

in the Act, was enthusiastically, even enviously received. In the discussion which followed the Irish Division was warmly congratulated in having piloted the Act to law, and having achieved advances in respect of lunacy-law that would be almost impossible to obtain in England. Dr. Kearney was asked to mention that our colleagues in England and Scotland would wish to see more of the Irish members attending at least the Annual General Meetings of the Association. Dr. Kearney was congratulated for the able and obviously friendly manner in which he had represented the Irish Division.

Dr. J. Fitzgerald raised the question of the possibility of organizing a golf competition in association with the Summer Quarterly Meetings of the Division. Dr. E. O'Sullivan seconded the proposition, and after some discussion it was decided to leave the matter and the arranging of details to a sub-committee—the Chairman (Dr. Kearney), the Hon. Secretary (N. O'Higgins), Drs. J. Fitzgerald and E. O'Sullivan.

CLINICAL MEETING.

Dr. C. B. Molony read a paper, "Modified Cerletti Treatment in Schizophrenia." In his paper Dr. Molony made reference to the experiments carried out by Gellhorn and Darrow in America and to Gellhorn's having used thyroxin as premedication. Premedication with thyroxin in the electro-convulsive treatment of schizophrenia has been in use in Waterford Mental Hospital since March, 1945. The technique consists in the giving of thyroxin in tablet form, e.g. Elityran, three or four times daily for about eight days before commencing E.C.T. Dr. Molony stressed the usefulness of this form of premedication in early cases of schizophrenia. In the course of his paper, he gave an outline of the clinical case-histories of several cases so treated.

Dr. O'Sullivan, Mental Hospital, Killarney, read a supporting paper describing thyroxin premedication in association with E.C.T. He described cases in which excellent results were obtained with combined treatment which had failed to respond to insulin therapy.

Before the meeting concluded a sincere and cordial vote of thanks was passed to Dr. Molony for his kindness and hospitality. After the meeting the members were hospitably entertained to tea by Mrs. Molony.

OBITUARY.

DR. FRITZ SANO (1871-1946).

A FEW weeks ago passed away one of the most venerable and prominent Belgian psychiatrists. He graduated in 1895. At that time, and until a few years before World War II, it was impossible to obtain a degree in Belgium without making, exclusively, use of the French language. This state of affairs created among certain Flemish intellectuals considerable irritation, and Dr. Sano remained his long life an ardent promoter of the scientific use of the Flemish language without, however, forgetting his duties as a Belgian citizen (his oldest son was killed at the Yser in 1918). He also became in due time one of the animators of the Flemish Congresses of Natural and Medical Sciences and a member of the Royal Flemish Academy of Medicine.

He had founded in Antwerp, in 1902, a Flemish school for nurses which has remained one of the very best in the country. He had worked with Oppenheim in Berlin and Charcot in Paris and was, as many neurologists of his generation, a distinguished anatomist. He was a member of the "Anatomische Gesellschaft."

It is of particular interest to note that he spent the first World War in England, where he published in the *Philosophical Transactions of the Society of London* (1916) and in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Medicine* (1917). He had been attached to the laboratory of the Claybury Asylum near London, and become consulting neurologist to the Maudsley Hospital.

During nearly 20 years he was Director of the world-renowned Colony of Lunatics of Gheel, where non-dangerous insane patients live in the rural homes of the inhabitants and partake their simple, healthy work. He was official representative of

the Belgian Government at the International Congress of Mental Hygiene held in Washington, D.C., in 1930, where his communication about the treatment of mental patients *outside* asylums met with an unparalleled interest. He was even invited to hold lectures in several cities of the U.S.A.

He was a very popular and a very personal figure of the Belgian Societies of Mental Medicine and of Neurology. It was he who, as sole civilian, was taking examinations in the Flemish language from the military doctors before they could obtain their definitive commission. He did it with great kindness and comprehension. He always remained as simple and straightforward as he was learned and wise. After he had retired as Director of the Gheel Colony he kept living in the picturesque small Flemish town, which he loved as he loved his patients, his work, his people and his country, and where he quietly passed away towards the decline of this summer.

Dr. Fritz Sano was a great Belgian scientist, and a great representative of the intellectual bonds between this small country of old culture and its Anglo-Saxon friends and liberators.

PHOTOGRAPH OF SAMUEL GASKELL.

THIS photograph was presented to the Association by Dr. Selventone, and not by Dr. Samuel Gaskell's daughter, as stated in the Supplement, October, 1946.

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