IRISH DIVISION
Annual Report, 1974

The year 1974 was a most successful one for the Irish Division and was marked by several innovations which are delineated later.

Quarterly Meetings

The first meeting took place in St. Brendan's Hospital on Saturday, 2 March 1974. Two papers were presented on Behaviour Therapy by a team from Queen's University, Belfast, led by Dr. T. J. Quinn. The first paper, 'Behaviour Therapy for the General Psychiatrist—a Review', was a group presentation; the second paper, entitled 'Behaviour Therapy of Childhood Behaviour Disorders', was presented by Dr. Roger McAuley, Research Fellow, Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children.

The second meeting took place on 11 May 1974, at St. Patrick's Hospital, Dublin, by kind permission of Professor J. N. P. Moore. At this meeting, the elections took place with the following results:

Chairman: Dr. S. D. McGrath, St. John of God Hospital, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin.

Secretary: Dr. V. T. Greene, St. Brendan's Hospital, Dublin 7.

Members of the Executive Committee: Dr. Nigel Bark, Dr. Mary Collins, Dr. Ronald Draper, Professor T. J. Fahy, Dr. N. J. Ledwith, Professor T. J. Lynch, Dr. Paul McCarthy, Dr. Paul McQuaid, Dr. W. O. McCormick, Professor J. N. P. Moore, Dr. J. V. O'Brien, Dr. B. G. Scally, Dr. K. Sinanan, Dr. J. B. Walsh.

Dr. Philip Graham, Consultant Child Psychiatrist, Great Ormond Street Hospital, London, presented a paper on 'Depression in Childhood'.

The third meeting took place at St. Dympna's Hospital, Carlow, on Saturday, 29 June, by kind permission of Dr. B. Blake, Physician Superintendent. Two papers were presented—'A Survey of Patients with Self-Destructive Gestures presenting at Jervis Street Hospital', by Dr. John Ryan; 'Self-Poisoning and Psycho-historical Change', by Dr. Noel Walsh, Dr. Derek McGrath and Dr. M. Darby.

The final meeting took place on Saturday, 16 November 1974, at St. John of God Hospital, Stillorgan, and took the form of a very successful one-day symposium on 'Psychiatry and the Law'. The Division was honoured by the presence of the President, Sir Martin Roth, who chaired the Business Meeting. The following papers were presented: 'General Problems Relating to the Law and Psychiatric Practice'—The Hon. Mr. Justice Henchy; 'Violence in the Family'—Dr. Liam Daly, Clinical Director, Central Mental Hospital, Dundrum; 'A Forensic Psychiatry Service in a Community Setting'—Dr. R. S. Bluglass, Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist, Midland Centre for Forensic Psychiatry; 'Forensic Problems in Adolescence'—Dr. Brian O'Connell, Medical Director, Northgate Clinic, London; 'Recent Developments in the Treatment of Sexual Disorders'—Dr. John Bancroft, First Assistant, Department of Psychiatry, University of Oxford.

Obituary

The following deaths occurred during the year: Professor Peter Beckett, Professor John Gibson and Dr. Niall O'Higgins.

Nominations and Appointments

Dr. Desmond McGrath was nominated to represent the Division on the National Health Council for the period of April 1974 to March 1976. It was also agreed by the Planning Committee of the Post-Graduate Psychiatric Training Programme that the Chairman of the Division should *ex-officio* become a member of this Committee.

Dr. Tom Fahy was appointed Professor of Psychiatry in Galway University College and Convener of the Irish Accreditation Panel; Professor R. J. Daly, the previous Convener wished to stand down for the time being.

Dr. Tom Fahy and Dr. V. T. Greene represented the Irish Division at a symposium in the Netherlands in October 1974 on 'Post-Graduate Psychiatric Education in the EEC Countries'.

Dr. Jim O'Brien was nominated to the Working Party of Trainees and replaced Dr. Kenneth Sinanan who had resigned on becoming a consultant.

Dr. W. A. G. McCallum was nominated to represent the Division on the Northern Ireland Council for Post-Graduate Medical Education.

Innovations

There were several innovations this year in the Irish Division.

The first was the decision to hold an annual dinner, and the first dinner was held in the Royal College of Physicians, Dublin. It was attended by a number of distinguished guests, including the President of the Republic of Ireland, Mr. Erskine Childers, and the President of the Royal College, Sir Martin Roth. Unfortunately, the dinner, which had started so promisingly, was marred by tragedy. President

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Childers, who had honoured us by his presence, after an impressive and very well received speech, collapsed and subsequently died in the Mater Hospital, Dublin.

The second innovation was the decision to hold a one-day symposium each year on a topic of current interest—the symposium to be followed by the annual dinner.

It was agreed that a special Sub-Committee should be set up to manage affairs pertaining exclusively to Northern Ireland. This Sub-Committee would operate in conjunction with the Honorary Secretary of the Division, and all its affairs would be reported to the Executive Committee in the ordinary way. The Convener of this Sub-Committee is Dr. W. O. McCormick, and three new members were co-opted to serve on it: Dr. McConnell, Dr. McCallum and Dr. Barcroft.

Other Activities of the Division

A special meeting of the Division was called at St. Loman's Hospital, Ballyowen, to consider the answers to Sir Martin Roth's 'nine questions'. Four invited speakers—Professor Lynch, Dr. W. A. McConnell, Professor Ivor Browne and Professor J. N. P. Moore—each spoke before the general discussion by the Division. Professor Tom Fahy acted as rapporteur and produced the final report, which was included in the June 1974 edition of *News and Notes*.

Nursing Matters

During the year, the Condon Report on 'Psychiatric Nurses in Training in Ireland' was produced. The Irish Division considered that a serious situation existed with regard to psychiatric nursing in the Republic, and sent its observations on the Report to the following organizations: An Bord Altranais, The Irish Nurses' Organization, The Irish Transport and General Workers' Union, the Workers' Union of Ireland and The Irish Women Workers' Union. Replies are still awaited from most of these organizations.

Other Matters

Comhairle na nOspideal (the Hospitals Council) accepted the recommendation of the Division that the D.P.M. obtained before February 1972 should be accepted as an eligible qualification for consultant appointments.

Specialist Sections

Child Psychiatry Section: At present, 30 members in this section.

During 1974, when Dr. John Stack was Chairman, the main contribution of the Section was the organization of the May meeting, when Dr. Philip Graham addressed the Division on 'Depression in Childhood'. Dr. Paul McCarthy acted as representative of the Section on the Unified Post-Graduate Training Committee. Dr. Paul McQuaid was appointed by the Minister to the Psychiatric Sub-Committee of Comhairle na nOspideal.

Mental Handicap Section: The A.G.M. of the Section was held in March. Dr. John Cooney was elected Chairman and Dr. Nigel Bark Honorary Secretary. The A.G.M. was followed by a very successful Day Seminar entitled 'The Inter-Disciplinary Approach to the Mentally Handicapped'. In November, the Business and Clinical Meeting was held in Drumcar and was attended by 28 members. The principal speaker was Dr. Niall O'Donoghue, Paediatric Neurologist, who gave an excellent talk on Epilepsy.

Northern Ireland: The Division will now automatically have one nominee on the Northern Ireland Council for Post-Graduate Medical Education. On 1 April 1975 Dr. A. G. McCallum will take over from Dr. E. Casement as the nominee. Two other psychiatrists, Dr. A. S. Clenihan and Dr. S. G. Knox, are also on the Council, representing other parties. Some of the hospitals in Northern Ireland have already been visited by the Approval Panel from North-West England, led by Dr. M. D. Cashman, with satisfactory results.

Editor's note

It is hoped to publish Annual Reports from other Divisions of the College in future issues.

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