

has allowed us to get to know something more than the faces of each other. This can only be helpful in developing a force of community interest in College and NHS affairs.

The past year has been especially notable for its two meetings, both firsts. The Spring meeting in 1980 was held at the Postgraduate Centre of the General Hospital at St Helier in Jersey. The Channel Islands come under the South Western Division, and the Division hoped for some time to hold one of its meetings there. The Division is grateful to Dr Gwynn Evans for his invaluable help in making the meeting possible. One hundred and twenty-eight members and spouses travelled to Jersey in two parties, using Sealink's very economical package.

The meeting opened with a symposium on suicide and attempted suicide, with contributions by Professor Gethin Morgan, University of Bristol, Dr Yvonne Wiley, Bristol, Dr Vorster of Plymouth and Dr Lumaden Walker of Bristol, whose paper was read in his absence by Dr Martin Gay. Dr David Spenser, Consultant Pathologist in Jersey, contributed a very interesting paper to this symposium, giving a detailed account of all the suicides and possible suicides, that had occurred in Jersey over a two-year period.

This was followed by a symposium on psychotherapy where the critique was presented by Dr Ian Christie of Knowle Hospital, and the apologia by Dr Irving Kreeger of the Institute of Psychiatry.

A third working session was devoted to the Membership Examination. It was introduced by Dr Thomas Bewley, the College Dean, and this was followed by a paper from two trainees, Dr Carol Trotter, University of Southampton, and Dr Gareth Hughes of Bristol, who outlined their own personal experiences and presented the results of a survey of trainees they had undertaken in the Division. This paper has since been published in the *Bulletin* (January, 1981, p. 8).

The final session was opened by Professor Poilpré of the University of Caen, who gave an outline of the organization and practice of psychiatry in France. The final paper was read by a Past President of the College, Professor Linford Rees, who gave a very comprehensive review of British psychiatry today with some interesting glimpses into the future.

Those present were unanimous in thinking that the meeting had been a memorable one, to which no doubt the setting, the weather, the hospitality and the quality of the speakers and their presentation all contributed.

The Autumn meeting was held at Princess Alexandra's Royal Air Force Hospital at Wroughton, near Swindon. This is believed to be the first time that the Division has met at an Air Force Hospital. It has met in the past at Netley and also at Haslar.

Members were welcomed to the hospital by the Commanding Officer, Air Commodore Risley-Pritchard, who gave an account of the history of the hospital which was built in the late 20's and during the war was an important link in the evacuation chain from France. It is now the centre

for neuro-psychiatry in the RAF. Neuro-psychiatry as practised in the RAF was then described by Group Captain Black.

He pointed out that Air Force psychiatry was organically orientated and the main function of psychiatrists was to support aircrew in their fighting role. Group Captain Johnson gave a paper on alcoholism in the Air Force, and this was followed by a paper by Group Captain Anthony and Squadron Leader Fowler on community psychiatry. They both described individual projects they had undertaken and produced an assessment of these projects. It seemed clear from the figures presented that active community psychiatry substantially cuts down hospital admissions.

C. DAVIES
Honorary Secretary

Irish Division

The Spring Quarterly Meeting of the Irish Division took place at the Psychiatric Unit, Letterkenny General Hospital, Co. Donegal. The Clinical Programme consisted of two papers. The first paper was on behavioural psychotherapy as applied by nurse therapists; two case presentations were detailed by nurses from St Conal's Hospital. The second paper, presented by a multidisciplinary team from St Conal's Hospital, outlined their experiences in treating alcoholism over the past year. Both papers provided much discussion and various members drew attention to the growing problem of alcoholism in the Republic of Ireland.

The Business Meeting was informed that the Division had met the Minister of Health and his officials to discuss the new Mental Health Services Bill 1980. Reference was made to certain important amendments passed at the Committee stage of the Bill in Dail Eireann. The Chairman informed the membership that the Department of Health had agreed to have regular meetings with a delegation from the Division. Professor Lynch also stated that a working party of the Executive was preparing a document on conditions in Irish psychiatric services.

The members expressed their appreciation to Dr M. P. Lawlor, Chief Psychiatrist, Letterkenny, for hosting the meeting.

DAVID SHANLEY
Honorary Secretary

East Anglian Division: 1980-81

The Division has held scientific and general business meetings in September 1980 and March 1981. The September meeting was held at Churchill College in Cambridge, and the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead, was host for the meeting in March 1981. Both of those were certainly very enjoyable and the papers were brisk and informative.

Two matters of business claimed especial attention. In the *Bulletin* for August 1980 there appeared a paper on 'Community Psychiatric Nursing' in which there was the sentence: 'Referrals by GP's and their colleagues to CPN should be viewed as referrals to the psychiatric team and should be discussed in team meetings'. It was thought that there was some danger in that, and that for the consultant psychiatrist to be responsible for the care of the patient referrals should be made directly by the general practitioner. There was a danger that casual referrals might occur. The other matter concerned development of units. The Division had not suffered closure of any major unit, but it was thought that there should be emphasis on maintaining development of psychiatric units in general hospitals and especial reference was made to the importance of developing units for child psychiatry close to general paediatric departments.

Sir Martin Roth completed four years as Chairman of the Division at the end of June 1981, and Dr S. I. Cohen of The

London Hospital has been elected to succeed him. New committee members from July 1981 are Drs J. H. Dowson, J. M. Pfeffer, R. Seifert, Z. Slattery, S. N. Wolkind and Dr A. C. Kaeser, Convenor of the Division's Approval Panel. Dr Kaeser would be pleased to hear of members willing to serve on the Approval Teams. Dr Philip Eastwood has succeeded Dr F. C. McEvet as representative to the Psychiatric Tutors' Sub-Committee for that part of the Division which covers the East Anglian Health Region.

We have heard that trainees' days arranged by trainees within the geographical area of the Division have been very successful, and the Division is always very pleased to see trainees at its general meetings.

Meetings ahead are to be at Runwell Hospital in October 1981, The London Hospital in March 1982 and Hellesdon Hospital in October 1982.

D. W. HALL
Honorary Secretary

College Notices

Birthday Honours List

We offer our congratulations to Professor Ivor Batchelor, Ninewells Hospitals, Dundee, who received a knighthood; Dr Patrick McGrath, CBE, recently retired Physician Superintendent at Broadmoor Hospital, who was awarded a CB; and Dr John Horder, FRCPsych and currently PRCGP, who received a CBE.

Myre Sim Travelling Fund

Dr Myre Sim, a Fellow of our College and for many years a well-known and distinguished psychiatrist in the Birmingham area and now living and working in Canada, will be generously making available under his Will a Travelling Fund for Fellows, Members or Inceptors of the College not in full-time academic or research posts. He is nominating Dr E. B. Gordon to act as his representative on the Steering Committee.

The College and the General Medical Council

In the October 1979 *Bulletin* we reported the names of members of the College who had been elected to the reconstituted GMC. Besides the College's own representative, Dr P. H. Connell, four of our members had been elected by the medical profession as a whole (Drs Katharine Bradley and

F. Hashmi and Professors Sir Denis Hill and W. Linford Rees). Three Universities had chosen psychiatrists as their representatives—London (Professor Crisp), Birmingham (Professor Sir William Trethowan) and Manchester (Professor Kessel).

To these there has since been a most gratifying addition—Glasgow University has appointed the College's Registrar, Professor Timbury, in the place of a retiring representative.

Sir Denis Hill is Chairman of the Council's Preliminary Proceedings Committee. He has also been appointed to undertake personally the preliminary investigation of cases of alleged unfitness to practise on health ground. In the recently published Annual Report of the Council, Sir Denis explains how this screening works, and in particular how every effort is made to deal with such cases by persuasion and voluntary compliance with advice rather than by formal proceedings before the Council's Health Committee.

College Prizewinners

The Laughlin Prizewinner for the Membership Examination, May 1981 was Dr Bernard Browne, Eastern Health Board, Dublin. The Gaskell Medal and Prize has been awarded to Dr Alan Gordon, Royal South Hants Hospital, Southampton.