again be doing so at the Ceilidh tonight. Here today I wish to mention particularly Dr Martin Whittet who has not spared himself to make the whole meeting such an outstanding success; Dr W. B. Wright who has looked after us so well here at Craig Phadrig; and all the staff at both hospitals, catering, nursing, secretarial, domestic, medical and all those too numerous to mention who have given so generously of their time, effort and goodwill.

In the ensuing discussion it was noted that no reply had been received from the DHSS to the request that a consultant in mental deficiency should be appointed as an observer on the Working Group on Organization and Management Problems of Mental Illness Hospitals. Some exception was expressed to the specific nature of the press release on Interrogation Procedures; it was felt by some members present that a more general statement would have been more appropriate, but no action was recommended.

Social Functions

On the evening of Monday, 2 May, members of the College were graciously received at their home at Cawdor by The Rt. Hon. Lord Campbell of Croy and Lady Campbell, and this generous and hospitable greeting welcomed the College to a Meeting which was to be full of generosity and hospitality. We are very grateful to the Highland Health Board for the memorable Ceilidh at which highland hospitality was much in evidence and also for their support of our meetings at Craig Dunain and Craig Phadrig Hospitals; we were sorry that the Chairman of the Board, Mr Robert Wallace was not able to be with us, but were very pleased that Mr Rosie was able to attend. The President and Officers were also received at the Town House by the Provost of Inverness, Mr Ian Fraser.

The College is grateful to all those who contributed towards making this a most memorable scientific and social gathering.

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF CONSULTANTS IN PSYCHIATRY WITHIN THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

Since the publication of the above Memorandum (*Bulletin*, September 1977, pp 4–7) several doubts have been expressed about the responsibility of employing authorities in relation to cases involving professional conduct and professional competence.

It is the responsibility of the employer to investigate complaints against medical staff, and guidance is issued in HM (61 112) on the procedure to be followed in serious disciplinary cases involving hospital doctors. This circular includes cases involving personal conduct, professional conduct and professional competence. Hospital consultants are advised to consult their defence organizations where any of the above inquiries are proposed.

SOUTH WESTERN DIVISION

The Autumn Meeting of the South Western Division will be held at the Basingstoke District Hospital, Park Prewett, Basingstoke, on Thursday, 27 October, from 10.30 am. Following a tour of the hospital, business meetings and lunch, there will be, at 2.30 pm, a symposium on 'Over-Prescribing of Psychotropic Drugs', with papers by Dr John Bennett, Professor Eric Wilkes and Dr Guy Edwards, and discussion in which all the speakers will take part. Further details from the Honorary Secretary of the Division, Dr C. Davies, Weston Lodge Hospital, Weston, Bath BA1 4DW, Avon.

The Spring 1978 meeting will be held in Bournemouth, provisionally on 14–15 April.

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