

Dr. McCartan discussed the need for closer neurological and psychiatric collaboration and the benefits which would accrue from the closer association of these specialities. He expressed the view that progress in psychiatry was dependent in no small measure on a closer integration than there had been in the past and deprecated any approach either exclusively materialistic or philosophical, the point of his thesis being that the ideal arrangement would be a balanced synthesis of both.

Mr. E. J. Radley-Smith described a number of cases showing psychiatric symptoms which were in fact basically neurological. He pointed out the pitfalls in the diagnosis of subdural haemotoma, abscess and tumour, and illustrated his remarks with arteriograms and air studies.

Dr. Bailey described an interesting case of parathyroid deficiency following thyroidectomy, which was unsuspected until the patient had been admitted in a paranoid state to St. Francis' Hospital. Dr. Bailey showed an interesting graph of the improvement in the patient's mental state through control of this deficiency.

Dr. A. M. Stewart-Wallace, Visiting Neurologist, gave a description of the basilar syndrome and the psychiatric manifestations of this.

Dr. A. A. W. Petrie (Past President of the Association) proposed the vote of thanks to Dr. McCartan and the Management Committee for their hospitality.

#### SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION

THE AUTUMN MEETING of the South-Western Division was held at Tone Vale Hospital, near Taunton, Somerset, on Thursday, the 8 October, 1953, by kind invitation of the Hospital Management Committee and Dr. K. C. Bailey, Medical Superintendent, and was attended by 23 members and 11 guests.

The Divisional Committee of Management nominated Dr. I. Atkin, Dr. W. E. W. Bridger, Colonel J. T. Robinson, Dr. J. Russell and Dr. J. M. C. Speer for re-election, and Dr. K. C. Bailey, Dr. S. M. Allan and Dr. A. J. Rowe for election to the Committee. No other nominations for election to the Committee of Management had been received and the nominations of the Committee of Management were therefore accepted and the members nominated elected unanimously.

The arrangements for the Spring Meeting were left to the Chairman and the Divisional Secretary.

#### ELECTION OF JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE ON COUNCIL

Dr. A. J. E. Rowe, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Registrar at Park Prewett Hospital, Basingstoke, was unanimously elected to the office of Junior Representative on Council.

#### ELECTION OF CANDIDATES TO ORDINARY MEMBERSHIP

The following candidates were elected by ballot to Ordinary Membership:

CRAWFORD, JAMES ALEXANDER, L.R.C.P. & S.(Ed.), L.R.F.P.S.G., D.P.M., Medical Director, Cheltenham, Gloucester and County Child Guidance Clinics; Honorary Psychiatrist, Gloucester Mental Hospitals.

*Proposed by* Drs. E. Whatley, D. P. Finn and P. Holman.

ROBERTS, JULIAN MERVYN, M.B., Ch.B.(Edin.), D.P.M.(Leeds), Senior Registrar, St. James's Hospital, Portsmouth, Hants.

*Proposed by* Drs. W. Liddell Milligan, J. D. Murphy and J. McGhie.

WYLIE, JOHN ANTHONY HAMILTON, M.A.(Oxon), M.D.(London), D.Phil. (Oxon), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., University Demonstrator in Pathology, Oxford University (on leave of absence to Medical Research Council).

*Proposed by* Drs. A. Shapiro, E. D. Taylor and R. M. Bates.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Shepherd, from the Chair, raised the question of the possible re-starting of the R.M.P.A. examinations for nurses. In doing so, he said that he welcomed very much

the presence of the President, Dr. G. W. T. H. Fleming. Dr. Shepherd said he felt that there was a strong case for re-starting the R.M.P.A. examinations, principally because of the practical difficulties involved in obtaining nurses who were willing to go through the G.N.C. training, and for other reasons.

The President spoke strongly in support of the idea that the R.M.P.A. examinations should be re-started. He said that there was a great need for good nurses, not necessarily of the academic kind, but of people who would take a human interest in their patients and be good nurses at the practical level. Dr. K. C. Bailey also spoke in support.

The following motion was then put from the Chair:

“That the Council of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association be asked to reconsider the question of re-starting the Royal Medico-Psychological Association examinations for nurses, and that a Sub-Committee be appointed for this special purpose to approach the Minister of Health.”

There were no amendments, and the motion was carried *nem con*—eighteen members voting.

#### PAPERS

Dr. Bailey read a paper on “**The Treatment of Schizophrenia in Children**”. He had found that there were, broadly, two types of schizophrenia in children—one which he called psychopathic, and the other organic. He had found that some of the psychopathic types had cleared very quickly under treatment. The EEG changes were unspecific in these types, but more specific in the organic types. They had found that a re-socializing therapy, with teaching and a strong family atmosphere, had yielded good results. Insulin had been disappointing.

Dr. J. Gordon Russell then read a paper on “**The Somatic Aspect of Schizophrenia in Children**”. He pointed out that physical changes were rarely found in the paranoid types. The changes might be metabolic, endocrine or in any of the physiological spheres. A total physiological withdrawal was a not uncommon feature of schizophrenia. One outstanding feature of his investigations had been the fact that thirty-one per cent of the siblings of schizophrenes had abnormal EEG records.

Dr. M. E. Hopkins read her paper on “**Diversion Therapy in Psychotic Children**”. She said that these children were unusually afraid on arrival and needed much reassurance. They had found that a structured routine, with some discipline, was helpful. Walks, games, cinema, folk-dancing, sewing, singing and other organized activities, had formed the basis of their programme which, in some cases, had yielded distinctly hopeful results.

In the discussion which followed, Dr. Frank Bodman, Colonel J. T. Robinson, Dr. Whiles and Dr. Sessions Hodge took part. The Chairman wound up the discussion and in doing so he warmly thanked Dr. Bailey, the Hospital Management Committee, and all those who had contributed to a very successful meeting.

After the discussion, members were conducted round the new Children’s Department, which had been built by hospital labour. Members were impressed by the lay-out of the Department, by its orderliness and by the apparently contented condition of the children who were being looked after there. It was thought by many members that similar departments in other areas would be a very desirable addition to the clinical facilities for the care of children.

The meeting was held out of doors in bright sunshine, and this, together with the beauty of the surroundings and the warmth of the hospitality, made the occasion specially enjoyable.

THE SPRING MEETING of the Division was held at Fair Mile Hospital, near Wallingford, Berkshire, on Friday, the 2 April, 1954, by kind invitation of the Hospital Management Committee and Dr. William Ogden, Medical Superintendent, and was attended by 22 members and 7 guests.

Dr. Andrew Shepherd was elected to the Chair for a further year, and also Dr. R. G. McInnes to the post of Honorary Divisional Secretary.

Dr. A. J. E. Rowe was re-elected to the office of Junior Representative on Council.

The Divisional Secretary reported that Dr. Shepherd had kindly invited the Division to his hospital at Bromsgrove for the Autumn Meeting, and the Divisional Committee of Management recommended acceptance of this offer with grateful thanks. This was unanimously agreed.

The following candidates were elected unanimously to Ordinary Membership of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association:

DAVIDSON, SAMAI ISAAC, L.R.C.P. & S.(Edin.), L.R.F.P.S.G., Registrar, The Warneford Hospital, Oxford.

*Proposed by* Drs. Ian Skottowe, R. G. McInnes and J. Beggs.

KNOWLES, ROBERT RAYMOND, M.B., B.S.(Sydney), D.P.M., Senior Registrar, Bristol Mental Hospitals.

*Proposed by* Drs. S. Smith, E. C. Turton and A. Leitch.

SEAGER, CHARLES PHILIP, M.B., B.Ch., Registrar, Bristol Mental Hospitals.

*Proposed by* Drs. Delfun Lewis, S. Smith and E. H. Hare.

The Honorary Divisional Secretary reported that he had received a letter from the Honorary General Secretary of the Association in February, intimating that the resolution of the South-Western Division about the resumption of the Association's nursing examinations was put before the Council of the Association at their meeting on the 17 February, 1954. After considering the resolution, together with several letters received drawing attention to the shortage of mental nurses, the Council had decided to set up a small committee, consisting of Drs. Noel Burke and Noel Harris, assisted by Dr. Isabel Wilson, to consider the whole question of the shortage of mental nurses and any possible steps to remedy the situation, with power to co-opt and consult, as necessary, and to report to the May Meeting.

The President (Dr. G. W. T. H. Fleming), said that he felt the resolution from the South-Western Division had been a substantial contribution to the opening-up of this important question in the councils of the R.M.P.A.

#### PAPERS

Dr. D. J. Arkle then spoke on the subject of "**Reflections on Therapeutic Abortion**". Dr. Arkle began with a historical review of the attitudes, opinions and practices in relation to therapeutic abortion throughout the centuries and referred especially to the enactments which had, from time to time, governed and controlled the practice of abortion in this country.

Dr. Arkle's second reflection amounted to a censure of the criteria in common current use as indications for therapeutic abortion; he took his stand on the opinion that the operation of abortion can do nothing but harm to the mental state of a woman. He thought that the usual criteria were erroneous, in so far as they might include social or even eugenic considerations, and he deprecated the procedure of therapeutic abortion on the grounds that it brought an end to a natural act and might involve some loss of soul on the part of the mother.

In his third reflection Dr. Arkle expressed a strong bias towards the preservation of even a spark of life, and he drew a contrast in this respect between the attitudes prevalent in the conservative people of England, and the wider criteria currently in use in Sweden. He deplored the destruction of life and also the influence of genetics, in so far as it might lead to a loss of care in the preservation of individual life. He felt that in cases where pregnancy was artificially terminated on therapeutic grounds, the mother must inevitably share the guilt of the doctor in the act, and suffer in consequence.

Dr. Shepherd (Chairman) warmly commended Dr. Arkle on his discourse, especially for the courage which he had displayed in dealing with such a difficult

topic and for expounding it in so masterly a fashion without the aid of notes. Dr. Shepherd did not entirely share all Dr. Arkle's views, however, and said he thought that there were situations in which social factors must be considered since they were relevant to the woman's state of mind.

A discussion followed in which Drs. Last, McInnes and Hutton took part, and it was concluded by a warm expression of appreciation from the meeting to Dr. Arkle for his talk.

Dr. Stephen Krauss read a paper on "**Observations on the Sequence: Brain Damage—Indifferent Period—Stress-Neurosis**". Dr. Krauss was mainly concerned with the late results of brain affection from infection, trauma, toxæmia and degeneration, which might show themselves either as neurotic sequelæ, arising under later stress or as personality deviations. Dr. Krauss quoted four cases illustrating the points under consideration. These had been studied by means of clinical observation, EEG examinations, the Minnesota and the Rorschach Tests. Dr. Krauss gave an interesting and closely-studied account of these cases, and he drew the general conclusions that encephalopathy can be a predisposing factor to neurosis; that this often occurs after an indifferent period of shorter or longer duration; and that neurosis-proneness of brain-affected persons may become predictable on the basis of statistical enquiries.

A discussion followed in which the President, Dr. J. S. I. Skottowe and Colonel Robinson took part. Dr. Krauss was warmly thanked for his carefully-prepared paper which had been of great interest to all.

During the course of the meeting the Division was welcomed to Fair Mile Hospital by General Lambert, Chairman of the Hospital Management Committee. In his reply, Dr. Andrew Shepherd (Chairman), said how much the Division appreciated the invitation, and that the warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements had been greatly enjoyed by all members and friends. Dr. Ogden and his staff were also thanked for their labours in organizing a very successful meeting.

#### NORTHERN AND MIDLAND DIVISION

THE SPRING MEETING of the Division was held on Friday, 2 April, 1954, at St. Luke's Hospital, Middlesbrough, by kind permission of Dr. T. M. Cuthbert, Medical Superintendent, and his Management Committee. During the morning members had the opportunity of seeing the fine new Admission Unit and Out-Patient Department, York House and the remainder of the Hospital.

Members sat down to a very fine luncheon in company with Alderman Turner, Chairman of the Management Committee. Alderman Turner welcomed the members with a graceful speech and Professor Kennedy made a suitable reply on behalf of the Division.

The Business Meeting commenced at 2.30 p.m., and the following were duly elected for Ordinary Membership:

LITTLE, JAMES CRAWFORD, M.B., Ch.B., Senior Registrar, Cherry Knowle (Mental) Hospital, Ryhope, Sunderland.

*Proposed by* Professor Alexander Kennedy, Drs. Robert Orton and F. Back.

DEARDEN, ROSEMARY, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.(Lond.), Registrar, St. Nicholas Hospital, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

*Proposed by* Professor Alexander Kennedy, Drs. J. P. Child and Robert Orton.

The Clinical Session which followed was contributed to by the following:

Dr. T. M. Cuthbert who gave a paper on the Pre-Nursing Cadet Scheme run in connection with his hospital and which he felt was the answer to many of their nursing problems.