He devoted most of his paper to biochemical investigations and experiments, including those which had been concerned with the effects of toxic amines and the so-called hallucinogenic drugs. He gave a detailed account of some of the work which had been done in this field and drew attention to the findings with mescaline, L.S.D. and other chemically-related substances.

It had been suggested that schizophrenia might be due to a specific disorder of the adrenals and that certain deteriorative products of adrenalin could produce effects similar to those produced by the hallucinogens. It was noteworthy that nearly all the known hallucinogens are indoles. It appeared from some of the work that had been done that cycles of activity involving the pituitary, the adrenals and the cerebral cortex, were probably all involved in the production of deteriorative metabolic substances which might interfere with normal brain function.

In the discussion which followed, the Chairman, Dr. Atkin, complimented Dr. Fleming on his interesting paper and expressed the view that further research of this kind was much needed, especially in the schizophrenic group of disorders.

Dr. Kelsey thought that the subject under discussion had a direct bearing on the question of body-mind relations, and referred to the tendency in some such conditions to regress back to a pre-natal status. Dr. Hemphill emphasized the dissimilarity between the effects of hallucinogens and schizophrenia.

Dr. Parfitt quoted cases of excitement, like catatonia, which were discovered to be due to atropine, and drew a distinction between chemically-produced psychoses and schizophrenia.

Dr. Bailey wondered whether the blood chemistry was substantially altered by the presence of unusual substances circulating in the blood stream, and thought that the mental disturbances seen probably represented something more fundamental than the direct effect of the drug itself.

Dr. Shepherd and others also contributed to the discussion. Dr. Atkin added that he felt the effects of hallucinogenic drugs must depend to some extent on the personality of the individual and asked whether the effects of mescaline, for example, were specific or differed from one person to another.

Replying to the discussion, Dr. Fleming said he thought that there would be differences of this kind and, in more general terms, he advocated a much more intense team study of brain and blood chemistry.

Dr. Atkin repeated his appreciation of Dr. Fleming's paper, and the meeting endorsed his remarks by acclamation.

SCOTTISH DIVISION

THE AUTUMN MEETING of the Scottish Division was held on 5 October, 1956, at the Royal Mental Hospital, Montrose.

Thirty Members were present.

ELECTION OF ORDINARY MEMBERS

The following were unanimously elected to Ordinary Membership:

BEATTIE, DONALD ELLIOTT HAMILTON, *M.B.E.*, M.B., Ch.B., Senior Registrar, Bangour Village Hospital, Broxburn.
Proposed by Drs. A. K. Macrae, B. E. A. Magill, F. G. Lasselle.

HEWETT, JOHN RICHARD, M.B., Ch.B., Registrar, Bellsdyke Hospital, Larbert.
Proposed by Drs. A. P. Russell, M. Devlin, M. R. Inglis.

ROSS, HAROLD STORMONT, M.B., Ch.B., Registrar, Perthshire Mental Hospital, Murthly, Perth.
Proposed by Drs. J. McDougall, H. Stalker, T. A. Wylie.

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REPORT FROM COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT, AND MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM

The Secretary said that the Sub-Committee appointed had not yet met the Psychiatric Social Workers and it was suggested that 8 November in Edinburgh would be a suitable date and place, and that arrangements would be made for this Meeting.

The postponed Meeting of the Committee of Management to consider further the White Paper, "The Law Relating to Mental Illness and Mental Deficiency in Scotland", was arranged for Friday, 9 November, in Glasgow.

Dr. Stalker's reply from the Registrar of the General Nursing Council was read to the Meeting and it was decided that meanwhile no further action be taken.

A letter from Professor Kennedy about a Post-Graduate Course in Edinburgh was read. The Secretary was requested to transmit to the other Professors a copy of the proposals contained in this letter.

A letter from Dr. Devlin, the Secretary of the West of Scotland Association of Psychiatrists, had been considered by the Committee of Management and further consideration was given to it at the Divisional Meeting.

Gratitude was expressed to Dr. Devlin for bringing up the question of an Institution for Psychopathic patients. The Division as a whole decided to ask Dr. Inch (Department of Health) to present, as soon as convenient, a paper on the present position in relation to the treatment of psychopaths in Scotland.

The second question raised by the Association of Psychiatrists in the Western Region was the matter of the structure of Hospital Medical Establishments, and the Secretary was instructed to ask Dr. Angus MacNiven, the Division's representative on the Central Consultants' and Specialists' Committee, to keep this matter in mind when it arises for discussion by that body.

The Committee of Management reported that they were satisfied with the present representation of the Division on the Central Health Services Council—Professor W. M. Millar and Dr. P. K. McCowan. It was agreed to put forward no further nominations meanwhile, but that an opportunity would be welcomed to do this in the future. This was unanimously agreed.

Dr. John MacDougall raised the question of a Scottish D.P.M. and asked that this matter be reconsidered by the Division. He was strongly supported by several Members, and the Division agreed to consider this question in more detail before the next Meeting.

The next meeting of the Scottish Division was fixed for Friday, 14 December, 1956, to be held at Bangour Village Hospital, by kind invitation of Dr. A. K. M. Macrae, the Physician Superintendent and his Board of Management.

SUB-COMMITTEES

The Forensic Psychiatry, on this occasion, was the only Sub-section that met. An interesting Paper was read by Dr. Allan A. Bell. It was illustrated by lantern slides. Early documents used in the legal certification of patients were shown. Dr. R. M. Stewart was in the Chair and moved the vote of thanks.

IRISH DIVISION

THE SUMMER QUARTERLY AND CLINICAL MEETING of the Irish Division was held on Wednesday, 4 July, 1956, at St. John of God Hospital, Stillorgan, by kind invitation of the Prior and Community, and Dr. D. McGrath.

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