Hospital Management Committee, Mr. J. H. Morrell, welcomed the members and guests at lunch and tea, and he and Dr. Armstrong were suitably thanked by the Chairman of the Division. At the close of the meeting a hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Armstrong for his hospitality was passed with acclamation.

SCOTTISH DIVISION.

A MEETING of the Scottish Division was held on Thursday, 26 October, 1950, at 7, Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh. Twenty members attended and 10 apologies for absence were noted.

Dr. P. K. McCowan was installed as Chairman.

The following were duly elected to Ordinary Membership of the Association:

CROTTY, VINCENT GERARD, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.M., Deputy-Physician Superintendent, Kingseat Hospital, Newmachar, Aberdeenshire.
Proposed by Drs. Adam Milne, W. A. Cramond and E. J. C. Hewitt.

INGLIS, MARGARET ROSE, M.B., Ch.B., House Officer, Kingseat Hospital; 21, Church Street, Woodside, Aberdeen.
Proposed by Drs. Adam Milne, W. A. Cramond and E. J. C. Hewitt.

McNAB, DUNCAN LAMONT, M.B., Ch.B., Junior Hospital Medical Officer, Hawkhead Mental Hospital; 82, Norse Road, Glasgow, W.4.
Proposed by Drs. James Milne, William S. Thomson and J. W. Sandler.

ROBINSON, WILILAM ERNEST, L.R.C.P.&S., Junior Hospital Medical Officer, Hawkhead Mental Hospital; 510, Crookston Road, Glasgow, S.W.3.
Proposed by Drs. James Milne, William S. Thomson and J. W. Sandler.

SWINNEY, GEORGE EWEN, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., Registrar, Kingseat Hospital; Strathleven, Cults, Aberdeenshire.
Proposed by Drs. Adam Milne, W. A. Cramond and E. J. C. Hewitt.

WYLIE, THOMAS ALAN, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., Registrar, Kingseat Mental Hospital, Newmachar, Aberdeenshire.
Proposed by Drs. Adam Milne, W. A. Cramond and E. J. C. Hewitt.

The meeting discussed various matters concerning the Health Service in Scotland, a plan for increasing the autonomy of the Division and the setting up of various Sub-Committees, representation on the General Nursing Council and the respective duties of Medical Superintendents and Secretaries within Mental Hospitals.

IRISH DIVISION.

THE SUMMER QUARTERLY AND CLINICAL MEETING of the Irish Division of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association was held on Wednesday, 19 July, 1950, at Cork Mental Hospital by the kind invitation of Dr. B. F. Honan.

Twenty-nine members and two guests were present.

The meeting opened at University College, Cork, where the President Prof. Alfred O'Rahilly, M.A., D.Sc., D.Phil., D.Litt., delivered an address entitled **"Piecemeal Man."**

Dr. O'Rahilly opened his subject from an historical point of view. He indicated how such original minds as those of Copernicus, Gallileo, Newton and Darwin had in their time introduced revolutionary ideas which the process of time and experience had purified and the thought of succeeding generations ad assimilated until their proper status had finally been assessed. He said that he thought Freud was such another influence. He had discovered facts of fundamental importance in connection with man's mind and it would take time before the process of purification and assimilation had taken place. Although there was much in Freud that he admired and believed to be true, there was also very much which he believed to be false. He warned doctors, and psychiatrists in particular, against the too ready acceptance of all Freud's teachings because this might lead to a flouting of morality and religion. He felt that a doctor's training did not equip him to deal with such questions and pointed out the need for a medical student to have a training in philosophy so that he should be better equipped to assess the work of such men as Freud and take from it the good and reject the worthless. He felt that a

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psychiatrist's work was to alleviate the abnormalities in the minds of the mentally ill and leave them free to make their own decisions on the problems of life. In the course of his lecture he dealt in considerable detail with various aspects of the Freudian theory, showing a wide knowledge of his subject. He finished up by stressing once again the need for doctors to have a philosophy of life, a broad outlook which would enable them to see their patient as an individual person and not merely regard him like an engineer would regard a piece of machinery upon which he was working.

An interesting discussion followed in which Drs. FITZGERALD, THOMPSON, O'SULLIVAN and MCCRACKEN took part.

Dr. MORAN proposed a vote of thanks to Dr. O'Rahilly, which was seconded by Dr. KEARNEY.

The Division was then most hospitably entertained to lunch by the President in the Students' Dining Room.

After lunch the Business Meeting of the Division was held at Cork Mental Hospital. The Minutes of the previous meeting were read, approved and signed.

The following were unanimously elected to Ordinary Membership of the Association :

MEEHAN, PATRICK A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., Clonmel Mental Hospital.
Proposed by Drs. R. D. Brennan, J. N. P. Moore and M.. O'c. Drury.

BURKE, DENIS FRANCIS, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H., D.P.M(N.U.I.) ; 29 Grand Parade, Cork.
Proposed by Drs. Fergus B. McEvoy, J. C. Osburne and M. J. Kennefick.

DAWSON, DONALD JAMES CRANSTON, M.D., D.P.M. ; 23, Knock Road, Belfast.
Proposed by Drs. R. S. Allison, C. B. Robinson and T. W. H. Weir.

It was decided that the Autumn Quarterly and Clinical Meeting would be held at the Royal College of Physicians, Dublin, on Wednesday, 1 November, 1950.

CLINICAL SESSION.

Dr. HONAN presented a communication entitled "**Psychosomatic Illness.**" Commencing with Halliday's definition of psychosomatic illness, he proceeded to give a comprehensive outline of the psychiatrist's attitude to this condition. In his experience the condition was likely to arise in three types of person—the over-anxious, the fault-finding and those suffering from a reaction to a real personal problem. He pointed out the need for the training of students in the recognition of the condition and its treatment, emphasizing the necessity, especially for the taking of a detailed history in these cases. He gave a summary of the general principles of simple psychotherapy as applied to psychosomatic illnesses.

The communication was discussed by Drs. MOLONEY, THOMPSON, BURKE, Prof. MACCONAILL and Dr. MOORE.

Dr. KENNEFICK then presented his communication entitled "**Convulsive Disorders and Mental Disease.** His thesis was that there is no such thing as a mental illness of purely psychogenic origin. Every mental illness has a physical basis which will sooner or later be discovered. To uphold his hypothesis he dealt in detail with epilepsy as an illness which had a physical basis with sometimes mental symptoms.

The paper was discussed by Drs. CASSIN, MORAN and THOMPSON, all of whom commended the paper but felt they could not entirely agree with the emphasis on a purely physical aetiology for all cases of mental illness.

Dr. MCCARTHY followed with his communication on "**Biochemical Approaches to Mental Disorder.**" He began by outlining the fundamental principles of research, pointing out that it should be unbiased, that all available methods should be used and that the results, if they were valid, should explain the facts. He felt that psychological approach to the problem of mental illness had failed in this respect and could not be regarded as the most fruitful field for research. He pointed out the value of work which had been done on carbohydrate metabolism, the endocrines and on the autonomic nervous system. He dealt especially with two lines of research: one, that of Winifred Ashby on enzyme action. Metabolic processes

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depend on enzyme action and if there is a local damping down of action abnormal patterns result. Two, Seale's theory of stress responses; on the basis of this theory mental disorder would result as a failure of adaptation to stress of environment. The psychotic patient was hypersensitive to stress which led to a breakdown which was followed by a condition of apathy. Dr. McCarthy considered under the basis of these two approaches a rational theory of the causation of mental illness could be evolved.

The communication was discussed by Profs. KANE, MACCONAILL, Drs. FITZGERALD, MCEVOY, THOMPSON and KEARNEY.

The meeting then adjourned and the Division was most hospitably entertained to sherry and tea by Dr. Honan.

THE AUTUMN AND QUARTERLY MEETING of the Irish Division of the Association was held at the Royal College of Physicians, Kildare Street, Dublin, by kind permission of the President and Fellows on Wednesday, 1 November, 1950.

Twenty-one members and one guest were present.

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

The following new members were unanimously elected:

O'DOHERTY, DOMINICK J., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.M., 15, Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin.

Proposed by Drs. Mary Sullivan, Maire M. Walsh and J. N. P. Moore.

LAVELLE, RICHARD JOSEPH, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., N.U.I., Ardnagrena, Castleknock, Co. Dublin.

Proposed by Drs. Joseph Kearney, John P. Malone and J. N. P. Moore.

It was proposed by Dr. KEARNEY and seconded by Dr. MORAN that in future the Quarterly Meetings should be held as follows:

Spring Meeting—February.
Summer Meeting—May.
Autumn Meeting—November.

The suggested reason for this change was the fact that so many members were on holiday in July that the Summer Meeting was often badly attended. The motion was put to the meeting and passed unanimously.

It was agreed that the next Spring Quarterly Meeting should be held on 28 February, 1951, at the Royal College of Physicians, Kildare Street, Dublin.

Dr. MORAN raised the question of the increased annual subscription. After some discussion it was decided that the Secretary should be asked to write to the Treasurer suggesting that retired practitioners should not be asked to pay the full annual subscription.

Dr. H. J. EUSTACE said that he had a communication from the Council for Music stating that they wished to establish an Irish auxiliary. The aim of the Council is to provide musical evenings for patients in mental hospitals. After some discussion it was decided that individual members who were interested could communicate with the Council and make suitable arrangements for their own hospitals, and that there was no way in which the Division could give practical help in the matter.

Dr. MORAN then read his communication on the **"World Medical Association Annual Congress at New York, October, 1950."** Dr. Moran was the official delegate from the Irish Medical Association. He pointed out that the World Medical Association was an association of all the World Medical Associations—a kind of clearing house for the correlation of medical principles, morals and ethics—a kind of T.U.C. of Medical Associations.

Taken as a whole, Dr. Moran's communication consisted of his personal impressions of America, of the people he met, the hospitals he visited, the papers that were read and the hospitality supplied. Only in the case of the last of these were his remarks entirely uncritical. He could not speak too highly of the lavish and warm-hearted welcome given to the delegates. He was very impressed by the layout, equipment and staffing of the hospitals he visited, but felt that the same criticism could be applied to all of them—they were over-heated and unnecessarily "caged in." He stated that he had come to the conclusion that in New York the modern physical methods of treatment in psychiatry had been largely debunked,

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However, he admitted that this observation had been made chiefly as the result of his conversation with one individual—a distinguished psychiatrist. Among other papers he outlined particularly some points from a discussion on euthanasia and read an extract from a speech he had made in opposition to it—a very trenchant piece of criticism. He was particularly impressed by a film showing the details of the training of the American doctor, and also by a clinical conference held at Bellvue. The cases were presented with a wealth of detail and the thoroughness of the clinical investigation was, he felt, quite outstanding. In the ensuing discussion Dr. Moran was warmly congratulated on the honour done to him and to the R.M.P.A. by his well-merited selection as Irish delegate. All the speakers paid tribute to the brilliance of his communication and to the interesting observations he made both on American medicine and on the American way of life. The paper was discussed by Drs. COYNE, MOLONY, O'SULLIVAN, MOORE, HONAN and DELANEY.

The Meeting then adjourned.

DIPLOMA IN PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE.

SEVENTH LIST OF TRAINING SCHOOLS APPROVED IN CATEGORIES SHOWN.

Mental Hospital :

Rainhill Hospital.

Mental Deficiency Hospital :

Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital.

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

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

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