

central administration block. The whole lay-out is designed to give the maximum light and ventilation, combined with accessibility and convenience, in the most compact space.

There are two floors in each wing, the first floor being a replica of the ground floor, and each floor comprises two complete units, wards, day rooms, etc.

The wards are L-shaped and all are uniform, with day rooms, bathrooms, lavatory, boot-room, nurses' room, ward kitchen and stores, similarly grouped in each case.

It was designed to be operated entirely on the "open" system, with windows and doors opening freely, as in an ordinary house.

Prevailing standards of staffing compelled us to adopt means of securing doors and windows in most of the wards, and to add to each wing six special, single rooms, suitable for coping with difficult cases.

We have one ward only operating on the completely "open" plan.

There is, up to the present, no accommodation provided for staff, except for a small skeleton staff, sufficient to deal with emergencies at night. No workshops or outdoor equipment of any kind are yet provided.

As you can see, the grounds are still studded with contractor's equipment, and the laying-out is just barely begun. The open field serves as a recreation ground for everybody for the present. The Resident Medical Superintendent's house is detached—probably too detached.

#### DISCUSSION.

Dr. GREENE pleaded for the greater hospitalization of mental hospitals, with the abolition of locks on doors and windows and the abolition of surrounding walls.

Dr. MARTIN stated that he did not approve of the segregation of chronic patients in a separate building or hospital, as he had heard suggested at a recent meeting of the Association.

Dr. HONAN stated that, in his opinion, the abolition of protected rooms necessitated the use of an undesirable amount of narcotic drugs. He did not approve of collecting all the convalescent patients to a separate apartment for occupational therapy. He considered proper recreational facilities for the staff most important.

Dr. DUNNE pointed out that standard requirements for the building of mental hospitals had been issued by the English Board of Control, and he suggested that the Irish Division of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association should co-operate with the Local Government Department in drawing up standard regulations for the Irish Free State.

Dr. DEANE emphasized that the adoption of the "open system" depended almost entirely on the question of the proportion of staff to patients.

The CHAIRMAN thanked Dr. Moran for his paper, which had aroused such an interesting discussion.

At this stage the members were welcomed to Ardee Mental Hospital by Mr. JAMES T. MCGEE, Chairman of the Committee of Management, who expressed his personal pleasure that Ardee should have been made the venue of the meeting of the Division. The CHAIRMAN suitably replied, and a cordial vote of thanks was passed to the Louth Committee of Management and to Dr. and Mrs. Moran for their kind hospitality.

Later the members were entertained to tea by Mrs. Moran.

#### PSYCHOPATHOLOGY AND PSYCHOTHERAPY SUB-COMMITTEE.

##### Psychopathological References for 1933.

###### *English and American.*

Members are reminded that the Secretary of the Sub-Committee, Dr. J. Ernest Nicole, Winwick Mental Hospital, Warrington, will be pleased to submit further lists, including the *Monthly Bibliography of the National Committee for Mental Hygiene (U.S.A.)* up to 1932, to any who apply for them. The Book-list, comprising all more important works on Philosophy, Pure and Applied Psychology, Psychiatry and Psychopathology, Educational and Social Psychology, Ethnology, etc., is now complete to December, 1933, and includes 4,000 titles. Trade lists of books for the current year are also available.

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**London Local Group.**

Amongst the aims of the Sub-Committee has been the one to promote exchange of ideas, and the formation of informal groups of workers interested in psychopathology. One such group is the London Discussion Circle, which meets, under the leadership of Dr. M. E. Franklin, at 8.30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month, at 3, Bulstrode Street, Welbeck Street, W. 1.

Formed in January, 1928, it has held an uninterrupted course of most successful meetings, the average attendance being eighteen or nineteen. The subjects discussed have been very varied, and a sample selection is given below :

- Types of suicidal attempts.
- Mental testing in psychosis.
- Repetition.
- Behaviourism, *Gestalt* and psycho-analysis.
- Is psycho-analytic investigation scientific ?
- Hadfield's psychotherapy.
- Asocial children.
- The psychopathology of civilized communities.
- Constructive psychotherapy.
- Feelings of isolation in mental disorder.
- Neurotic symptoms in healthy people.
- The selection of the method of treatment.
- The psycho-biological views of Adolf Meyer.
- A type of frigidity in women.
- Drawing, modelling and writing of children.
- Sex jealousy as an artefact of culture.
- Genetic relationships of paranoia and hysteria.
- Psychological factors in contraception.

The value of such informal meetings can hardly be over-estimated, and it is not surprising to find how popular these meetings have proved. Anyone interested, within reach of London, and who wishes to join, should communicate directly with Dr. Franklin at Bulstrode Street, or with the Secretary of the Sub-Committee.