On the following day, Friday, 8 October, the following functions took place:

Meeting of Papers and Discussions Committee.

Meeting of the Forensic Psychiatry Committee.

Paper, **"Bodily responses in Psychiatric Interview,"** by Dr. Max Valentine.

Papers, **"Studies in Model Psychoses—Mescaline and Lysergic Acid,"** by Dr. A. Ardis.

Visit to Aberdeen Royal Mental Hospital.

Tour of the School of Medicine, Foresterhill, including the Department of Mental Health. Tour of the Educational Authority Child Guidance Clinic, The Mental Health Association Social Club and the Woodlands Home.

Reception by Board of Management of Kingseat Hospital followed by dinner.

This two-day Meeting was favoured by excellent weather and must be acclaimed a striking success. All members who were present will wish to record their appreciation for the excellent arrangements made by Professor W. M. Millar, Dr. Adam Milne and their medical staff and for the generous hospitality of the University, the Board of Management of the Mental Hospitals and the Corporation of Aberdeen.

SCOTTISH DIVISION

THE WINTER MEETING of the Scottish Division was held at Bellsdyke Hospital, Larbert, on Friday, 3 December, 1954.

Thirty-one Members were present.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were confirmed.

ELECTION OF ORDINARY MEMBER

The following was unanimously elected an Ordinary Member of the Association:

IRWIN, DAVID, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.M., Senior Medical Officer, Hartwood Mental Hospital, Shotts, Lanarks.; Hon. Visiting Psychiatrist, Notre Dame Child Guidance Clinic, Glasgow.

Proposed by Drs. W. N. J. Chapman, J. S. Dawson, J. Cassells.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

The Committee had met twice since the last Divisional Meeting, in Glasgow on 19 November and at Bellsdyke on 3 December (prior to present Divisional Meeting). At both meetings further consideration had been given to the recent memorandum on the shortage of mental nurses as decided at the Autumn Divisional Meeting.

A. *Shortage of Mental Nurses.* At the last Divisional Meeting the members present had endorsed the recommendations of the Memorandum but Dr. A. Milne and other members had asked for further discussion and consideration on this important subject. At the two meetings of the Committee of Management the following opinions were expressed :

(*a*) Too much emphasis had been placed on the policy that we must be content with a minimum number of trained nurses. It was felt that mental nursing is a vital part of the essential nursing service. It was a mistake to thus imply that it can be reduced to any minimum figure.

(*b*) Concerning salaries it was felt that an important factor should be to ensure a steeper rise on the later increments. This particularly affected married male nurses.

(*c*) Student wastage: further research was again needed into this important subject. It was felt that this research could include, in mental hospitals, a direct and personal approach to all student nurses leaving the service. Possibly in the past too much stress had been laid on opinions expressed at official levels. This point was made in the Wood report on recruitment and training of nurses (1947, Chap. VII, para. 97).

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0368315X55247341 Published online by Cambridge University Press

(*d*) It was agreed that the General Nursing Council, Scotland, should remain the examining body. The recently revised syllabus had, however, markedly increased the number and scope of lectures to be given to student nurses. It was strongly felt that some guidance should be sought from the G.N.C. as to the extent of knowledge now likely to be required by candidates to satisfy the examiners.

(*e*) Regarding the vexed question of the dilution of trained nurses by relatively untrained personnel, the Committee considered there should be a plan for such less trained persons in mental hospitals and institutions. Some training, however, of a basic nature would be necessary and this should carry with it a simple test. Such semi-trained persons should become state enrolled and be given a suitable title. They would thus be differentiated from fully trained nurses by name, status, and salary. The number of such persons employed in a hospital should be kept at a low ratio to trained staff.

B. The Association of Psychiatrists of the Western Region of Scotland had prepared a memorandum on "The Problems of Mental Defectives in Scotland". At the Committee in Glasgow, members present heard Dr. W. J. B. Rogers explain certain points and the memorandum was briefly discussed.

C. Attention was drawn to the forthcoming meeting of representatives of the Division with similar members from the Association of Medical Officers of Health (Scotland). It was decided that the Division should be represented by the Chairman and Secretary with either Professor Ferguson Rodger or Professor Malcolm Millar or Dr. James Milne and Dr. A. Tait.

It was further agreed that the above memorandum on mental deficiency together with a memorandum by Dr. McQueen (M.O.H.) on "Psychiatric training of Health Visitors" should receive preliminary discussion. It was to be made clear that the memorandum on mental deficiency had not been circulated to, nor studied by the Division or by the Mental Deficiency Committee and therefore could not necessarily be taken as being the views of the Division.

D. At a joint meeting of 3 of the 5 sections in the morning the following were elected or re-elected as Chairmen and Secretaries:

Section or Committee	*Chairman*	*Secretary*
Forensic Psychiatry	Dr. P. K. McCowan	Dr. H. Stalker
Child Psychiatry	Dr. M. Methven	Dr. W. G. B. Roger
Research and Clinical	Dr. G. M. Bell	Dr. Martin Whittet
Papers and Discussions	Prof. Ferguson Rodger or Prof. Malcolm Millar	Dr. A. Tait
Mental Deficiency	Prof. Kate Fraser	Dr. J. B. Methven

E. A letter had been received from Dr. H. Stalker asking that the existence of the newly formed Scottish Association of Medical Administrators be brought to the notice of members. Dr. G. M. Bell and the Secretary warmly supported this suggestion. Membership was open to all Medical Superintendents and their Deputies and to all medical administrators in the Department of Health or in Regional Hospital Boards.

F. Dr. A. A. Bell had put forward a suggestion that members might like to have another section or committee to study the History of Psychiatry or alternatively that this subject might be included in, say, the Forensic Psychiatry Section.

G. Nominations for Office-bearers in the Division for 1955–56 were considered. Dr. H. B. Craigie had regretfully decided not to stand for re-election as Chairman. The following nominations were made and will be circulated to all members as laid down under Bye-law 34.

Chairman, Dr. E. J. C. Hewitt.
Secretary, Dr. G. M. Bell.
Assistant Secretary, Dr. Martin Whittet.
Representative on Council, Dr. J. McHarg.

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0368315X55247341 Published online by Cambridge University Press

H. The next Divisional Meeting would be on Friday, 25 March, 1955, and it was suggested that this might be held in Perth or Glasgow. The Secretary to make the usual arrangements.

The Meeting received the Report. There was some general discussion on the proposals for dealing with the shortage of mental nurses. Dr. Russell agreed that semi-trained personnel were required at present in mental hospitals but felt that the ratio of such to trained staff should not be fixed but kept low and at the discretion of each hospital. Dr. Abel said he was sure that all nurses should have some training in mental nursing. It was agreed that the further observations on the mental nursing shortage by the Scottish Division should be communicated to the Hon. General Secretary of the Association.

Nominations for Membership of Regional Hospitals Boards

Consideration was given to the annual letter received from the Department of Health asking for nominations. Divisional representation on Regional Hospital Boards at present was as follows:

South-Eastern Regional Hospital Board, Dr. W. Boyd.
Western Regional Hospital Board, Dr. P. K. McCowan.
Eastern Regional Hospital Board, Dr. J. C. Anderson.
North-Eastern Regional Hospital Board, None.
Northern Regional Hospital Board, None.

The three representatives noted were not due to retire this year. After a short discussion it was agreed to nominate Dr. Adam Milne for the North Eastern Region and Dr. M. Whittet for the Northern Region.

Other Business

The Secretary read a letter from the Home Office intimating that the first Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders would take place at Geneva from 22 August to 3 September, 1955. Any members wishing further information should write to the Divisional Secretary.

Paper

"Hypnosis," by Dr. A. F. McLean.

Members who were able to be present at this Meeting will wish to record their grateful appreciation for the kind hospitality and excellent co-operation received from the Board of Management and the Physician Superintendent.

IRISH DIVISION

The Autumn Quarterly and Clinical Meeting of the Irish Division was held at the Royal College of Physicians, Kildare Street, Dublin, by kind permission of the President and Fellows, on Wednesday, 10 November, 1954, and was attended by 21 members and 3 guests.

A vote of condolence was passed expressing the sympathy of the Members with the following, on their recent bereavements:

Mrs. Molony, Waterford, on the death of her husband, Dr. C. B. Molony.
Mrs. O'Connor Donelan, on the death of her husband, Dr. J. O'C. Donelan.
Dr. J. Fitzgerald, Mullingar, on the death of his brother, Dr. Edward Fitzgerald.
Dr. J. R. Rees, London, on the death of his wife.

It was decided to hold the Spring Quarterly Meeting on Wednesday, 23 March, 1955, the place to be decided upon later by the Chairman and the Secretary.

After ballot, the following were unanimously elected Ordinary Members of the Association:

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GARRY, JOHN W., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.M., L.M., L.A.H., M.P.S.I., Temporary Assistant Medical Officer, Grangegorman Mental Hospital, Dublin, and Ennis, Co. Clare.

Proposed by Drs. John Dunne, Eveleen O'Brien, Mary Sullivan.

HEGARTY, DENIS, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.M., Acting Branch Resident Medical Superintendent, Portrane Mental Hospital, Donabate, Co. Dublin.

Proposed by Drs. John Dunne, Eveleen O'Brien, Mary Sullivan,

KEYS, KATHERINE, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.M., Assistant Medical Officer, Grangegorman Mental Hospital, Dublin.

Proposed by Drs. John Dunne, Eveleen O'Brien, Mary Sullivan.

MACCARTHY, ROBERT ALOYSIUS, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.M., L.A.H., M.P.S., Assistant Medical Officer, Our Lady's Hospital, Cork.

Proposed by Drs. Bernard Honan, Catherine Carey, M. J. Kennefick.

MACMENAMIN, F. DE SALES, M.B., Ch.B., M.O., British Ministry of Pensions, Consultant Psychiatrist, 29 Clyde Road, Dublin.

Proposed by Drs. John Dunne, Eveleen O'Brien, Mary Sullivan.

MEENAN, JOHN MICHAEL KIRWAN, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.M., Assistant Medical Officer, Portrane Mental Hospital, Donabate, Co. Dublin.

Proposed by Drs. John Dunne, Eveleen O'Brien, Mary Sullivan.

O'SULLIVAN, MAIRE EITHNE, M.D., D.P.M., D.C.H., Assistant Medical Officer, Grangegorman Mental Hospital, Dublin.

Proposed by Drs. John Dunne, Eveleen O'Brien, Mary Sullivan.

Dr. O'Higgins raised the question of the procedure for declaring patients of unsound mind and placing them under the care of the Court of Chancery. He pointed out that the present procedure was antiquated and caused unnecessary suffering to the patient. He also suggested that it should be possible to send criminals who have been found of unsound mind back to their own County Hospitals rather than to retain them in the area in which the crime was committed, as at present.

Dr. E. O'Sullivan raised the question of reports on Wards of Court which were frequently done by general practitioners. He suggested that it would be more fittingly done by the Mental Hospital psychiatrists. After some discussion the Secretary was asked to write to the Inspector of Mental Hospitals requesting him to take these matters up through the appropriate channels.

A number of Members expressed the hope that lectures should be organized in Dublin under the Maudsley Bequest. It was suggested that this should be possible next year.

The Meeting then proceeded to the Clinical Session and Dr. Louis Robinson of Purdysburn Hospital, Belfast, presented his communication, **"Mysoline in the Treatment of Epilepsy".**

After some introductory remarks on the problem presented by epileptic patients in hospital, Dr. Robinson described the pharmacological properties of Mysoline, which was synthesized in 1949. He described a clinical trial of the use of the drug in 48 patients—28 males and 20 females—45 patients were suffering from idiopathic major epilepsy, one from petit mal, one from psychomotor attacks and one from Sturge-Weber syndrome. The trial was conducted in two parts, in the first part the aim was to test the effect of Mysoline alone in the control of convulsions over a period of six months, and in the second part, the effect of Mysoline in combination with other anti-convulsant drugs.

One patient showed a true idiosyncrasy to the drug and it had to be discontinued. The main side-effects noticed were drowsiness and lethargy, sometimes with ataxia. Reduction of the dose relieved the symptoms. Dr. Robinson found that 67 per cent of these patients benefited by Mysoline therapy; 13 per cent were unchanged; 20 per cent were worse. The cases of psychomotor and asymptomatic epilepsy showed marked improvement, while the case of petit mal was definitely worse. No improvement could be found in purely psychotic features but behaviour improved in seven cases and deteriorated in six.

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0368315X55247341 Published online by Cambridge University Press

All the cases in the series were given a complete blood examination at the commencement of the trial and at regular intervals afterwards. After six months, ten cases showed a marked diminution in their neutrophil counts. He described in detail a female patient aged 20 who developed an acute pyrexial illness while on the treatment. She had a marked anaemia and neutropenia, and a diagnosis of agranulocytosis was made. The condition cleared up when Mysoline was stopped.

Another male patient aged 49 developed a pyrexial illness with anaemia and neutropenia. Despite intensive therapy which improved his blood picture, this patient ran a fluctuating course and eventually died.

While Dr. Robinson could not be certain that Mysoline was the sole causative agent in the illness of these two patients, there was strong evidence to suggest that it caused the suppression of bone-marrow function. He summarized his findings as follows: "Mysoline produces its best results in cases of idiopathic grand mal either alone or in combination with other anti-convulsants and is indicated in the treatment of these cases, especially in those where adequate control has not been achieved by other standard anti-convulsants. Its judicious employment should benefit a large proportion of epileptics."

A discussion followed the communication in which the following Members took part: Drs. Eustace, Dunne, Shea, McGrath, Gardner and Moore.

The Meeting then adjourned.

NOTICES BY THE HON. LIBRARIAN

The Library is open to members between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Saturdays, 9 a.m. and 12 noon. Books are issued to borrowers during these hours.

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

Library Lending Department Regulations

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.

6. A member shall be entitled to retain a book or periodical borrowed from the Library for a period of twenty-eight days, unless the book is required by another member, in which case it can be recalled by the Librarian at the expiration of fourteen days.

7. In the event of a member failing to return any book or periodical within seven days after receiving notice from the Librarian (on the expiration of the period referred to in Rule 6), the Library Committee shall be at liberty to purchase another copy, the cost to be charged to such member, who shall not be allowed to borrow another book until the sum thus expended shall have been paid.

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

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