In the afternoon at Bellsdyke Hospital, Dr. P. Roughead gave a talk on "The Othello Syndrome", and Dr. Keith R. H. Wardrop addressed the Division on "Attempts to treat the Psychopath". These addresses were stimulating and aroused much interest and discussion.

The Division wish to express their sincere thanks for the excellent hospitality and arrangements made by Dr. Allan Russell and his staff and the Board of Management of Bellsdyke Hospital on the occasion of this meeting.

IRISH DIVISION

THE SPRING QUARTERLY 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 27 April, 1960. Thirty-six members were present.

Dr. J. J. Fennelly read a paper on **"Psychiatric Trends in Sweden"**.

Dr. Fennelly said that psychiatric hospitals in Sweden were well ahead of Ireland as regards buildings, equipment and numbers of personnel.

In Sweden, hospitals were not charitable institutions, but places where people could expect, as their right, to get the best treatment in comfort. There was still too much of the "It's good enough for them, it's better than what they're used to" attitude in Ireland.

Child psychiatry was very well developed in Sweden. For instance, in Stockholm for 800,000 people there were seven child guidance clinics.

In the field of Forensic Psychiatry, Dr. Fennelly went on, there was much to be said for the system which avoided the spectacle of doctors contradicting one another so constantly in Court, but many parts of the Swedish legal code, such as voluntary castration, and legal abortion on the flimsiest grounds, did not appeal to the medical profession even in Sweden.

Care of the old was another field in which Sweden was far in advance.

Dr. Fennelly concluded by saying that the general picture of Sweden was of comfortable new buildings for young, old and infirm, with large amounts of money devoted to their needs and constant striving to improve all facilities pertaining to health.

The Paper was discussed by Drs. E. N. M. O'Sullivan, V. Crotty, M. Sullivan, W. McCarten, J. Ryan, D. McGrath, V. Dolphin, P. J. Grace, J. Dunne and P. Cassin. Dr. Fennelly replied.

Election of Officers: The following were elected for 1960-61:

Chairman: Dr. N. B. O'Higgins.

Secretary: Dr. Mary Sullivan.

Junior Representative on Council: Dr. J. A. S. Mulligan.

Following on the election of officers the question of the Junior Representative's expenses was discussed, and the Secretary was instructed to write a letter of protest from the Association to the Department of Health regarding expenses no longer being allowed to members for travelling to meetings in Great Britain, with the result that the Junior Representative had to come from Northern Ireland.

Mental Health Year

Dr. Strauss hoped to give a talk in Dublin some time in June and the various hospitals around the country had arranged "Open Days" and lectures to interested groups.

Correspondence

A letter from the Department of Health was read asking for a representative to be nominated on the Health Council. The Secretary was instructed to write to

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the Department saying that the R.M.P.A. did not propose to nominate any representative to the National Health Council, in view of the Minister's decision not to renew the representation which the Irish Medical Association heretofore had on the Council.

It was decided to form a Parliamentary Sub-Committee and the following members were elected: Professor John Dunne, Drs. Crotty, O'Sullivan, Ryan, Hill, Dr. N. B. O'Higgins, Chairman and Dr. Mary Sullivan, Secretary.

THE SUMMER QUARTERLY MEETING of the Irish Division was held on Wednesday, 20 July, 1960, at St. Brendan's Hospital, Dublin, on the kind invitation of Professor Dunne. The following members were present: Dr. J. P. A. Ryan, Dr. Maureen Walsh, Dr. Mary Sullivan, Dr. W. McCartan, Dr. B. MacM. Ramsay, Dr. John D. Sullivan, Dr. J. Fennelly, Dr. F. A. Campbell, Dr. Eveleen O'Brien, Dr. J. Meenan, Dr. D. J. O'Sullivan, Dr. Ethna O'Sullivan, Dr. J. V. Glass, Dr. P. A. Meehan, Dr. D. J. Lane O'Kelly.

Visitors: Dr. J. B. Brady, Dr. C. Drumgoole, Dr. Joan P. Brady, Dr. Peter Fahy, Dr. M. J. Heffernan, Dr. Joan Pym, Dr. P. J. Wall, Dr. Sheelah K. O'Shea, Dr. O'Hegarty, Dr. Broughan, Dr. T. V. Moby.

In the unavoidable absence of Dr. O'Higgins, Professor Dunne took the Chair.

Dr. J. P. Brady of Indiana University, presented a Paper on **"Conditioning Experiments with Psychiatric Patients"**. Dr. Brady described a patient who had been treated in his Unit—a man of about 40 years of age from rural Indiana. He had always been shy and retiring, and when he was in the army he developed keratitis, and, following his discharge from the army he had various posts which he did not stick. In 1957, in the supermarket, he suddenly went blind. He was fully investigated and there was no physical cause discovered. His case was diagnosed as hysterical blindness. He was admitted a few times to hospital and did not improve. After his fourth admission to hospital it was decided to start him on this conditioning experiment, with successful results.

The Paper was discussed with interest by Professor Dunne, Dr. M. Sullivan, Dr. Fahy, Dr. Campbell, Dr. J. Sullivan; Dr. Brady then replied.

The Autumn Meeting was fixed for a date to be arranged by the Secretary, at the Royal College of Physicians, Kildare Street, Dublin.

Dr. Joan A. T. Pym, of St. Brendan's Hospital, Dublin, was elected an Ordinary Member of the Association. She was proposed by Professor Dunne, Dr. K. Keys and Dr. M. Sullivan.

The Secretary read a letter from the Department of Health in reply to the Division's letter (in which the Division declined to nominate a member to the National Health Council as long as representation was refused to the Irish Medical Association). In his reply the Minister accused the Division of failure to co-operate, and stated that in consequence all special concessions granted to members as such would be withdrawn.

After discussion it was decided not to refer the matter immediately to the General Secretary of the Association, but to attempt to clarify the position with the Minister first. It was pointed out that the Minister had expressed approval of the Division's clinical meetings, so that it was inconsistent to refuse facilities.

The question of Borstal Institutions was discussed and it was agreed that the Secretary should write to the Department of Health for information on these matters.

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