Dr. Kenneth Cameron (*London*)
"Some Experiences with LSD in Adolescent Boys."

Dr. A. J. Martin (*London*)
"Treatment of the Sexual Neuroses with LSD."

Fifth Session:

"Clinical Observations and Phenomenological Interpretation"

Sessional Chairman: Dr. Murray Jackson.

Speakers: Dr. Michael Fordham (*London*)
"Analytic Observations on Patients using Hallucinogenic Drugs."

Dr. C. H. Van Rhyn (*Deventer, Holland*)
"Significant Hallucinations."

Dr. Ismond Rosen (*London*)
"A Clinical Observation on Aggression in the use of LSD and Intensive Psychotherapy in the Treatment of Affective Disorders with Obsessions."

Dr. Elizabeth Eisner (*Los Angeles*)
"The Influence of LSD on Unconscious Activity."

Final Session:

Sessional Chairman: Dr. T. F. Main.

This session took the form of a general discussion on the moral, religious and social significance of experience under hallucinogenic drugs. The speakers included Mr. Francis Huxley, Professor E. H. Gombrich, Mr. Christopher Mayhew, M.P., Mr. Raymond Mortimer, Mr. Gordon Taylor and Professor Price.

It is intended to publish the proceedings of the Conference as a separate monograph.

SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION

THE AUTUMN MEETING of the South-Western Division was held at Tone Vale Hospital, Taunton, on Saturday, 5 November, 1960, by kind invitation of the Hospital Management Committee and Dr. K. C. Bailey, Medical Superintendent.

The business items were concluded in the forenoon. The afternoon session was devoted to papers and discussion and was attended by members of the West of England Medical Officers of Health Association, many of whom also attended the Reception and luncheon. Members and guests were welcomed by J. Hope, Esq., F.R.I.C.S., F.I.A.Rb., J.P., Chairman of the Hospital Management Committee. The Chairman of the Division, Dr. R. F. Barbour, returned thanks in reply.

The Divisional Secretary reported that the Divisional Committee of Management had met earlier that morning. They had agreed upon the following points:

(*a*) To recommend the re-appointment to the Divisional Committee of Management of the following members: Drs. A. Leitch, J. McGhie, F. E. Pilkington, T. P. Riordan, and W. Lumsden Walker, all of whom were eligible for re-election under the terms of By-Law 33.

(*b*) To put forward the following nominations for membership to the Regional Hospital Boards:

South Western: Drs. F. E. Pilkington and Dr. W. Lumsden Walker.

Welsh: Dr. G. M. King and Dr. J. P. Spillane.

Oxford: Dr. W. Ogden, a member of the Board due to retire in 1961 and eligible for re-appointment.

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Wessex: Dr. A. J. Gailbraith, a member of the Board due to retire in 1961 and eligible for re-appointment; and Dr. I Atkin.

(*c*) To approach Dr. A. Heaton-Ward with a view to accommodating the Spring, 1961, meeting at Stoke Park Hospital, Bristol, on a date to be arranged.

These recommendations were approved by the Meeting.

The following candidates were elected unanimously to Ordinary membership:

ANTEBI, RAYMOND NATHAN, M.D.(Bologna), L.A.H.(Dublin), Junior Medical Officer, Moorhaven Hospital, Ivybridge, S. Devon.

FOWKE, AUDREY RUTH CULLERNE, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.A., Senior House Officer, Moorhaven Hospital, Ivybridge, S. Devon.

MULLER, DAVID JOHN, M.A., B.M., B.Ch., L.M.S.S.A., D.P.M., Registrar in Psychiatry, Powick Hospital, Worcester.

PHILLIPS-MILES, DAVID, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., Assistant Senior Medical Officer, Welsh Regional Hospital Board.

The Chairman opened the afternoon session by cordially welcoming the members of the West of England Medical Officers of Health Association and the other guests, including many members of various Local Authority Health Departments. He stressed the need for co-operation in all fields, especially in view of the implications of the new Mental Health Act.

PAPERS AND DISCUSSIONS

"The Mentally Disordered Patient in the Community with particular reference to the Discharged Patient."

DR. K. C. BAILEY introduced the subject by mentioning problems which might not normally be referred to the psychiatrist. These included difficulties relating to sub-normal adults, disturbed children, psychopaths, alcoholics and some cases of senility within the community.

A review of discharges from Tone Vale Hospital in 1959 was undertaken to test the validity of the criticism that ex-mental hospital patients were a problem in the community. In 1959 a total of 857 patients were discharged. It was found that only 37 (26 men, 11 women), i.e. 4·2 per cent., had subsequently created any real difficulties. An attempt was made to assess the nature of the problem under the following headings:

(1) Physically aggressive— 16 patients of which 9 were alcoholics.

(2) Those causing mental stress to adults in the home—29 patients, of whom 11 were alcoholics, 6 schizophrenics and 5 cyclothymics.

(3) Those causing disturbance to children—19 patients.

(4) Those causing disturbance to neighbours—5 patients.

Dr. Bailey drew attention to the fact that 13 of the 37 patients were alcoholics and stressed the inadequacy of existing facilities for dealing with this particular problem.

While no exact figures were available, there were instances of suicide and it was felt that these might be related to premature discharge from hospital.

Evidence of failure to readjust within the community was shown by the proportion who had not returned to work, and ultimately many of these disturbing elements appeared before the Courts.

Dr. Bailey concluded by saying that although the problems created by discharged mental hospital patients were not numerically great in the South Somerset

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area, there was obvious need for more extensive after-care facilities, in particular additional mental welfare officers to deal with the sociological aspects of mental ill-health.

DR. M. F. BETHELL's paper dealt with disturbed children in the community. He stressed the inadequacy of existing psychiatric investigation and treatment, and mentioned that at an Approved School which he visited, there was a large number of boys who had not had necessary psychotherapeutic help. Similarly, at the Remand Home which he visited weekly, he found that only 3 per cent. of the boys passing through this home had received psychiatric attention. Dr. Bethell then described his experience at Merryfield, the children's unit at Tone Vale Hospital. This unit normally accommodated 20 to 30 children from a wide area, and on reviewing a series of 100 treated in the past two years, he considered that in 30 per cent. admission to hospital could have been avoided if reasonable facilities had been available in the community. He emphasized the need for more child psychiatrists, and the problems of providing adequate special training for workers in this field.

DR. M. P. NELSON spoke of the problems relating to the subnormal patient in the community. He said that the catch-phrase, "Re-orientation away from hospital care towards care in the community", derived from the Report of the Royal Commission, was misleading. Already in the field of mental deficiency, community care was being adequately exploited. He very much doubted if it would be to the benefit of either the patient or the public if community care was increased at the expense of existing hospital services. If hostels were provided, they should be complementary to the hospital system and not run in competition. He also mentioned that under the new Act many high grade patients might be prematurely or unwisely discharged. Friendly after-care would be needed but it might not be accepted. A number of these patients would feel less secure by the withdrawal of mandatory supervision, and the general public would miss this degree of protection. Our concern for the patient must not be to the exclusion of the needs of society. If the environment was to be the community, it was our duty to study the possible effects of the actions of the mentally disordered in the community. Dr. Nelson questioned the desirability of increasing the number of inefficient and irresponsible citizens, and of probably increasing the perpetrators of criminal offences in circulation.

DR. J. F. DAVIDSON, Medical Officer of Health for Somerset, opened the discussion. He said that those who considered that with the coming of the Mental Health Act the whole pattern of mental illness would change, and that the public's reception of patients coming into their midst would alter overnight, were in serious error. He did agree, however, that the general public were better informed and more sympathetic towards the needs of mental patients returning to the community. This attitude might lead to a wave of sentimentality which would disperse at the first sign of real trouble.

In the ensuing discussion, many speakers participated, including members of the Medical Officers of Health Association and representatives of various departments of the Local Authorities. The need for full-co-operation between hospitals and local authorities was stressed, particularly with regard to co-ordination of after-care services. This might well involve re-organization within the individual services to make the best use of available personnel. In this latter respect the possibility of Health Visitors being trained in mental after-care should be considered. In conclusion, Dr. F. E. Pilkington outlined how a Domiciliary Psychiatric Nursing Service, of the type operating successfully for some time from Moorhaven Hospital, could contribute to the total after-care resources in the community.

Finally, Dr. R. W. Armstrong proposed a vote of thanks to the speakers and thanked all concerned for arranging such a stimulating meeting.

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