgins (Hon. Sec.).

In addition Prof. N. McDermott, University College, Galway, and Dr. J. Harte were present as guests of members.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, approved, and signed. The following nominated candidates were, after ballot, declared unanimously elected as Ordinary Members of the Association:

MARGARET F. DIXON, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.M., 42, Elgin Road, Dublin.
Proposed by Drs. H. J. Eustace, W. N. Eustace and N. Moore.

JAMES CLYNE, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.M., Mental Hospital, Sligo.
Proposed by Drs. C. J. McCarthy, J. R. Shea and T. D. Foley.

The following elections were made:

Divisional Secretary: Dr. N. B. O'Higgins.

Representative Members of Council: Drs. J. Dunne and P. Moran.

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It was proposed by Dr. J. DUNNE and seconded by Dr. J. FITZGERALD and passed unanimously that Dr. P. Moran be elected Chairman for the coming year. The proposer and seconder paid deserved compliments to Dr. Moran for his continuous and continued interest in the affairs of the Division and for his energetic work as Divisional Secretary. Dr. Moran then took the Chair, and in reply thanked the members and assured them that he was very sensible of the honour paid to him.

Examiners for the Nursing Certificate R.M.P.A. were elected as last year, namely :

Final Nursing Examination : Drs. P. J. Doherty, P. J. Kelly and T. Foley.

Preliminary Nursing Examination : Drs. T. Conlon, F. Walsh and H. J Eustace.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that, owing to Local Government Department and General Nursing Council regulations, and to emergency conditions, these elections were to almost purely nominal duties.

The SECRETARY read a letter and submitted copies of a circular received from the General Secretary of the Association *re* Medical Planning Committee R.M.P.A., and the Mental Health Services (England). This gave rise to free discussion.

Dr. KEARNEY, Inspector of Mental Hospitals, intimated that some Bills connected with reform of Lunacy Laws in this country were being prepared by the Department of Local Government and Public Health, and that perhaps it would be as well to await these Bills, when a full discussion and suggestions would be helpful.

Dr. DUNNE stressed the necessity of advising the public and the Public Health authorities on matters relating to mental illness.

Dr. EUSTACE suggested that a Sub-Committee be set up to consider the matter.

This was seconded by Dr. DUNNE and the following Sub-Committee was elected : Drs. Moran, Chairman, and N. B. O'Higgins, Hon. Sec., *ex-officio* ; Drs. J. Dunne, H. L. Eustace, H. StGeorge Smith and J. FitzGerald.

The Secretary was instructed to circularize all members with a copy of the printed circular received from the General Secretary, and to reply to the General Secretary to the effect that, while realizing that some points in the circular were not applicable to this country, the Division was deeply interested in the suggestions outlined, and deemed it advisable to set up a Sub-Committee to consider similar matters more directly appertaining to the Mental Health Service in this country.

Dr. MORAN opened a discussion on administrative responsibility in Public Mental Hospitals. He said that he considered that attention, often of an unwelcome nature, was being focused on Mental Hospital administration, and that inevitably the Medical Superintendents were, as such, responsible for the entire administration. He suggested that Assistant Medical Officers might perhaps with advantage be seconded to purely administrative duties for certain periods, and thus obtain experience in administration which often with difficulty they obtained in some institutions.

Dr. J. FITZGERALD disagreed with the suggestion. He said that any Medical Officer would resent being seconded to solely administrative duties or to the position of learner and apprentice in the office, the stores, or on the farm ; and he thought that if Dr. Moran's suggestion were adopted it might soon be expected of the Assistant Medical Officers that in addition to Medical Diplomas they should show Diplomas in Accountancy and in farming. He submitted that most Medical Officers were relatively well versed in the routine matters of administration ; their interest in their work and in the Hospital kept them of necessity *au fait* with administration.

Other members considered the medical staffing of the public mental hospitals inadequate.

Dr. KEARNEY, Inspector of Mental Hospitals, said that Dr. Moran's suggestion was scarcely for provincial mental hospitals, but in the larger hospitals like Grangegorman, where there were many Assistant Medical Officers, the suggestion might be worth considering.

Circulars from the Department of Local Government and Public Health and from the General Nursing Council dated March 18, 1944, disposed of questions raised by previous circulars.

Dr. J. FITZGERALD raised the question of the increased annual subscription from one and a half to three guineas, and wondered if it had not been possible to obtain the views of the members of each Division before such a decision had been made.

The SECRETARY read By-law 19 of the Rules of the Association, which states that the subscription may be raised at the Annual General Meeting of the Association, and he read notes received from the Hon. Treasurer. In these notes it was stressed that the increase in the subscription had been pending for several years and that the Treasurer had repeatedly warned the Association that it might be necessary, and that only after the fullest discussion was the decision made at the Annual Meeting of the Association in July, 1943.

Dr. DUNNE suggested that the Secretary write to the Treasurer requesting a special subscription rate for members of the Irish Division.

Before concluding the business of the meeting the CHAIRMAN proposed and Dr. DUNNE seconded a sincere vote of sympathy to Dr. P. J. Courtney on the death of his mother. The vote was passed in silence, all members standing.

Dr. COURTNEY, who was present, replied and thanked the members.

CLINICAL MEETING.

Dr. J. R. SHEA read a very interesting paper upon two cases upon which a prefrontal leucotomy had been done by Prof. N. McNeill, Galway. Before describing the cases, Dr. Shea gave a short account of the history of leucotomy. He then described the cases in detail, giving an account of the clinical picture presented both before and since the operation. Both cases were

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young subjects, both females, and both cases of schizophrenia which had shown marked mental deterioration in every aspect. Slight but definite improvement has been obtained.

Dr. H. J. EUSTACE described, and showed, another case in which prefrontal leucotomy had been done. He stressed that everything possible had been done for this young man, that he had relapsed again and again after various methods of treatment had obtained slight improvement, and that only at the entreaty of his parents had the leucotomy been considered.

Prof. N. MCDERMOTT gave an account of the technique used in the operation.

Dr. DUNNE congratulated Dr. Shea and Dr. Eustace on the accurate and clinical manner in which they had described their cases. He deprecated, however, the indiscriminate use of leucotomy, and deplored its haphazard and indiscriminate use in some countries. He said it should be used only in the very hopeless cases. He wondered also what would be the eventual personality changes in cases so maimed. He referred to the opinion that the frontal lobes might be described as the seat of the Super-Ego, and all the attributes, ethical, moral, social, the term connotes. If the thalamus is the seat of the Id, he questioned the wisdom of transecting the association tracts between these parts of the brain.

Dr. KEARNEY associated himself with the vote of congratulations and thanks to Dr. Shea, Dr. Eustace and Prof. McDermott. He said he would like to see more co-ordination between the mental hospitals, the pooling of results, and the furtherance of research into the rationale of many of the modern empirical forms of treatment of mental disease. Many other speakers took part in the discussion, and it was obvious that the papers were appreciated by all.

The CHAIRMAN concluded the discussion and congratulated Dr. Shea, Dr. Eustace and Prof. McDermott, and thanked them for supplying such interesting clinical material for the meeting. He also deprecated this as most other modern but empirical forms of treatment. He said that frankly he was taking the conservative, even the ultra-conservative view in those questions. He referred to those doing mental work as defenders of the defenceless, and he hoped that the mental patient would be guarded from assault no matter how pseudo-scientific.

Dr. SHEA and Dr. EUSTACE replied to the points raised in the discussion, and they both agreed that the treatment should be used only on the very few cases, and then only after grave consideration.

THE SUMMER QUARTERLY AND CLINICAL MEETING of the Irish Division of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association was held in the Royal College of Physicians, Kildare Street, Dublin, by kind permission of the President and Fellows, on Tuesday, July 4, 1944.

The following members were present: Dr. P. Moran (in the Chair), Drs. J. Dunne, J. Kearney, S. Blake, P. J. Cassin, J. Fitzgerald, R. Thompson, C. B. Molony, H. St.George Smith, H. J. Eustace, P. J. Aird, M. K. Mellett, J. Meenan, and N. B. O'Higgins (Hon. Sec.).

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, approved and signed. The following nominated candidates were, after ballot, declared unanimously elected Ordinary Members of the Association.

GEOFFREY BEWLEY, M.D., F.R.C.S.I., 65, Lower Baggot Street, Dublin.
Proposed by Drs. H. J. Eustace, H. St.George Smith and M. F. Dixon.

JAMES N. CURRAN, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.M., Grange, Youghal, co. Cork.
Proposed by Drs. B. Honan, C. Carey and M. J. Kenefick.

Correspondence was read from the Hon. Treasurer of the Association, stating that the Council had had to refuse the application of the Irish Division for the decreased subscription to the Association. Letters were read from Dr. Eliot Slater, London, and it was regretted that he had found himself unable to travel to this country.

Dr. C. B. MOLONY referred to the fact that a Bill to reform the lunacy laws in this country was in preparation by the Department of Local Government and Public Health, and said that it was regrettable that neither the Division as a body nor its members as individuals were being consulted.

Dr. DUNNE agreed that it was imperative that the psychiatrists of the country as represented by the Division should be consulted regarding the framing of this so important legislation. There was a full discussion on the matter, and it was pointed out that procedure in Government Departments precluded a body of individuals being consulted in the drafting of a Bill, and that only when a Bill had become public by being put into the hands of the members of the Dail could consultation be taken and amendments made at the Committee stages of the Bill.

The following resolution was proposed by Dr. MORAN and seconded by Dr. DUNNE:

> "That the members of the Irish Division of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association, at a meeting held in Dublin on Tuesday, July 4, 1944, would wish to express their gratification in the knowledge that a Bill is at present being prepared by the Minister of Local Government and Public Health, which envisages a radical change and long-awaited reform of the antiquated lunacy laws at present existing in this country.
>
> "They would bring to the notice of the Minister that the Irish Division of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association represents all the practising psychiatrists of Ireland, that it is a representative and authoritative body, and they respectfully assure the Minister for Local Government and Public Health of the readiness and willingness of the Division to consult with him if so requested in the framing of this so urgent and important legislation."

The resolution was passed unanimously.

The date of the next meeting was fixed for Tuesday, November 7, 1944, in the Royal College of Physicians, Dublin.

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CLINICAL MEETING.

Dr. K. MELLETT read a paper on **"Psychological Treatment of Juvenile Delinquency."** Introducing the subject, he mentioned the recent publicity given to the increase of juvenile delinquency in Ireland, and said that psychological treatment, together with educational, social and legal measures is necessary for the proper solution of the problem. This treatment can be obtained only through Child Guidance Clinics. He described the usual procedure in such clinics, and gave many examples to prove the psychological factor underlying the delinquency. He stressed the importance of accurate diagnosis, and pointed out that true mental deficiency was rare in the juvenile delinquent, the majority showing an average Intelligence Quotient. He described the methods of investigating and treating these cases, and mentioned the necessity of efficient team-work as between the social worker, the educational psychologist and the psychiatrist. Treatment consisted in helping the readjustment of the delinquency by treating any specific disability, physical or intellectual, or environmental handicap. The co-operation of the parents and that of the legal, educational and social authorities was necessary in the carrying out of the recommendations of the psychiatrist.

Dr. Mellett's paper was received with very great interest and many members took part in the subsequent discussion.

Dr. THOMPSON pointed out that trouble in childhood was often the basis of a subsequent psychosis in maturer years. He said that certification was difficult, and while not advocating certification in these cases, he instanced a case he himself had been compelled to advise certification.

Dr. DUNNE agreed that psychological treatment of difficulties and maladjustments in children was the root of all psychiatry, and he deplored the absence of adequate machinery for the investigation of these cases in this country. The Division should sponsor a scheme for setting up of Child Guidance Clinics in Dublin.

Dr. H. ST.GEORGE SMITH mentioned that heredity was a factor in the causation of juvenile delinquency.

Dr. CASSIN said it would be pertinent to note that juvenile delinquency, or at least the increase in the number of youthful delinquents, was *pari passu* with the tendency towards liberalism in thought and behaviour of the modern parents, and he wondered if a great deal of juvenile delinquency was not due simply and solely to the inability or unwillingness of the modern, ultra-modern parent to deal firmly, even severely with these children.

Dr. KEARNEY said that Child Guidance Clinics might eventually be set up if public opinion were stimulated and so demanded, but he would like to warn against a lack of sense of proportion which might be shown if one failed to remember the vast number of normal children there were in the population.

Dr. MORAN summarized the views of the previous speakers and warned enthusiasts to keep their feet on the cold ground of realities, and remember that social services could be overdone in a State where social services had reached almost saturation point measured in terms of the people's ability to pay for them. The unit of the State is the family, and unless the parents insist upon family unity and family control, the children would become characterless, unformed and undisciplined in mind and body.

After further discussion it was decided to leave to the Dublin Group the tentative arrangements and discussion on the possibility of setting up a Child Guidance Clinic in Dublin, and if preliminaries were arranged then the Division would take up the matter.

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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1. Books shall be lent only to members within the United Kingdom and Eire who are not in arrears with their subscriptions.

2. No member may borrow from the Library more than three volumes at one time.

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.

4. Books damaged or lost while in possession of a member will be repaired at his expense or must be replaced by him.

5. A member borrowing a book or periodical from the Library shall be required to sign and return to the Librarian a form of receipt for the same, which will be regarded as an acceptance of these Regulations.

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