

THE JOURNAL OF MENTAL SCIENCE

[Published by Authority of the
Royal Medico-Psychological Association]

SUPPLEMENT

JULY, 1954

THE ROYAL MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

SPRING QUARTERLY MEETING

THE SPRING QUARTERLY MEETING of the Association was held on 6 May, 1954, at Moorhaven Hospital, Ivybridge, South Devon, under the Presidency of Dr. G. W. T. H. Fleming.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Winter Quarterly Meeting held on 18 February, 1954, to be published in a forthcoming Supplement, were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the President.

OBITUARY

The President announced with regret the death of:

DR. EDWARD BARTON CARTWRIGHT WHITE, M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., St. Merryn, Braunton, N. Devon (Chairman S.W. Division, 1930-33), former Medical Superintendent, Bristol Mental Hospitals and lecturer in Mental Diseases, University of Bristol, an Ordinary Member since 1911.

ELECTION OF ORDINARY MEMBERS

The following were unanimously elected to Ordinary Membership:

BAGADIA, VRAJLAL NARSHIDAS, M.B.(Bombay), Registrar, Netherne Hospital, Coulsdon, Surrey.

Proposed by Drs. R. K. Freudenberg, H. E. S. Marshall and S. L. Yates.

BAKER, AUGUSTINE HENRY LEWIS, B.A.(Oxon), L.M.S.S.A., D.A., Clinical Assistant, Department of Psychiatry, West London Hospital; Hon. Clinical Assistant, Department of Psychiatry, West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases.

Proposed by Drs. A. Spencer Paterson, T. M. Ling and H. P. Tarnesby.

HALL, THOMAS EDWIN, M.B., B.S.(London), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.M., Senior Registrar, Moorhaven Hospital, Ivybridge, S. Devon.

Proposed by Drs. F. Pilkington, J. M. Gilroy and R. A. Blair.

JAYASUNDERA, MUDIYANSELAGE GUNAPALA, M.B., B.S.(Ceylon), Clinical Assistant, Maudsley Hospital, London, S.E.5.

Proposed by Drs. I. J. MacDonald, J. G. Hamilton and W. P. Gurassa.

JONES, KENNETH SIMPSON, M.B., B.S., D.P.M., Senior Registrar in Psychiatry, Birmingham United Hospitals.

Proposed by Drs. M. Sim, R. W. Tibbetts and J. R. Hawkings.

ROBINSON, LEONARD WILLIAM, M.B., Ch.B., Senior House Officer, St. Luke's Hospital, Middlesbrough.

Proposed by Drs. T. M. Cuthbert, J. Russell and D. D. Webster.

ROBINSON, RONALD ARTHUR, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.M., Registrar,
Crichton Royal, Dumfries.

Proposed by Drs. P. K. McCowan, R. Klein, and W. McAdam.

TURNER, ROBERT EDWARD, B.A., M.D.(Toronto), Senior Medical Officer,
Bristol Mental Hospitals; Barrow Hospital, Barrow Gurney, Bristol.

Proposed by Drs. R. Maggs, Stanley Smith and E. H. Hare.

WINNIK, HEINRICH, M.D.(Berlin), Medical Director, Department of Psychiatry,
University of Jerusalem, Israel.

Proposed by Drs. E. Stengel, D. L. Davies and A. Harris. (Candidature
approved by Council, 17 February, 1954.)

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

The Report of the Council, as follows, was read by the GENERAL SECRETARY and approved:

An invitation has been received from the Guillebaud Committee for representatives of the Association to give evidence on the 18 May. Dr. Skottowe and the General Secretary will attend.

In the absence of Dr. Maclay, Council decided to defer until the July Meeting the consideration of the formation of a Public Relations Committee, brought forward from the last Meeting.

The Treasurer reported that the audited accounts for the year 1953 showed a surplus of income over expenditure of £837, a decrease of £428 on the previous year.

The names of nine members who are in arrears with their subscriptions for more than three years are to be removed from the Roll of the Association.

The Handbook for Mental Nurses is nearing completion, and a specimen cover has been submitted for approval.

The usual annual payment of 400 Swiss Francs is to be paid to the World Federation of Mental Health.

The Journal Committee discussed in detail arrangements for dealing with the large increase in the number of papers submitted for publication. It has been decided that authors must be asked to cut down the length of their papers.

In the absence of the Registrar, the Secretary of the Education Committee reported that the next examination for the D.P.M. would be held in London in the week beginning 17 May. Sixteen entries had been received for Part I and 11 entries for Part II.

Four entries had been received for the Gaskell Medal and Prize examination which would be held in the same week.

No dissertations had been received for the Bronze Medal and Prize.

The last Maudsley Bequest Lecture Course, on "Physical Treatments in Psychiatry", was held at the Barnes Hall on 5 and 6 April, and there was an average attendance of 200 people.

The Education Committee considered a letter from the Association of Occupational Therapists indicating that they had revised the syllabus for their Diploma, and seeking the views of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association on the continuation of the special conditions by which qualified nurses may enter for the additional qualification in occupational therapy. Council confirmed the Committee's view that it was desirable that the Association of Occupational Therapists should continue the existing arrangement, although it was realized that conditions might call for some modification in the light of the new syllabus for the Diploma.

An enquiry was received from the Confederation of Health Services Employees about the use of the letters R.M.P.A. by nurses after their names to indicate that they have passed the final examination of the Association. After careful consideration it was decided to inform the Confederation of Health Service Employees that the Association has never given recognition to this usage, and deprecates the use of the

letters R.M.P.A. as an alternative to R.M.N., which shows that the nurse has registered his or her qualification. Council is, however, prepared to approve the use of the letters R.M.P.A. in brackets after the letters R.M.N. only.

Council received the reports of the Ad Hoc and Nominations Committees, and also those of Divisions and Sections.

The Special Committee which is preparing evidence for the Royal Commission on Mental Health Legislation has held five meetings and has invited suggestions and comments from all members of the Association in England and Wales, with satisfactory results. Close liaison has been maintained by the Sub-Committee with the B.M.A., the National Association for Mental Health, the Society of Mental Welfare Officers and the Confederation of Health Service Employees.

Concurrently, the Mental Deficiency Section has circularized its members, and revised proposals from the Executive Committee of the Section will be considered by the Committee at their next meeting. The Committee will then be in a position to proceed with the drafting of the Memorandum of Evidence.

The Royal Commission have intimated that they would like to receive the evidence of the Association at an early date, i.e. before the Summer Recess. The Committee feel that, as all members concerned have been consulted individually and replies fully taken into consideration, no advantage would be gained by submitting the Memorandum to the Annual General Meeting, which would make it impossible to comply with the Commission's wishes. Council has therefore approved the Committee's recommendation that the previous resolution be rescinded, and that instead the Memorandum should be considered and approved at a Special Meeting of the Council to be held in June.

The Sub-Committee which is considering the training of Mental Health Workers has had several useful meetings, and as a result has recommended, and Council has approved, that a formal invitation should be sent to the Society of Medical Officers of Health to form a Joint Committee with representatives of the Association and the Society of Mental Welfare Officers, with the object of devising a system of training of Mental Welfare Officers which will be acceptable to all local authorities.

Council again considered the question of the retiring age of Mental Health Officers, a matter which is also under active consideration by the Council of the British Medical Association. It was generally felt that the compulsory retirement at age 60 which is enforced in some regions but not in others bears unfairly on some of the Association's Members, and it was decided that the views of the Association in this matter should be communicated to the B.M.A., and that the Ministry of Health should be approached with the request that Mental Health Officers should no longer be at a disadvantage compared with those working in other branches of medicine in having compulsorily to retire five years earlier.

The Society for Cultural Relations with Russia has notified the Association that the Ministry of Health of the U.S.S.R. has invited 20 British medical men and women to visit the Soviet Union to obtain first-hand knowledge of Soviet medicine through personal contacts, visits to hospitals, etc. The party will leave on 4 September, 1954, and the whole trip will take three weeks. Members of the party will be guests of Soviet doctors from Prague onwards, but must pay their own return air passage to Prague (£50). The S.C.R. wishes to include a senior member of the Association, and has invited the submission of names for consideration. Council had some difficulty in making nominations for this visit, and decided to circularize all members of Council and Standing Committees in order to make the project more widely known.

It was agreed that Dr. H. J. Eustace should represent the Association at the 52nd Congrès des Médecins Aliénistes et Neurologistes de France, to be held at Liège in July, and that Dr. Portia Holman should be the Association's representative at the World Child Welfare Congress to be held at Zagreb, from 30 August to 4 September, 1954.

Information has also been received about the following Congresses:

The International Congress for Psychotherapy, to be held in Zürich from 21-24 July, 1954.

The First International Congress on Group Psychotherapy to be held in Toronto from 12-20 August, 1954, in connection with the Fifth International Congress on Mental Health already announced.

The subject for the Papers Session of the November, 1954 Meeting will be "Prophylaxis of Mental Hygiene".

PAPERS

The following papers were read:

"The Mental Health Service—Remote Areas Take Stock"
Dr. Francis Pilkington and Dr. T. M. Cuthbert.

"The Management and Treatment of Chronic and Disturbed Patients in Mental Hospitals"

Dr. O. FitzGerald, Dr. M. Radzan, Dr. L. C. Cook and Dr. J. S. McGregor.

SEMINARS

The following Seminars were held on 5 May in Plymouth, and were well attended:

"The Results of Out-Patient Psychotherapy", by Dr. Robert A. Blair.

"The Treatment of Ano-Genital Pruritus", by Dr. R. D. Sweet and Dr. John M. Gilroy.

"Domiciliary and Out-Patient Psychiatric Services; the General Practitioner's Point of View", by Dr. T. M. Davie, Dr. E. C. Hamlyn and Dr. D. Craddock.

The Opening Speaker in the discussion was Dr. W. A. Lister.

HOSPITALITY AND VOTES OF THANKS

On 5 May the Council was most hospitably entertained to lunch by the Lord Mayor and City Council of Plymouth and were welcomed by the Lord Mayor.

Through the kindness of the Lord Mayor and the City Council the wives of all members were taken on a most interesting tour of the City of Plymouth, and after lunch at Buckland Abbey were shown round the Abbey before resuming their tour of the country surrounding the City.

In the evening the Moorhaven Hospital Management Committee gave a dance at the hospital which was greatly enjoyed by all who attended.

On 6 May the Association and their guests were entertained to lunch at Moorhaven Hospital by the Regional Hospital Board, in the unavoidable absence of the Chairman of the Board, Alderman Mrs. J. Marshall (Chairman of the Hospital Management Committee) welcomed the Association, and in reply the President expressed sincere thanks to the Regional Hospital Board and to the Management Committee for their welcome and for their kindness in allowing the Meeting to be held at Moorhaven.

After lunch the ladies of the party were taken on a tour of the Dart Valley, stopping to visit Dartington Hall and Buckfast Abbey. They were most grateful to the Hospital Management Committee who arranged this tour for them.

At the close of the Papers Session the President expressed the thanks of the Association to Dr. Pilkington and his staff in all branches for all they had done to make the meeting at Plymouth and Moorhaven an unqualified success. He also thanked the speakers for their interesting and informative papers.