The Council approved a Memorandum submitted by the Child Psychiatry Section on the subject of "The Provision of Psychiatric Services for Children and Adolescents", which will be forwarded to interested Government Departments and other bodies.

It was agreed to approach the Society of Medical Officers of Health to suggest there should be a close liaison between that Society and the R.M.P.A. It was also decided to set up a Standing Joint Committee with the Association of Psychiatric Special Workers, and Drs. O. W. S. FitzGerald and W. Warren were appointed as the R.M.P.A.'s representatives.

The Council had before them a request from the General Medical Council to make recommendations for the revision of the Curriculum for the teaching of psychiatry to undergraduates. The opinions of all University Teachers in Great Britain had been sought and among these there was a high degree of unanimity. It was agreed to recommend to the General Medical Council that various modifications to the present requirements for the teaching of psychiatry should be made and, most important, that there should be a separate examination in the subject conducted by psychiatrists.

The following Conferences have been announced:

The National Association for Mental Health Annual Conference, 1956. Subject, "Mental Health and Personal Responsibility", to be held at Harrogate on 12 and 13 April, 1956.

Royal Society of Health. Wednesday, 14 March, 1956. "The Prevention of Break up of Families", papers to be given by Drs. Kenneth Soddy and A. Parker.

Papers Session

The following papers were read:

Morning Session: **"Tranquillizing Drugs in Psychiatry."** Opening Speakers, Dr. William Sargant, Professor J. Elkes and Dr. D. M. Leiberman.

Afternoon Session: **"Tranquillizing Drugs in Psychiatry"** (continued). Opening Speakers, Dr. J. N. P. Moore and Dr. Noel Harris.

The general discussion was opened by Dr. J. T. Hutchinson.

SOUTH-EASTERN DIVISION

The Spring Divisional Meeting was held at Bethlem Royal Hospital on Tuesday, 10 April, 1956, by kind invitation of the Board of Governors of the Bethlem Royal Hospital and the Maudsley Hospital, and of Dr. J. G. Hamilton.

Members of the Association and guests were received by Dr. Hamilton and parties were escorted to various parts of the Hospital including the recently-opened Day Hospital. About 100 members and guests were entertained to lunch.

At the Meeting in the afternoon, Mrs. M. Ormerod, Chairman of the Board of Governors, gave a cordial welcome to the members and guests. The Minutes of the last Divisional Meeting were confirmed and signed by the Chairman. The Divisional Secretary reported that invitations for future meetings have been accepted as follows: Autumn, 1956, Botleys Park; Spring, 1957, Banstead; Autumn, 1957, Goodmayes; and Spring, 1958, Cane Hill. Dr. T. P. Riordan was nominated to represent the Division on the Psychotherapy and Social Psychiatry Section Executive Committee.

Dr. Alexander Walk was elected Chairman of the Division and duly installed in office by the retiring Chairman, Dr. J. G. Hamilton, who paid a tribute to Dr. Walk's long and enthusiastic service in the interests of the Association. On taking the Chair, Dr. Walk expressed the thanks of the Division to Dr. Hamilton for his services as Secretary and Chairman, and gave a brief account of the history of the Division, mentioning that the inaugural meeting of the Division took place at his own hospital, Cane Hill, in 1897. Dr. G. Somerville was elected Secretary, Dr. S. W. Hardwick,

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Assistant Secretary, and Dr. Rosalind Bearcroft, Junior Representative on the Council, in accordance with Bye-Laws 33 and 34. The following were elected to the Divisional Committee of Management:

Dr. J. Carse.
Dr. E. P. H. Charlton.
Dr. J. M. Crawford.
Dr. E. H. Hare.
Dr. J. G. Hamilton.
Dr. Portia Holman.
Dr. D. W. Liddell.
Dr. M. Markowe.
Dr. W. Linford Rees.
Dr. B. Reid.
Dr. T. P. Riordan.
Dr. F. H. Taylor.
Dr. J. C. Sawle Thomas.

Election of Candidates to Ordinary Membership

The following were duly elected:

D'Arcy, Marian, B.Sc.Econ., L.R.C.P. and S.I., Registrar, Cane Hill Hospital, Coulsdon, Surrey.

Proposed by Drs. A. Walk, A. J. Oldham, D. Smedberg.

Dransfield, Geoffrey Auty, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.M., Assistant Psychiatrist, Warley Hospital, Brentwood, Essex.

Proposed by Sir Geoffrey Nightingale, Drs. J. C. Sawle Thomas, Eva Waller.

Gordon, Bevis, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.M., Senior Registrar, Goodmayes Hospital, Ilford, Essex.

Proposed by Drs. G. Somerville, T. P. Riordan, Eva Waller.

Jones, Kingsley, L.R.C.P. and S.I., Psychiatric Registrar, Hellingly Hospital, Hailsham, Sussex.

Proposed by Drs. E. S. Stern, S. W. Gillman, C. Tetlow.

Ledermann, Erich, L.R.C.P. and S.Ed., L.R.F.P.S.G., F.F.Hom., Assistant Psychiatrist, Marlborough Day Hospital, N.W.8.

Proposed by Drs. A. Spencer Paterson, J. Bierer, A. R. Redfern.

Scott, Horatio Christopher Leslie, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Consultant Psychotherapist to United Cambridge Hospitals: Associate Chief Assistant at St. Bartholomew's Hospital (Dept. of Psychological Medicine).

Proposed by Drs. J. Gould, E. B. Strauss, L. Rose.

Nomination to Regional Boards

It was decided to put forward to Council the following recommendations for renomination:

Dr. G. Somerville to the N.E. Metropolitan Board, and Dr. W. G. Masefield to the S.E. Metropolitan Board. It was also decided to recommend to Council that in view of the large number of psychiatric hospitals in the South West Metropolitan Region, the psychiatric representatives should be increased to at least two members.

The following papers were delivered:

1. **"Lysergic Acid and Schizophrenia,"** by Dr. J. P. Dewsbery.
2. **"Emotional Factors in Allergic Disorders,"** by Dr. W. Linford Rees.
3. **"The Sexual Factor in Certain Menopausal Disorders,"** by Dr. Brian Ackner.

In the discussion which followed the papers the following members took part: Drs. A. B. Monro, J. M. Crawford, W. L. Neustatter, J. H. Hutchinson, Duncan Whittaker, H. Weil-Malherbe, E. Tylden and A. Harris.

Dr. J. B. S. Lewis most ably proposed a vote of thanks to the Board of Governors, to Dr. Hamilton and to the staff of Bethlem Royal Hospital whose work had made this such a successful and memorable meeting.

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SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION

THE AUTUMN MEETING of the South-Western Division was held at Barnwood House, Gloucester, on Thursday, 21 October, 1954, by kind invitation of the Board of Governors and Dr. G. W. T. H. Fleming, Medical Superintendent.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and signed.

The Divisional Committee of Management was re-elected.

The Honorary Divisional Secretary explained that the place of meeting had been changed from Bromsgrove to Gloucester to facilitate the attendance of members at the discussions which would later follow, and he expressed the thanks of the Divisional Committee of Management to Dr. Fleming for his ready agreement to receive the Division at Barnwood House.

It was suggested, and agreed, that the Spring Meeting, 1955, should be held at Barnsley Hall Hospital, Bromsgrove, at Dr. Andrew Shepherd's kind invitation.

The following candidate was elected unanimously to Ordinary Membership of the Association:

AITKEN, GEORGE EDWARD, L.R.C.P. and S.Ed., L.R.F.P., S.G., Junior Hospital Medical Officer, St. Ann's Hospital, Canford Cliffs, Bournemouth.

Proposed by Drs. W. N. Crow, Harriette G. Bogle and D. N. Parfitt.

Report by the Sub-Committee, July, 1954, on the Shortage of Mental Nurses.

Dr. Noel H. M. Burke kindly attended the Meeting, by invitation, to open the discussion on the Report of the Sub-Committee on the Shortage of Mental Nurses. Dr. Burke said that the Sub-Committee had looked at all aspects of the matter. They had also held discussions with other interested bodies, including representatives of the Ministry of Health and the General Nursing Council.

On the question of dilution, Dr. Burke said that the Sub-Committee preferred Nursing Assistants to State-enrolled Assistant Nurses, for reasons set forth in the Report. He referred to many other points in the Report, and gave a very lucid and helpful summary of the work and findings of the Sub-Committee.

The President (Dr. Noel Harris) said that the Association owed a considerable debt to Dr. Burke for his intensive work as Secretary of the Sub-Committee on Nursing. He emphasized the smallness of the labour pool, the need for the early incorporation of the new nurse into a definite training programme, and the difference between the nursing problems as they presented in different areas.

Dr. Skottowe thought that the Report was very carefully formulated, he approved of it in general and he moved its endorsement. This was seconded by Dr. Pilkington.

Dr. Fleming referred to his desire for the reinstatement of the R.M.P.A. examinations. He complimented the authors of the Report. He emphasized the difference between the general and the mental nurse, saying that there were many tasks in mental nursing, e.g. the care of patients with faulty habits, which the average general nurse would not undertake. He also pointed out that salaries under the N.H.S. could not compete with those in industry, and he advocated a separate preliminary examination for mental nurses.

Dr. Rudolf had some doubts about the training syllabus and pointed out various details in which it might be improved.

Dr. Bridger suggested that there should be more detailed control of the occupation and movement of girls from foreign countries who came here to take up nursing. He also thought that the Report did not make enough of the Cadet Scheme for the training of nurses prior to their work in the wards.

Dr. Casson wanted the Sub-Committee to be kept in being to consider and deal with the problem of the shortage of mental nurses. She was concerned about the social standing of the nurse, even the general nurse. She thought that the whole question of the status of nursing should be gone into on a much broader basis.

Dr. Pilkington thought that tutors should be graded as Mental Health Officers, and he drew attention to the importance of job analysis in the understanding and adjustment of the recruitment, training and retention of nursing staff.

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A vote was taken on Dr. Skottowe's motion for the endorsement of the Report, and was carried *nem. con.*, most of the members present voting.

Superannuation Rights and Retiring Age of Mental Health Officers. The Meeting then considered the question of superannuation rights and retiring age of Mental Health Officers.

The Honorary General Secretary (Dr. R. W. Armstrong) suggested that the Association might set up an *ad hoc* committee to consider this matter and to report upon it. This was agreed unanimously without a vote.

Recommendations for Regional Hospital Board Membership. The Meeting agreed to submit the following names for the consideration of the Council of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association, for recommendation as members of Regional Hospital Boards:

South-Western Regional Hospital Board.
Dr. F. C. Logan.
Dr. G. W. T. H. Fleming.
Dr. K. C. Bailey.

Oxford Regional Hospital Board.
Dr. R. W. Armstrong.

Welsh Regional Hospital Board.
Dr. T. J. Henelly.

Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.
Dr. Andrew Shepherd.

The Chairman expressed the thanks of the Meeting to Dr. Fleming and the Board of Governors of Barnwood House, Gloucester, for their hospitality, and said that the Division had been most grateful for their willingness to receive them at rather short notice. The meeting had been well attended and much enjoyed in very pleasant surroundings.

SCOTTISH DIVISION

THE WINTER MEETING of the Scottish Division was held at The Royal Edinburgh Hospital, Craig House, on Friday, 2 December, 1955.

Forty-eight members were present and Dr. Jokinen from Helsinki and Professor Brotherston attended as guests.

Sympathy was extended to Dr. George Bell, the Secretary, on his illness, and the good wishes of the Meeting for his recovery were expressed.

The following were elected Ordinary Members of the Association:

CRAWFORD, HUGH ALEXANDER, M.B., Ch.B., Registrar, Bellsdyke Hospital, Larbert.

Proposed by Drs. A. P. Russell, A. Smellie, M. Devlin.

FYFE, MATTHEW, M.B., F.R.C.P.E., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health, County of Fife.

Proposed by Drs. H. B. Craigie, L. M. D. Mill, D. Ross.

GOW, EDWARD JAMES, M.B., Ch.B., Senior House Officer, Craig Dunain Hospital, Inverness.

Proposed by Drs. M. M. Whittet, R. F. Caddell, E. R. Spicer.

Psychiatric Social Workers. Consideration was given to a letter from Mrs. J. M. Matheson, Chairman of the Association of Psychiatric Social Workers, asking for a discussion with the Association regarding the contribution that the Psychiatric Social Workers might make. The Committee of Management suggested that a Sub-Committee consisting of the Chairman, the Secretary and Professor Malcolm Millar, who is President of the Association of Psychiatric Social Workers, might meet Mrs. Matheson and her Committee to have a preliminary talk. This was approved by the general Meeting.

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