

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.