

The College

Irish Division: Joint Meeting with the American Psychiatric Association

A joint meeting between the Irish Division of the College and the American Psychiatric Association (APA) was held at the Burlington Hotel, Dublin, from 21 to 26 May 1982. The theme of the scientific programme was 'Contemporary Psychiatry—America and Ireland'.

The meeting opened with a welcome by our Chairman, PROFESSOR T. LYNCH, and a response by DR DANIEL FREEDMAN, President of the American Psychiatric Association. A keynote address by PROFESSOR NOEL WALSH (University College of Dublin) explored attitudes of the public and our medical colleagues towards psychiatry and psychiatrists. On 24 May the meeting addressed itself to the psychological effects of trauma. The papers included 'Post traumatic states in the Vietnam veteran' by DR LARRY KOLB (Past-President, APA); 'Disaster management—Aberfan' by DR J. CUTHILL (Welsh Division); 'Disaster management—Stardust' by DR S. MULLANEY (Irish Division); and 'The psychological effects of civil disturbance in Northern Ireland' by DR H. A. LYONS (Belfast). It was emphasized by the various speakers that research into the psychological effects of trauma might result in prevention of the long-term sequelae of such disasters.

Workshops held in the afternoon sessions included 'Psychiatry and the law' and 'Women and psychiatry'.

On 25 May the scientific sessions commenced with mutual clinical problems, with papers on 'Suicide in Ireland' by DR D. WALSH (Irish Division); 'Depression in childhood and adolescence' by DR JAMES EGAN (APA); 'Alcoholism and depression' by DR JOHN CLANCY (APA); 'Diagnostic differences' by PROFESSOR DAVID GOLDBERG (Manchester); and 'Is the suicide rate really that low in Ireland?' by DR MARY CLARKE-FINNEGAN (Irish Division).

During the afternoon, the assembled audience broke up

into workshops dealing with psychiatric education and financing and monitoring of the psychiatric services. DR D. H. DICK of the HAS read a paper encapsulating the manner in which the psychiatric services are monitored in the UK. The 'At risk' hospitals were those which were old, large, isolated, understaffed, poorly managed and with a high degree of union activity. A stimulating discussion followed the contributions. During the workshop on psychiatric education, the Peter Beckett Postgraduate Research Award was presented to Dr Patrick McKeon, St Patrick's Hospital.

The Business Meeting, held on 25 May 1982, reported on the recent meetings with Department of Health officials. The Chairman, Professor T. Lynch, stated that the Executive had requested that a document urging the establishment of an independent monitoring body to oversee our psychiatric services should be discussed with the Department of Health officials. A proposal for an Irish psychiatric association was discussed, but it was agreed to amend this proposal and discuss it further at the next Quarterly Meeting. It was stated unequivocally that such an organization would not in any way dilute our relationship with the College.

The joint meeting was attended by over 150 American visitors and a similar number of Irish members. Tours took place to St Patrick's Hospital, Dublin and St John of God's Hospital, Stillorgan, Co Dublin. Hospitality was provided by the Irish Tourist Board and a Lord Mayor's reception, which took place at the Mansion House, Dublin, was considered by all a fitting manner to end this first and highly successful meeting between the College's Irish Division and the American Psychiatric Association.

DAVID SHANLEY
Honorary Secretary

Members Room

All members will be interested to know that there is now a comfortable Members Room situated on the Ground Floor of the College headquarters at 17 Belgrave Square. The purpose of this room is to provide a quiet area within the College where members may read or meet their friends. It

will be available to all members of the College from Monday to Friday, between 9.00am and 5.00pm, except on Bank Holidays, special days when the College may be closed or on rare occasions when the whole of the Ground Floor area may be used as a Lecture Theatre for College meetings.