

Health Act 1983'. Professor Buglass discussed the amendment Bill and the new Act in detail; this was followed by general discussion.

During the afternoon session, Dr T. W. Fenton (Hollymoor Hospital, Birmingham) gave the psychiatrist's viewpoint on the new Act and how it might affect the management of patients. Dr Fenton felt on the whole the new Act was not as drastic as had been originally proposed in the Mental Health (Amendment) Bill 1982. Mr Peter Mellor (Royal College of Nursing) then expressed the view from the nursing point of view and Mr R. McDonald (Sheffield Social Services) gave the opinion of the social workers, including his anxieties over the training of approved social workers.

The main points of discussion at the Business Meeting were the proposed changes in the College's Bye-Laws, the future of consultants in psychiatry and various other issues in which the College is involved at present.

At the Divisional Elections, Professor Seager, the outgoing Chairman, informed the meeting that he will be resigning from his remaining one year tenure of office as a Fellow on the Council to make room for the newly elected Chairman to take up his responsibilities as a Fellow on the Council. The following were elected: Chairman and Fellow on the Council: Dr N. Kaye (Carlton Hayes Hospital, Leics); Secretary and Honorary Member on the Council: Dr K. Raychaudhuri (Hollymoor Hospital, Birmingham).

Professor Seager (out-going Chairman) and Dr L. Liebling (out-going Secretary) will continue to serve on the Executive Committee for the next two years. Dr Kacmarcuk and Dr R. Hawley will be trainee members for Trent Region and West Midlands Region, respectively.

KUNAL RAYCHAUDHURI
Honorary Secretary

Irish Division

The Spring Quarterly Meeting of the Irish Division was held at the Sacred Heart Home, Castlebar, on 16 April 1983.

Two speakers from St Mary's Hospital, Castlebar, were presented: Dr Deirdre Garvey detailed a survey of alcoholic admissions over a three-year period, and Dr Patricia Noone spoke on psychotherapy supervision. Both papers evoked considerable interest and discussion from a large assembly.

The Business Meeting was informed of the on-going discussions with Department of Health officials. An independent monitoring body to oversee psychiatric facilities is being adopted by the Irish Division, and other professional organizations involved in patient care will be approached in the near future with a view to enlisting their support.

Concern was expressed by various members at the manner in which Community Psychiatric Nurses operate within certain Health Boards. The Chairman informed the members that the Executive had agreed that the post of

Chief Psychiatrist, Department of Health, should be on a secondment basis for a period of three to five years. The salary should be commensurate, at least, with that of Clinical Director and return to his previous employment should be guaranteed without any loss of pension rights, etc.

The members expressed their appreciation to Drs John Connolly and Michael Gilvarry for hosting such a successful and well-attended meeting.

The Summer Quarterly Meeting took place in Purdysburn Hospital, Belfast on 25 June 1983.

The clinical programme consisted of two papers. Dr A. Montgomery's paper, 'Electro-physiological changes in minor head injury', detailed her own work and suggested that post-concussional syndrome might include three separate syndromes: an acute group; a chronic group; and a chronic, but neurotic group, with no abnormal brain-stem potentials, in contrast to the first two groups.

The second paper, by Dr D. Brennan, 'Epilepsy and its relationship to the psychiatric hospital', detailed the early and more modern accounts in the English literature of hospitalized epileptic patients. It was felt that the study of epileptics in psychiatric hospitals was neglected in the past and had led to many false assumptions. Dr Brennan detailed his own survey of epileptics in a chronic patient population at Purdysburn Hospital.

The Business Meeting was informed that our submission regarding the Post of Chief Psychiatrist, Department of Health, had been lodged with the Department. The Honorary Secretary stated that various members of the Division were concerned at developments in Community Psychiatric Nursing. The Division has been requested by a working party to submit its views on this matter. The Irish Division felt that it is incumbent upon the Department to insist that Community Psychiatric Nurses work closely with the psychiatrist as a member of the multidisciplinary team.

The Division had sought the Department's views on shared posts and part-time posts in psychiatry. The Secretary will be seeking the views of the Post-Graduate Medical and Dental Board, the IMA and the IMU on this matter in the near future.

Elections of officers and Executive took place. Dr Gordon McCallum was elected as the new Chairman; Professor T. Fahy was elected as Vice-Chairman and Fellow on Council; and Dr D. Shanley was elected as Honorary Secretary and Member on Council.

The Irish Division expressed its sincere appreciation to Professor Thomas Lynch for his invaluable work on behalf of the Division over the past four years.

The members were most grateful to Dr Gordon McCallum and to Sir Thomas Browne, Chairman of the Eastern Health and Social Services Board, for hosting the meeting.

DAVID SHANLEY
Honorary Secretary