

SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

THE SPRING MEETING of the South-Western Division was held at Coney Hill Hospital, Gloucester, on Thursday, 13 March, 1952, by kind invitation of the Hospital Management Committee and Dr. F. C. Logan, Medical Superintendent.

Sixteen members were present.

The Minutes of the last meeting were confirmed and signed. It was explained by the Honorary Divisional Secretary that the Resolution recorded in the Minutes, and already forwarded to the Council of the Association, had appeared on the Agenda of the Council's meeting in February; but that as no representative of the South-Western Division was able to be present at the meeting to speak to the Resolution, its consideration had been postponed until the May Meeting of the Association. The Honorary Secretary assured the meeting that he would be present to the Resolution on that occasion.

THE HONORARY SECRETARY reported that the Divisional Committee of Management met before lunch and presented their report as follows:

No nominations had been received from members for the offices of Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Junior Representative on Council. The Divisional Committee therefore recommended that Dr. S. M. Allan should be re-elected to the Chair for a further year, that Dr. R. G. McInnes should continue as Honorary Secretary, and Dr. Philip Davies as Junior Representative on Council.

The Committee recommended that Dr. Atkin, of the Park Prewett Hospital, Basingstoke, should be invited to have the South-Western Division at his hospital for the Autumn Meeting in 1952.

The report of the Committee was adopted.

The following candidates were elected to Ordinary Membership:

FORD, LESLIE, M.D., D.P.M., Senior Assistant Medical Officer, St. Andrew's Hospital, Northampton.

Proposed by Drs. T. Tennent, R. W. Armstrong and D. J. O'Connell.

KOTLOWSKI, KAZIMIERZ, Medical Diploma, Warsaw, Assistant Medical Officer, St. Andrew's Hospital, Northampton.

Proposed by Drs. T. Tennent, D. J. O'Connell and R. W. Armstrong.

SMITH, ALFRED LEONARD GORDON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.M., Assistant Medical Officer, St. Andrew's Hospital, Northampton.

Proposed by Drs. T. Tennent, D. J. O'Connell and R. W. Armstrong.

Dr. J. S. I. SKOTTOWE opened a discussion on "The Recruitment and Training of Psychiatrists and the Medical Staffing of Psychiatric Hospitals and Clinics." Dr. Skottowe outlined the difficulties of attracting the right men into psychiatry and of keeping them. He felt that a good grounding in general medicine was essential, that there should be no economic disadvantage if a well-qualified man decided to take up psychiatry later, that the training in psychiatry should be broadly based, and that those going into the speciality should have reasonable prospects and free independent clinical status.

Dr. Skottowe deprecated the pyramidal structure of many mental hospital staffs, and expressed the hope that the system of medical firms in mental hospitals, each headed by an experienced consultant, would become more generally adopted. He said that it already worked satisfactorily in certain hospitals.

Dr. Skottowe also felt that young men should not take up psychiatry too early, but should try to get a higher medical qualification first.

A very instructive discussion followed, in which Drs. Fleming, Delfun Lewis, Pilkington, Hutton, Hennelly, Logan, Spencer and others took part. Dr. Skottowe was warmly thanked for his paper, which had provoked such an interesting discussion.

THE CHAIRMAN, in closing the meeting, proposed a vote of thanks to Dr. Logan, and said that the hospitality extended by him and his Hospital Management Committee had been greatly appreciated by all members present at the meeting.

IRISH DIVISION.

THE SUMMER QUARTERLY AND CLINICAL MEETING of the Irish Division of the Association was held on Wednesday, 7 May, 1952, at Glenmaroon, Chapelizod, Co. Dublin, by kind invitation of Sister Margaret, Superioress of the Community of the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, and at St. Vincent's, Cabra.

Thirty-five members and one guest were present.

The members were given the opportunity of seeing over Glenmaroon, the new institution for high-grade mental defectives, before being most hospitably entertained to lunch. A vote of thanks was passed at the conclusion of the luncheon, proposed by Dr. Honan and seconded by Dr. Coyne. The meeting then adjourned to St. Vincent's, Cabra.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Dr. Thompson and Dr. FitzGerald.

A vote of sympathy was passed with the following members on their recent bereavements: Drs. Coyne, Dolphin and Dunne.

The Autumn Meeting was fixed for Wednesday, 5 November, at the Royal College of Physicians, Kildare Street, Dublin.

A discussion followed on the desirability of giving the District Mental Hospitals new names. It was eventually decided to refer the matter to the Sub-Committee which had been appointed previously to make recommendations for the revision of the Mental Treatment Act, 1945.

In order to ensure that members generally would take part in providing clinical material for the meetings and that all the mental hospitals in turn would be visited by the Association, it was agreed that in future, where possible, the Autumn Meeting should be held at the Royal College of Physicians, Dublin, the Spring Meeting in some hospital near Dublin, and the Summer Meeting at a hospital in the country. It was further agreed that the hospitals should be asked in alphabetical order to provide papers and hospitality for the meeting.

THE SECRETARY read a letter from the Department of Health requesting a nomination for a member of the Association to act on the National Health Council for the two years ending 31 March, 1954. It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that Dr. Dunne should be re-elected.

The meeting then proceeded to the clinical session, and Dr. RICHARD LAVELLE presented his communication, "A Review of the Work in St. Vincent's, Cabra."

He began by outlining the history both of the Order and of the Institution in Cabra, which was founded in 1926. In 1937 two new wings were added to enable the colony to accommodate 534 patients. The addition of Glenmaroon would mean that 200 educable high-grade mental defectives would be added to the care of the community. Dr. Lavelle emphasized the great need for kindness, skill and devotion on the part of the nuns, and said that only divinely inspired zeal could enable them to carry on the work that they were doing at Cabra. He then discussed some administrative matters, such as the method of admitting and maintaining a patient and, more generally, the problem of catering for mental deficiency in Ireland. Despite all that had been done the accommodation was still inadequate and much remained to be done. In this respect the speaker paid a warm tribute to the work of Dr. Kearney in looking after the interests of the mental defectives in the country. He outlined the treatment provided, the grading of patients, the custodial care, the training in habits and hygiene and the occupation and education of the higher grades. He suggested that legislation might be necessary to make provision for the patients who were well enough to leave the hospital on trial. A number of the patients could eventually be discharged if a sheltered home and employment could be provided for them. The ideal to aim at was to make as many as possible of these handicapped people fit to join the life of the community.

The communication was discussed by the Chairman, Dr. Smith, Dr. Moran, Dr. Kearney and Dr. Clifford. Dr. Lavelle replied and the meeting adjourned to tea.

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The Hon. Librarian will endeavour to obtain, as far as possible, any books on psychiatry and allied subjects required by members.

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4. Books damaged or lost while in possession of a member will be repaired at his expense or must be replaced by him.
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