IRISH DIVISION.

The AUTUMN QUARTERLY AND CLINICAL MEETING of the Irish Division of the R.M.P.A. was held at the Royal College of Physicians, Kildare Street, Dublin, by kind permission of the President and Fellows, on Wednesday, 7 November, 1951.

Twenty-eight members and one guest were present. Apologies for absence were received from five members.

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

It was provisionally arranged that the Spring Quarterly Meeting be held at the Royal College of Physicians, Dublin, on Wednesday, 20 February, 1952.

The Meeting then proceeded to the Clinical Session.

Dr. J. R. SHEA produced some further observations on a case of folie à deux occurring in two sisters, Winnie and Agnes, on which he had reported at the Summer Meeting in July, 1949, at Ballinasloe.

At the time of the previous Meeting Dr. Shea and most of the members of the Association who examined the patients felt that the dominant partner was the sister Agnes, who had the better pre-psychotic personality. On two occasions both patients had been discharged together and both had to be readmitted. The patients were then discharged separately—the idea being that they should live apart. Both have now been out of Hospital for some time and as far as Dr. Shea knows they are both well. His subsequent observations have inclined him to the view that Winnie, the partner with the most malignant psychosis but the poorer pre-psychotic personality, was the dominant influence in the double psychoses.

The paper was discussed by Drs. THOMPSON, BLAKE, MORAN, FITZGERALD and the CHAIRMAN.

Dr. T. LYNCH then presented his account of the R.M.P.A. Psychiatric Tour in Belgium in May, 1951. Twenty-two members took part in the Tour, which lasted eight days and included visits to psychiatric centres of various kinds. These included the famous colony at Gheel, public and private mental hospitals, mental defective colonies and prisons. Dr. Lynch gave an outline of the laws relating to admission of patients to mental hospitals deploring the fact that only private patients could be admitted voluntarily. He commented favourably, however, on another medico-legal aspect of psychiatry—the method used in Belgium to deal with the considerable problem of the mentally abnormal patient who comes in contact with the law. He described in some detail the Law of Social Defence, 1930, which deals with this problem. He was impressed also by the standard of occupational therapy in the various hospitals visited. He felt, however, that in most centres the emphasis was on custodial care, and that the physical methods of treatment were not applied as vigorously or extensively as they might have been. He expressed the gratitude of the party to their Belgian psychiatric colleagues for their generous hospitality and their interest in the party's welfare during the tour.

The communication was discussed by Drs. MCCARTHY, M. SULLIVAN, MORAN, EVELEEN O'BRIEN, BLAKE, KELLY and DUNNE.

Dr. Lynch's paper was followed by a cine-film of some scenes on the tour by Dr. BLAKE. The photography was of a very high order, and Dr. Blake was congratulated by many of the members present.

MENTAL HEALTH TOURS

Mental Health Tours in the Netherlands Preliminary notice has been received of mental health tours in the Netherlands organized by the Dutch Federation for Mental Health.

1st Tour—25th to 30th August, 1952—designed for those specially interested in the work with problem children.

2nd Tour—1st to 6th September, 1952—for those interested in institutional and social care of mental patients and mental defectives.

Applications to join tours to be submitted to the *Dutch Federation for Mental Health, Prinsengracht 717, Amsterdam-C, Holland,* by *15th May,* 1952. Enquiries should be addressed to the Dutch Federation from whom further information is obtainable.

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.

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0368315X52246881 Published online by Cambridge University Press