

are lower than normal and that there is a retardation of the normal vasodilatation of the other limbs when one is warmed. She found a low blood pressure in catatonics with increase on remission.

In the subsequent discussion Drs. W. J. T. KIMBER, H. FLEISCHACKER and O. FITZGERALD contributed and Dr. SHATTOCK replied.

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#### SCOTTISH DIVISION.

ABSTRACT of a Meeting of the Scottish Division of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association held at the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, 242, St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, on Friday, 30 September, 1949, at 2.30 p.m.

Thirty-three Members were present; 3 apologies for absence were noted. Dr. Kate Fraser relinquished the office of Chairman and Dr. Angus MacNiven was unanimously elected in her place. The Minutes of the last Divisional Meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Prof. Sir DAVID HENDERSON gave an interesting and informative talk about the recent R.M.P.A. tour of the Scandinavian mental hospitals and clinics.

Dr. W. McAlister was re-elected as the Divisional Representative on the Central Consultants and Specialists' Committee (Scotland), with Dr. E. J. C. Hewitt as his deputy.

There was some general discussion regarding the present position of the Mental Health Service, and the meeting terminated at 5.30 p.m.

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#### NORTHERN AND MIDLAND DIVISION.

THE AUTUMN MEETING of the Division was held on Friday, 21 October, 1949, at Menston Hospital, Menston, near Leeds, by kind invitation of Dr. I. Sutton, the Medical Superintendent.

During the morning Members visited various parts of the Hospital and were entertained to coffee. Lunch was provided at 1 p.m., the Chairman of the Management Committee, Alderman Mrs. L. Hammond being present. Mrs. L. HAMMOND welcomed members of the Association to the Hospital and expressed her good wishes for the future of psychiatry. Dr. POOL replied, expressing the appreciation of the members for the hospitality offered to them.

#### BUSINESS MEETING.

The Meeting commenced at 2.30 p.m.

In the absence of the Chairman, Dr. Pool was unanimously elected into the Chair.

1. The Minutes of the previous Meeting were read and confirmed.
2. Thirty-eight members and one guest were present.

3. The following candidates were elected to Ordinary Membership:

BOWER, JOHN, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.L.M.(Irel.), L.A.H.(Dublin); Provincial Hospital for Nervous Diseases, St. John, N.B., Canada; Lancaster Avenue, Fairville, St. John, N.B., Canada.

*Proposed by* Drs. G. J. Harrisson, H. Fleming and G. M. Woddis.

SMITH, STANLEY, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.P., Menston Hospital, Menston, near Leeds; St. Leonards, Church Road, Horsforth, Leeds.

*Proposed by* Drs. I. Sutton, R. W. Lennon and J. S. Johnstone.

4. Dr. M. J. BROOKES, Assistant Secretary, gave the report of the Divisional Committee of Management. Arising out of this:

(a) Dr. I. SUTTON proposed that a recommendation be made to the Council of the R.M.P.A. that a communication be sent to the Regional Hospital Boards, stressing the fact that certain medical staff are obliged to live in accommodation provided at the mental hospitals, and that in assessing the value of the services provided suitable abatement be given in consideration of this.

(b) Dr. D. K. BRUCE, of Storthes Hall, offered hospitality to the Division for the Spring Meeting. This offer was received with acclamation.

(c) A discussion with regard to the D.P.M. of the R.M.P.A. was opened by Prof. D. R. MACCALMAN. He raised the problem of the Assistant Medical Officer with

little opportunity for training and who did not desire to spend a long time in attending courses or serving in a junior capacity in hospitals. He suggested that the D.P.M. should be given the status of a junior examination within the capacity of all working in hospital and that it should be a part of a routine and that there should be a senior qualification, such as an M.D. or its equivalent, in the specialty. He viewed the M.D. as being an examination for the academic or research psychiatrist and suggested that membership of a College of Psychiatry should be an alternative higher degree essentially on the clinical side. His view was that the R.M.P.A. should seek recognition as a College of Psychiatry, membership to be of a higher standard. Other members present took part in the discussion, and the general attitude was in agreement with Prof. MacCalman's suggestions.

5. In the absence of the Secretary, there was no report of the Divisional Representatives of the Council.

#### CLINICAL SESSION.

The Clinical Session commenced at 3 p.m.

Dr. POOL conveyed Dr. Northage J. de V. Mather's apologies for his absence as he had been called upon to give evidence at Court.

A paper on "**Some Aspects of Thematic Apperception Testing**," by Dr. Max Valentine and Dr. A. A. Robin, was presented by Dr. MAX VALENTINE. He gave an interesting account of the results of comparing a group of depressed patients with normal controls. He showed that there was some correlation between responses obtained in this test and those obtained by the Rorschach method. In general, he showed that the depressive was less versatile, showing some failure of imaginative thinking. Their responses showed less variation, with little drive and no future, but both the depressive and the controls showed an equal amount of aggressive response. He claimed that there was a definite correlation between good form in the Rorschach and productivity in the T.A.T.

Dr. A. A. ROBIN opened the discussion which followed, and pointed out that the series that had been tested was small and that it was hoped to take a larger series of different types of illness in the future. In the course of the discussion it was suggested that the similarity of certain responses, particularly those associated with murder and suicide, was due to the controls being taken from the mental hospital staff. Though the discussion was short, owing to lack of time, several members were able to take part.

A second paper was given by Dr. W. IRONSIDE entitled "**A Study of the Attitudes of the Discharged Mental Hospital Patient**." This paper was of great practical interest in that it gave a statistical survey of the attitude of discharged patients to the mental hospitals where they had been treated and towards the staff who had cared for them. Dr. Ironside stressed that the information obtained at his interviews should be of interest and practical application. He stressed the repetitive nature of the autobiographical literature of ex-mental hospital patients and commented upon the attitude of certain patients that brought about the refusal of interview. In a certain number of cases the visits had been unheralded yet, in many cases, his reception had been good. The findings, in general, showed a high correlation between a favourable attitude towards the hospital and recovery. The antagonistic patient seemed to be the more unstable, and perhaps not completely adjusted. He indicated, however, that there was still considerable antagonism towards the mental hospitals and that this could probably be avoided if a more sympathetic attitude was adopted and if the psychiatrist carried out a great deal more propaganda, especially in the form of educating the public in their attitude towards mental illness.

A vigorous discussion in which Prof. MACCALMAN and Dr. I. SUTTON took part, followed this paper, particularly with regard to restrictive practices in mental hospitals and the problem of improving the conditions under which mental patients were nursed. Stress was laid upon the fact that many of the difficulties arose from overcrowding and shortage of staff.

Dr. POOL summed up and expressed the appreciation of the meeting to the speakers for the excellence of the papers provided and to Dr. Sutton for his hospitality.

An excellent tea concluded the business of the meeting.