IRISH DIVISION.

THE SPRING QUARTERLY AND CLINICAL MEETING of the Irish Division of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association was held on Thursday, 26 March, 1953, at St. Vincent's, Fairview, Dublin, by kind invitation of the Reverend Mother Superior of the Community.

Thirty-three members were present.

The members were most hospitably entertained to lunch, and afterwards a vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. COYNE and seconded by Dr. MOLONY.

Dr. W. J. Coyne was re-elected Chairman of the Division, and Dr. J. N. P. Moore and Dr. H. J. Eustace re-elected Divisional Secretary and Junior Representative Member of Council respectively.

The Summer Meeting was fixed for Thursday, 16 July, 1953. The invitation of Dr. G. M. Smith to visit Antrim which was kindly given at the last meeting was gratefully accepted.

The following was elected to Ordinary Membership :

MILLIKEN, JAMES ROSS, M.B., B.Ch., Principal Registrar in Psychiatry, Belfast Child Guidance Clinic and Claremont Street, Hospital; 22, College Gardens, Belfast.

Proposed by Drs. M. Evelyn Lothian, D. B. M. Lothian and B. P. Glancy.

The motion proposed by Dr. DUNNE and seconded by Dr. O'SULLIVAN was discussed by the proposer and by Drs. MORAN, H. J. EUSTACE, HONAN, FITZGERALD, MOLONY and CASSIN. Eventually it was agreed that the matter be postponed until the Spring Meeting of next year. Meanwhile, inquiries were to be made by the Secretary on the following three points :

(i) The possibility of a reduction in subscriptions for Irish members.

(ii) The possibility of a reduction in subscriptions for recently qualified members.

(iii) The possibility of an amnesty for lapsed members who wish to re-join.

Dr. COYNE then presented his communication entitled **"Guilty but Insane."** He modestly described an admirable summary of the medical and legal attitude to the McNaughten Rules as a few notes on criminal responsibility. He pointed out that where gross symptoms of mental illness were present and the patient was unfit to plead there was no real problem. It was in the case of lesser mental abnormality that more difficulty and confusion of thought occurs. One of the difficulties was in phraseology—such terms as " insanity " were legal and not medical terms. He suggested that a better term than " insanity " would be " legally incapacitated." He quarrelled, too, with the use of the word " guilty " in the case of people who are mentally ill; he felt that in these cases, the word " culpable " would be more just. He suggested that first of all a criminal should be tried without reference to his mental state; if it was questioned during the trial, then he should subsequently be examined by a panel of psychiatrists.

The communication was discussed by Drs. HONAN, MULLIGAN, ROBINSON, DAWSON, DUNNE, MOLONY, O'SULLIVAN and CASSIN. Dr. COYNE replied and the meeting adjourned.

NORTHERN AND MIDLAND DIVISION.

THE SPRING MEETING of the Division was held on Wednesday, 8 April, 1953 at Crumpsall Hospital, Manchester, by kind permission of the Medical Superintendent and his Management Committee.

In the morning Crumpsall Hospital, including the Psychiatric Unit, was inspected by members, and the neighbouring Springfield Hospital was also inspected through the kind co-operation of Dr. Blair.

Members sat down to an excellent lunch at 1 p.m., guests including Dr. Ramsay, Senior Administrative Medical Officer of the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board and former Medical Superintendent of Crumpsall, and also the Matron of Crumpsall. Dr. DONALD MACMILLAN, in the absence of the Chairman, expressed the thanks of the Division for the generous hospitality shown them.

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Business Meeting.

1. Minutes were read and signed as correct.
2. Apologies were received from four members.
3. There were 35 members present and 4 guests.
4. Report of Committee of Management was given by the Secretary.
5. *Report of Divisional Representatives on Council.*—The Secretary reported on the main points of interest relating to the recent work of the Council.
6. *Election of Officers of the Division :*

Chairman : Professor A. Kennedy.
Secretary : Dr. G. M. Woddis.
Asst. Secretary : Dr. M. J. Brookes.
Jnr. Rep. on Council : Dr. Rhys C. Jones.

7. *Committee of Management.*—The following members were elected to the Divisional Committee of Management: Drs. F. T. Thorpe, Northage J. de V. Mather, W. A. L. Bowen, J. P. Child, L. J. Segal.
8. The following Candidates were elected to Ordinary Membership :

Downham, Edward Townley, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.M., Assistant Psychiatrist, Walton Hospital, Liverpool.
Proposed by Drs. C. M. Vaillant, E. S. Stern and R. W. Armstrong.

Elkes, Joel, M. D., Professor of Experimental Psychiatry, University of Birmingham ; Medical School, Birmingham, 15.
Proposed by Drs. Martin Roth, William Sargant and P. M. Jeavons.

Ellett-Brown, Harold, M.A., B.M., B.Ch., Medical Officer, Naburn and Bootham Park Hospital, Bootham Park, York.
Proposed by Drs. W. L. Bowen, David Robertson and H. B. Kidd.

Grunbaum, Franz Max, M.D.Berlin, Senior Medical Officer, Royal Hospital and Hope Hospital, Salford.
Proposed by Drs. J. F. Wilde, W. V. Wadsworth, R. W. Armstrong.

9. *Correspondence.*—(*a*) A letter from Dr. Beresford was read concerning the new Nurses' Syllabus. (*b*) The Secretary gave details of the proposed Study Tour to be held in this country from 21 September to 1 October, 1953.

Clinical Session.

Dr. Northage J. de V. Mather read a most interesting and stimulating paper on **"The Psychiatric Unit in the General Hospital."**

A lively discussion followed, in which many members took part.

The Meeting concluded with an excellent tea.

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.

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