"The Geriatric Unit" by Dr. L. COSIN.

"Problems in the Diagnosis and Classification of Mental Disorder in Old Age," by Dr. MARTIN ROTH.

"Some Abilities of Older People," by Dr. N. T. WELFORD.

"The Functions of a Psychiatric Department in a Geriatric Unit," by Dr. J. IN DELARGY.

HOSPITALITY.

The Association was most hospitably entertained to lunch and tea at St. Andrew's Hospital by the Regional Hospital Board and the Hospital Management Committee, and were welcomed most kindly by Alderman Deacon, Chairman of the Committee and Lord Cranbrook, Chairman of the Board. In replying for the Association the President spoke of the very particular pleasure it gave to members to visit Norwich for the first time since 1914, and expressed the Association's deep appreciation of the facilities given in the City Hall and Guildhall for Committee and Council meetings, and for the splendid arrangements made for the comfort and convenience of members at the Quarterly Meeting at the Hospital. The President conveyed the sincere thanks of the members for the warm hospitality shown to them throughout the meetings and their great indebtedness to the Lord Mayor and Council of Norwich, the Regional Hospital Board and the Hospital Management Committee and to Dr. W. J. McCulley and his staff at St. Andrew's Hospital.

SOUTH-EASTERN DIVISION.

THE SPRING MEETING of the Division took place at Netherne Hospital on 24 April, 1951, and was attended by over ninety members and guests.

Before enjoying an excellent lunch in the Staff Social Club about half a mile from the main hospital, many members had visited several special departments including the Library, Barbers' Shop, Art Department, E.E.G. Department and Neurosurgical Unit.

The meeting was honoured by the presence of Dr. K. K. Drury, President of the Association, who took the Chair for part of the meeting, afterwards relinquishing his place in favour of Dr. T. P. Rees, Chairman of the Division.

The Secretary reported that the Management Committee had accepted the kind invitation to hold the Autumn Meeting at the Tavistock Clinic.

The following were elected for the year 1951–52 :

Chairman : Dr. T. P. Rees.
Secretary : Dr. J. G. Hamilton.
Assistant Secretary : Dr. W. McCartan.
Junior Representative on Council : Dr. P. D. W. Shepherd.

Divisional Committee of Management : Drs. W. P. Berrington, J. M. Crawford, E. C. Dax, Doreen P. Firmin, O. W. S. FitzGerald, S. W. Hardwick, C. Lamorna Hingston, N. McDiarmid, R. McDonald, S. A. MacKeith, R. G. A. McLaren, S. D. Mitchell, B. Reid.

The following were elected to ordinary membership :

JACKSON, MURRAY ARCHIBALD, M.B., B.S.(Sydney), M.R.C.P., Registrar, The Bethlem Royal Hospital, Monks Orchard, Eden Park, Beckenham, Kent.
Proposed by Drs. J. B. S. Lewis, J. G. Hamilton and R. W. Armstrong.

MACGREGOR, DUNCAN FLEMING, M.A., B.Sc., B.M., B.Ch., D.P.M., Senior Registrar, Graylingwell Hospital, Chichester, Sussex.
Proposed by Drs. J. Carse, E. P. H. Charlton and Martin Roth.

OURANOVSKY-GREY, PAUL, M.D.(Geneva), 137, Harley Street, London, W.1.
Proposed by Drs. E. B. Strauss, R. W. Armstrong and T. A. Werner.,

A paper on "The use of the Patients' Library" was read by Miss JOYCE COATES, the Netherne Hospital's Librarian, who made interesting observations on many aspects of the subject, which stimulated a discussion afterwards in which Drs. K. K. DRURY, J. B. S. LEWIS, T. P. REES, F. REITMAN and R. A. SANDISON took part.

Dr. REES said that he once collected several books written by ex-patients of mental hospitals about their experiences when patients and put them before a group of his own patients for their comments. Dr. LEWIS asked what censorship

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0368315X51246801 Published online by Cambridge University Press

if any was exercised, and was told that books about mental hospitals and those which show doctors in unpleasant roles were excluded.

Miss M. BERGMAN read a paper on "Social Club Chairmen"—a humorous and critical survey of the 26 patients who had been Chairmen of the Netherne Hospital Patients' Social Club in the eight years of its existence.

Dr. DAX then introduced the film "Out of True" which had been produced by the Crown Film Unit at Netherne Hospital. This forty-minute film showed the circumstances leading up to an attempted suicide by a young married woman and her subsequent admission, treatment and recovery in a mental hospital.

IRISH DIVISION

THE SUMMER QUARTERLY AND CLINICAL MEETING of the Irish Division of the Association was held on Wednesday, 2 May, 1951, at Stewart's Hospital, Palmerstown, Co. Dublin, by the kind invitation of Dr. H. St. George Smith, Medical Superintendent.

33 members and 3 guests were present.

The members and guests were most hospitably entertained to Lunch by Dr. Smith before the meeting. At the close of the Luncheon a vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. MORAN and seconded by Dr. DUNNE expressing to Dr. Smith and his Committee the great indebtedness of the Division to them for their magnificent hospitality.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, approved and signed.

The Officers of the Division were re-elected for a second year of office.

The following new member was unanimously elected to Ordinary Membership of the Association:

O'CONNOR, J. J., M.B., D.P.M., Assistant Medical Officer, Mental Hospital Killarney, Co. Kerry.

Proposed by Drs. E. N. M. O'Sullivan, C. B. Molony and M. J. Kennefick.

It was decided to hold the Autumn Quarterly Meeting at the Royal College of Physicians, Kildare Street, Dublin, on Wednesday, 7 November, 1951.

Dr. MORAN raised the question of the hours of duty of supervisory officers in mental hospitals. After some discussion it was decided that this matter should be put on the agenda for the next meeting and formally discussed.

Dr. SMITH then presented his communication on **"Some Aspects in the Education of Mentally Handicapped Children."** He defined education as an attempt to train the individual to achieve the greatest benefit to himself and to the environment in which he finds himself. The factors which must be considered in any scheme of education were: (1) Religious principles, (2) Family relationships, and (3) Understanding speech. Dr. Smith then proceeded to discuss each of these three factors. The first he decided was too big a question to discuss at a meeting of this kind, despite its paramount importance. He described how the difficulty of absence of family relationships was overcome in his Hospital by encouraging older patients to look after younger ones. He showed how this was good for the younger patients and provided a satisfactory outlet for the instincts of the older ones. He described in detail the amenities provided in the way of playrooms and occupational therapy, and demonstrated some of the product of the classes. He presented some older and younger patients, demonstrating the obviously happy relationship between the two.

He then demonstrated in some detail the mechanical apparatus used in helping to deal with the third problem, the understanding of speech, in those patients whose power to hear and speak had not developed. He gave a practical demonstration of one child who had been unable to speak at all a few months previously and now talked quite happily to the meeting.

He closed his communication by an appeal to the various social groups in the community, especially educational and religious, asking for their help and co-operation in the rehabilitation of these patients.

The communication was discussed by Drs. O'SULLIVAN, DUNNE, KEARNEY, COYNE, THOMPSON, MORAN and HONAN and Brother BILFRID.

Dr. SMITH replied to questions, and the meeting adjourned to be entertained to tea by Dr. Smith.

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0368315X51246801 Published online by Cambridge University Press