5. *Marriage and Divorce Reform.*

Dr. SHENKIN opened the discussion and indicated to the Meeting the views expressed at the recent Special Meeting of Council held to discuss the present position of the Association since the B.M.A. withdrew its evidence at their Annual Meeting. A long discussion ensued, in which Sir DAVID HENDERSON, Professor FERGUSON RODGER, Dr. ANGUS MACNIVEN, Dr. W. MAYER-GROSS, Dr. JAMES MILNE, Dr. HUNTER GILLIES, Dr. J. UYTMAN and other members spoke.

By a majority vote it was decided that evidence should be offered to the Commission.

It was also decided to prepare and circulate to all members a questionnaire—this to be devised by Dr. Shenkin. A small sub-committee consisting of Drs. P. K. McCowan, H. B. Craigie, A. M. Shenkin and the Secretary was nominated to collate the opinions received from members and to prepare a memorandum for submission to the Commission and for consideration by the Council at the next quarterly meeting.

IRISH DIVISION.

THE AUTUMN QUARTERLY AND CLINICAL MEETING of the Irish Division of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association was held at the Royal College of Physicians, Kildare Street, Dublin, by kind permission of the President and Fellows on Wednesday, 5 November, 1952.

Twenty members were present.

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

The Members stood in silence as a tribute to the memory of the late Drs. Kearney, McCarthy and Martin, former Members of the Association. The Secretary was instructed to write letters of sympathy to the relatives on behalf of the Association.

The CHAIRMAN, Dr. Coyne, kindly invited the Division to hold its Spring Meeting at Dundrum on Wednesday, 25 March, 1953.

The SECRETARY read a letter from the Department of Health asking the Association to suggest a Member to replace the late Dr. Kearney on An Bord Altranais. It was proposed by Dr. FITZGERALD and seconded by Dr. DUNNE that Dr. Coyne be nominated.

It was proposed by Dr. HONAN and seconded by Dr. MORAN that Members of the Association should in future be notified that each Member is entitled to ask a medical colleague to the Meetings and clinical discussions.

Dr. MORAN then read his communication entitled **" Social Psychiatry."** He began by saying that his paper might be described as random musings by a country psychiatrist giving his " home-spun philosophy." According to the Greek derivation of the word " psychiatrist " he should be a physician of the mind or soul. Social psychiatry was concerned with the groups of people who compose society. It was concerned with moulding the environment of the individual He suggested that in our society the rules for doing so might well be the ten commandments. He deplored the materialistic approach to social life as exemplified by such authorities as Professor Crewe, Huxley and Bertrand Russell. He felt the approach should be based on sound physiology, psychology, theology and economy. In fact mental health should be based on the concept of the whole man, body, mind and soul.

He felt that Psychiatrists at present were too isolated and too much concerned with the " wrecks " of society, i.e., the chronic invalid, and too little with the positive health of the community. Dr. Moran expressed the view that present-day Psychiatry had largely a negative approach, whereas it should give positive guidance and counsel to both medical colleagues and the community at large—" who should be more competent to advise than those who see the results of faulty adaptation ? " Finally he posed the rhetorical question " should the Christian ethic not be able to solve the tension in the world to-day ? "

The paper was discussed by the CHAIRMAN, Drs. DUNNE, MOLONY, CASSIN, FITZGERALD, FOLEY, MOORE and O'SULLIVAN. Dr. MORAN replied and the Meeting adjourned.

NATIONALE FEDERATIE VOOR DE GEESTELIJKE VOLKSGEZONDHEID.

Prinensgracht 717, Amsterdam-C.

February.

Mental Health Tours through the Netherlands.

Last year it was such a stimulating pleasure for the Dutch Federation for Mental Health to arrange " mental health tours " for visitors from abroad who wish to see something of the mental health work in Holland in addition to more touristic pursuits that this summer it will do the same. The tours will be of 6 days' duration, and if there is sufficient interest, two groups will be formed, one for those who are especially interested in mental health work for children (child guidance clinics, schools for the mentally handicapped, etc.) and another one of those who are more concerned with the institutional and social care of mental patients and mentally defectives. These tours will be arranged August 24th to 29th inclusive.

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