

6. Members heard a most interesting and stimulating Paper by Dr. Jessie R. Robinson on "An Experiment in Socialization of Adult Criminal Mental Defectives." This was followed by discussion.

Members were entertained to lunch and tea by the kind hospitality of the Physician-Superintendent and the Board of Management.

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, 11 November, 1953.

Twenty-two Members were present.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Dr. R. Dougal, Dr. F. B. McEvoy and Dr. V. J. Dolphin.

The Division accepted the kind invitation of the Chairman, Dr. Coyne, to hold the Spring Meeting in April, 1954, in the Central Criminal Asylum, Dundrum, Co. Dublin, the exact date to be fixed in consultation with the Secretary nearer the time.

After ballot the following were unanimously elected to Membership.

CLENAGHAN, ARTHUR STANLEY, M.D., D.P.M., Principal Registrar, Downshire Hospital, Downpatrick, Co. Down, N. Ireland.

Proposed by Drs. D. B. M. Lothian, C. B. Robinson, M. E. Lothian.

KIDD, CECIL WILLIAM, O.B.E., M.D., H.Q. Staff, Northern Ireland Hospitals Authority.

Proposed by Drs. G. M. Smith, C. B. Robinson, J. F. Perry.

The SECRETARY read a letter from the Department of Health asking for nominations to An Bord Altranais. The following names were proposed and seconded :

Dr. Evelyn O'Brien, Grangegorman Mental Hospital, Dublin.

Dr. W. J. Coyne, Central Criminal Asylum, Dundrum, Co. Dublin.

Dr. V. J. Dolphin, Department of Health, Dublin.

Dr. JAMES MULLIGAN reported on the representations he had made to the Council at the recent Quarterly Meeting of the Association in England.

The Meeting then proceeded to the Clinical Session, and Dr. MULLIGAN read a paper entitled "The Effects of Long Mass Confinement"

Dr Mulligan based his paper on his personal experiences as a prisoner of war for four years. He gave a survey of the literature on the prisoner of war since the 1914-1918 War and compared the general findings with his own experiences. He pointed out that an analogy could be drawn between a prisoner in a camp and a patient in a mental hospital. While he admitted that such an analogy could be pushed too far he thought there were certain features in common, and the reaction of normal people in a prison camp might teach us something of the reaction of patients in a mental hospital.

Dr. Mulligan considered the following four factors of paramount importance to the prisoner and discussed each in some detail :

1. *Loss of Individuality and Responsibility.*—The fact that there was no need to take responsibility led to some items gaining exaggerated importance and major problems often being pushed aside. From the lack of outlets for energy, aggression was often frustrated and projected on the environment, the captors, and eventually, on relatives at home.

2. *Loss of Privacy.*—Over-crowding and the irritations of communal life were often so bad that prisoners welcomed solitary confinement. Dr. Mulligan thought this point should be borne in mind in running our over-crowded hospitals.

3. *Food.*—This assumed exaggerated importance and was one of the main interests and pre-occupations in life.

4. *Deprivation of Normal Sex Life.*—He felt that the broader aspects were most important, that is, the loss of affection and the feeling of being forgotten by people at home. The general experience was that libido faded gradually and was superseded by pre-occupation with food.

Dr. Mulligan surveyed a group of 326 prisoners under his own personal care, and analysed the diagnostic groups and discussed prognosis. He outlined the symptoms and characteristics of what he described as "confinement neurosis." It developed insidiously after six months' imprisonment and was most troublesome during the second year.

The communication produced lively discussion in which Drs. McLAUGHLIN, CASSIN, MEEHAN, W. D. EUSTACE, SMITH, FOLEY, GLANCY and MOORE took part. Dr. MULLIGAN replied and the Meeting adjourned.

WORLD FEDERATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH.

The 6th Annual Meeting of the World Federation for Mental Health was held at the University of Vienna from 16 to 22 August under the auspices of the Burgomaster and of the Austrian Association for Mental Hygiene, of which Professor Hans Hoff was the President and Dr. Walter Spiel, Honorary Secretary.

Dr. M. K. el Kholy (Egypt) President of the World Federation, was succeeded by Dr. H. C. Rumke (Holland). The Lady Norman (U.K.), Vice-Chairman of the National Association for Mental Health, was elected a member of the executive and Professor McCalmán, Professor of Psychiatry at Leeds University and Miss Daisy Bridges of the International Council of Nursing were elected as alternate members.

The theme of the Congress was "Social Provision for Mental Health."

On Monday, 17 August, Herr Franz Jonas, Burgomaster of Vienna, together with representatives of the Austrian Ministries of Social Affairs and Education, the Rector of the University and the Dean of the Medical Faculty, the chief of the Social Welfare Services and Professor Hans Hoff, President of the Austrian Society for Mental Hygiene, gave an official welcome to the delegates.

At the first plenary session, Dr. J. R. Rees, Medical Director of the World Federation for Mental Health, gave a survey of recent trends in the field of mental health. He pointed out that there were two distinct aspects of mental health, the first dealing with mental disorders of mental deficiency and concerned predominantly with treatment and rehabilitation, the second, which might be termed positive mental health, dealing with preventive measures and the development of well balanced and harmoniously integrated personalities. This second field was predominantly the concern of the community as a whole, rather than of the medical profession alone. It could best be furthered by increasing the understanding of human relationships and emotional reactions and by social measures directed towards improving conditions, not only material but also psychological, in the home, in the school, in industry and in the community in general. This involved many disciplines including sociologists, the legal profession, doctors, teachers and last but by no means least, ministers of religion of every creed.

Only by this means could true mental health be developed, not only in individual nations but internationally. This was the best hope for the future peace and prosperity of the world. It was this second task that was particularly the concern of the World Federation for Mental Health, which was composed of people working in every field, regardless of colour, race or creed, who could meet together to discuss and try to evolve methods dealing with the many problems involved in an atmosphere of complete freedom and mutual goodwill.

The conference was attended by 397 members and delegates from 26 different countries, including three members from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and representing all the six continents.

Professor Hans Hoff (Austria) presented a survey of the development of Mental Health activities in Austria, followed by Dr. André Repond (Switzerland) who gave a general survey for Europe, Dr. George Stevenson (U.S.A.) who gave the survey for North America, and Dr. C. Alberto Seguin (Peru) for South America.

On 18, 19, and 21 August, plenary sessions were held dealing with the subject of "Aid in Mental Sickness."

(a) *The Community*.—Dr. I. G. M. Wilson, Senior Commissioner of the Board of Control, Mental Health Services Division, Ministry of Health, U.K., gave the opening address, followed by Dr. E. M. Jellinek (U.S.A.), W.H.O. Consultant on Alcoholism.