

SCOTTISH DIVISION.

THE Scottish Division of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association held their Autumn Meeting at Stratheden Hospital, Cupar, Fife, on Friday, 11 September, 1953, at 2.30 p.m.

Thirty-one Members were present.

Apologies for absence were received from seventeen members.

1. The Minutes of the last meeting were confirmed.

2. *Election of Ordinary Members* : The following were duly elected :

PATON, RONALD STEWART, M.A., M.B., Ch.B.(St. Andrews), M.O. i/c C.L.D.
Perth, M.O. Perth Prison.

Proposed by Drs. H. B. Craigie, Laura Mill and E. J. C. Hewitt.

MURRAY-LYON, WILLIAM MALCOLM, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.P.Edin.

Proposed by Sir David Henderson and Drs. Betty Magill and E. Elizabeth Robertson.

ROBERTSON, JAMES FINLAY, M.B., Ch.B., 728, Crow Road, Glasgow, W.3.

Proposed by Drs. R. A. Y. Stewart, J. F. McHarg and E. Cruikshank.

3. *Report from Committee of Management.*

(a) The SECRETARY reported that Dr. K. R. H. Wardrop had been elected to the Association's Parliamentary Committee and to the Education Committee. The Committee of Management had suggested that the Division might reciprocate by electing Dr. Brookes and Dr. Fitzgerald to Ex-officio Membership of the Scottish Division's Forensic Psychiatry Committee. The Meeting approved this suggestion.

(b) The next Divisional Meeting would be on Friday, 4 December, and it had been suggested that this might be held in the Department of Psychological Medicine, Glasgow University. If this could not be arranged, the Meeting would be held in the Royal Mental Hospital, Glasgow.

(c) The Division had been asked by the D.H.S. for any nominations for election to the Scottish Health Services Council. After consideration, the Committee had considered that as the South of Scotland was well represented by Dr. P. K. McCowan and Dr. Wm. Boyd, any nomination should cover the more Northern areas and suggested the name of Dr. Martin Whittet. The Meeting approved.

(d) Other matters considered by the Committee were on the Agenda and would be discussed in due course.

4. *Nurse Staffing of Mental Hospitals.*

The SECRETARY referred to the recent Memorandum on this subject and noted that the D.H.S. had asked the Division to nominate a representative to attend a meeting at St. Andrew's House on Friday, 2 October, at 2.30 p.m. The Meeting agreed to this and nominated Dr. James Milne to represent the Division. It was noted that certain other Divisional Members were attending the Meeting as representatives of other bodies concerned.

5. *Society of Medical Officers of Health—Scottish Branch—Suggested Joint Meeting with Division.*

The SECRETARY noted that a suggestion for such a Joint Meeting had been received from the Secretary of the M.O.H's. Society. The Division were unanimous in agreeing that this should take place, but much discussion ensued as to where and when such a meeting should take place. It was finally left to the Secretary to arrange a joint, one-day meeting with the Society in early April of 1954, either in Edinburgh or Glasgow, the meeting to be at a Mental Hospital.

Further discussion followed regarding the Summer and Autumn Meetings. It appeared that many members favoured a two-day Summer Meeting but felt that having this on the third Friday in June made the date too close to the Annual General Meeting. It was also felt by some Members that the Autumn Meeting might be held towards the end of September rather than, as now, on the second Friday in the month. The Meeting agreed to postpone further discussion until the next Meeting.

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.