

Ninety-fourth annual report for the year 1953 / Barnwood House Hospital for Mental and Nervous Disorders, near Gloucester.

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Barnwood House

Hospital for Mental and Nervous Disorders,

Near Gloucester.

Ninety-fourth

Annual Report

For the Year 1953.

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REPORT OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE

The Committee can again record, in presenting their Ninety-fourth Annual Report, a continued increase in the numbers of patients treated in the Hospital, the daily average of resident patients having risen in 1953 to one hundred and fifty-five, compared with one hundred and forty-five for the previous year, and one hundred and nineteen for 1951. This figure was in fact higher by five than the average for the past fifty years.

The Governors, from a study of the Accounts which are again made available to them in booklet form, will appreciate the effect upon both the income and expenditure of the Hospital of the greater number of patients who have been maintained throughout the year.

Applications for reduced fees upon admission, or for the renewal of fees previously reduced, were considered in no less than sixty cases; and the Committee was able to grant all but four of these. It is a great satisfaction to the Committee that the improved financial position has somewhat restored their power of giving such help to deserving cases.

The Governors, at their Annual Meeting in March, approved the decision of the Committee

to dispose of the Woodchester estate. It had become increasingly clear that the transfer of the whole Hospital from Barnwood to Woodchester, the purpose for which the Park was acquired, could never now be accomplished; and that a policy for the future must be decided. The Committee decided that, the main object of the purchase having been lost, the woodlands and central portion did not form an investment sufficiently attractive to justify their retention; while there was no assurance that the losses already incurred in farming the agricultural lands would not be repeated if the farms were retained. The consent of the Charity Commission was obtained, and after an initial attempt to sell by auction, which was not successful, the whole of the property was later disposed of by private treaty. The Committee deliberated long, and with natural reluctance, before they abandoned a project which had been so attractive when first conceived, and whose final dissipation is felt as a great disappointment; but they are convinced that the escape from the heavy outgoings inseparable from the maintenance of so large an estate, and the relief to the administration, are full compensation; while the proceeds of the sale, now invested in the names of the Trustees, form a valuable and welcome addition to the general funds.

With the resumption of a policy of progress after the lean years of the War, some notable improvements have been completed, and others begun, during the year. The exterior painting of the whole range of buildings was completed

by the early summer, with much external repair and renewal; while much has been accomplished within doors. More rooms have been re-decorated, two electrically operated service lifts have been installed, extensions of the hot and cold water services have enabled still more bedrooms to be supplied with modern wash-basins, and the installation of another electrode boiler has provided a constant supply of hot water where it is needed at night.

The Committee, pursuing their policy of providing housing for as many of their staff as possible, decided to erect four new cottages for agricultural workers. These houses, which are now being built, will be occupied by farm and garden employees, and will qualify for the Ministry's grant.

There has been an improvement in the produce supplied to the Hospital from the farm, and the Committee wish to acknowledge their debt to the Farm Sub-Committee for their contribution to this result, and for much other help in all farming matters, to which they devote so much time and care.

As a result of some re-organisation under the new head-gardener, who was appointed early in the year, the gardens and pleasure-grounds are much improved in appearance and are affording better amenities. Some labour has been saved by the purchase of more mechanical implements, the greenhouses have been improved, and one orchard has been planted with young fruit trees, replacing old and worn-out stock.

To celebrate Her Majesty's Coronation in June, the grounds were flood-lit, and illuminated with coloured lamps, while dances were held for patients and staff. The installation of television sets was specially appreciated at this time, and these have since been extended to further rooms.

There followed, from July 7th to the 10th, the annual meeting of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association, held at Barnwood House in honour of the Presidency this year of Dr. Fleming, which brought to Barnwood distinguished scientists from many distant lands. The Association's annual dinner, with a luncheon, reception, and dance offered to them by the Governors, were part of this very successful event.

In October two magnolia and two metasequoia glyptostroboides trees were planted by the Chairman, in accordance with precedent, as a memorial of the Coronation.

Dr. H. H. Costley-White, the former Dean of Gloucester, who had been a Governor for many years, resigned on leaving the district; and Colonel G. D. Timmis, also a Governor, died.

Lady Crawley-Boevey was elected to the Board, and with Major M. W. Ingram and Miss Joan Kerr was also elected to the General Committee.

It is with regret that the Committee have also to record the recent death of Major David Percival, for so long a Governor and a valued member of the General Committee, and a mem-

ber of a family who have taken such a close interest in the work of the Hospital.

Six members of the Staff retired, and were granted the usual pensions under the old, non-contributory, fund rules. These were, Henry J. Baldwin (head-gardener), Arthur E. B. Collins (charge nurse), Stanley W. Hill (assistant nurse), Sister Leonora F. A. Jennings, Sister Hilda F. Pullin, and B. Webb (under-gardener).

The Committee wish, as always, to conclude their Report with an expression of their grateful recognition of the services rendered to them and to the Hospital by their Physician Superintendent, Dr. Fleming, to whose untiring labours is so largely due the increased flow of patients and the consequent easing of the financial position. To Dr. J. Gibson, as Deputy Superintendent, and to Dr. Ashby in charge of the Research Department which is such a valuable feature of the work, they desire also to express their constant appreciation. To their Matron, Miss MacMillan, the Committee renew once again their grateful appreciation of the care which she bestows not only upon all the patients, but upon the cheerful appearance of all their rooms; as also to the Nursing Staff by whom she is supported; and the Committee is equally mindful of the valuable services of the Heads of all other departments, and of their staffs, who in so many different ways contribute to the efficient maintenance of their Hospital.

W. I. CROOME,
Chairman.

REPORTS
OF THE
COMMISSIONERS OF THE BOARD OF
CONTROL

BARNWOOD HOUSE,
GLOUCESTER.

9th June, 1953.

My visit to this Registered Hospital which I began yesterday was one of much interest. On the books and in residence I found that there were 161 patients (58 gentlemen and 103 ladies) of whom 71 were on a voluntary basis (23 gentlemen and 48 ladies), while 1 gentleman and 2 ladies were temporary patients, and the remainder were certified.

During 1952 there were 151 direct admissions (53 gentlemen and 98 ladies) of whom 123 (40 gentlemen and 83 ladies) were voluntary patients, 8 (3 gentlemen and 5 ladies) were temporary patients, and the remainder were certified while 7 patients (2 gentlemen and 5 ladies) were admitted on transfer, and 122 (40 gentlemen and 82 ladies) departed or were discharged. Seven patients were transferred to other care, and 13 patients (7 gentlemen and 6 ladies) died. Since the beginning of this year 10 patients have died—5 of each sex.

In the period which has elapsed since the last visit an inquest was held on a lady who committed suicide. The circumstances were reported to my board at the time. Comment is not called for in the case of any of the other patients who died during this period, and there have been no serious accidents involving fractures.

During the last 12 months the installation of hot water supplies for night services in all wards of the ladies side and in the main kitchen has been completed. In progress are the provision of service lifts from the basement to the ground floor, the painting of the exterior of the main building on the south side, and the installation of additional wash basins with hot and cold water in the patients' bedrooms.

The wards were comfortable, in excellent order, and well kept. Additional television sets have been provided in a number of instances.

The patients appeared to me to be contented and well cared for. Except on the score of detention I received no complaints. I gave a private interview to one lady.

Many of the patients were taking advantage of the fine weather and were to be found out-of-doors in the extensive and beautiful gardens at the time of my visit.

Special forms of treatment include electric convulsion therapy given with relaxant drugs, and the operation of pre-frontal leucotomy.

I visited the research department under Dr. Ross Ashby, and I was much interested to hear

further details of his "mechanical brain" on which active work continues. The hospital also has the services of a Psychologist, Mrs. Bassett.

The nursing staff consists of 16 male and 29 female nurses of whom 14 of the former and 16 of the latter are certificated or registered in mental nursing. In addition 4 women nurses give part-time services, two of whom being also qualified mental nurses.

Dr. Fleming was on holiday, but I was accompanied by Dr. Gibson who together with other members of the staff, gave me every assistance. In conclusion I should like to express my thanks for the help I received.

R. G. ANDERSON,

Commissioner of the Board of Control.

BARNWOOD HOUSE,

GLOUCESTER.

15th September, 1953.

At my visit to this Registered Hospital to-day the names of 157 (105 ladies, 52 gentlemen) were shown on the books. Fifty are under certificates, the remainder are here under either the provisions of Section 1 or V. of the Mental Treatment Act (1930). All were in residence with the exception of one.

During the period under review, some three months, the general health of the patients has been very satisfactory. There have been ten deaths, but all were due to natural causes.

Throughout my visit I found the patients particularly quiet and appreciative of the care and treatment of which they are in receipt. The relations existing between patients and staff appear to be particularly good. One lady was given an interview and I have reported on her case in the patients book.

All the various day rooms, bedrooms and dormitories were in their usual well furnished and comfortable state. The house and gardens are well kept, but I understand that the whole of the central heating system of the main building is now under active consideration for renewal or overhaul.

The numbers of the nursing staff are fairly satisfactory for these times.

I received every assistance from both Dr. Fleming and Dr. Gibson.

JOHN C. RAWLINSON,

Commissioner of the Board of Control.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT

I have the honour to present my report for 1953.

There were in the Hospital on January 1st, 1953, 82 certified patients, 4 temporary patients and 72 voluntary patients.

Twenty certified patients, 5 temporary patients and 115 voluntary patients were admitted during the year, a total of 140 compared with 158 in 1952.

One hundred and forty-five patients were discharged, transferred or died. Ten patients were regraded. These changes left the numbers on the books on the 31st December 1953 as follows:—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Certified Patients ...	31	47	78
Temporary Patients ...	—	3	3
Voluntary Patients ...	24	48	72

Two-hundred and ninety-eight patients of the three classes were under treatment during the year as compared with 300 in 1952 and 251 in 1951.

The daily average number of patients on the books during the year was 156 compared with 147 in 1952.

Of the direct admissions during the year, the percentage of voluntary admissions was 85 compared with 82 in 1952, while that of certified

patients was 12, compared with 13 in 1952. The number of patients admitted during 1952 remains a record since the hospital was opened.

One hundred and sixty-one enquiries were made by relatives and of these 85% were subsequently admitted. Of the 161 enquiries, 55 were from the County of Gloucestershire, i.e. 34%. Of the admissions, 38% were more than 65 years old, and 7% were under 30.

DISCHARGES

One hundred and twenty patients left the Hospital during the year. Of these 18 males and 36 females were discharged recovered, that is, 37% males and 41% females and 40% of the total direct admissions.

Thirty-nine patients were discharged relieved and 20 were discharged not improved, either to the care of friends or to other hospitals.

DEATHS

There were 25 deaths during the year, 10 male and 15 female, the average age at death being 78. Of the 25 deaths 12 had been in the hospital less than one year.

The general health both of patients and of staff has been very good during the year.

RESEARCH

The year 1953 has seen some change in our programme of research. Dr. Ashby has continued his work on constructing his new model of the mechanical brain and investigating the mechanism of electro-shock therapy, but he has had in addition contacts with modern mathe-

mathematical developments at the Sorbonne and elsewhere.

Mrs. Bassett has applied various psychological tests to the majority of the new admissions. This has been of the greatest help in our clinical work, and her results will be published in 1954.

GENERAL MATTERS

The amount spent on repairs during the year was £10,547 compared with £8,396 in 1952, and £5,394 in 1951. The amount spent on furniture was £1,646 compared with £1,520 in 1952, and £846 in 1951. A great deal of work still remains to be done to overtake the inactivity created by the war and the post-war handicaps; Mr. H. D. Smith, the Clerk of Works, has done an immense amount of hard work, never sparing himself.

I wish to express my appreciation of the loyalty and help I have received during the year from the Medical Officers, the Matron and all the staff; particularly to Miss MacMillan and to Miss Clargo who has also had to continue the work of Sister-Tutor.

It is with great pleasure that I express to the Chairman and Committee my appreciation of their support during another very satisfactory year, and especially would I thank them for their kindness in entertaining the Association of which I have the honour to be president. The Annual Meeting of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association held at Barnwood House in Coronation Year will long be remembered as an outstanding event in the history of the Association.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING,
Medical Superintendent.

REPORT
FROM DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH
(DR. W. ROSS ASHBY, *Director*)

The work of the department continues to be directed to the problem of how to make electroconvulsive treatment more effective; for while it is one of our best therapies, its mode of action is still not understood scientifically, and it is not always fully effective. In collaboration with Professor F. L. Golla of the Burden Neurological Institute we have continued to work towards a better understanding of this treatment and towards its improvement.

Our work has now progressed to a point where it is beginning to open up a new branch of science, for the problems encountered in this research are largely new. The outstanding property of the mechanisms of the cerebral cortex is their extreme complexity, a complexity so great that many of the usual methods of physiology are inapplicable. Usually the study of such systems is avoided, but in our work their study is essential. We have therefore undertaken their study; and during the last year great progress has been made in the development of suitable new techniques, which are now becoming available for application.

One new principle discovered during the year promises to throw a great light on the quantitative aspects of the processes of co-ordination and integration when they occur in the cerebral cortex. Hitherto these processes, the most important in the brain, have been somewhat

mysterious and have been describable only in verbal and approximate terms. The new principle shows that a quantitative law rules these processes, making possible their treatment with full scientific accuracy.

Experience has shown that mathematical methods must inevitably play a part in the new techniques, for only in their concepts can one find both the generality and the precision that are necessary. The mathematics commonly used in biophysics have been found of little use in these new problems, and for some time work has been in progress in the department on the development of new, and more appropriate, methods. During the autumn of this year it became evident that the mathematical discoveries being made by Dr. J. Riguet at the Sorbonne were showing a remarkable parallelism to those being made here. A consultation was arranged in the department, and for a week the two lines of work were compared. It was found that the two lines of work were complementary, and it is confidently expected that further collaboration will be scientifically fruitful.

The book published last year, which sets out the advances achieved by this department, has been well received and has aroused much interest. The British Association for the Advancement of Science, meeting at Liverpool, asked me to take the chair at a conjoint session of the Sections for Physiology, Mathematics, and Psychology at which the subject was discussed. Other invitations to lecture on the work have led to the addresses given below.

Mrs. Bassett's work on the psycho-galvanic response in its relation to electro-convulsive therapy has shown that the response may be of value in prognosis. The analysis of her long series of tests has been completed during the year and the results are now ready for publication.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the support so unfailingly given during the year by Dr. G. W. T. H. Fleming and Prof. F. L. Golla, and to express my indebtedness to the Governors for their generosity in supporting the research.

Publications

The mode of action of electro-convulsive therapy. *Journal of Mental Science*; **99**, 202; 1953.

Cybernetics *in* Prospects in Psychiatric Research; edited by J. M. Tanner. Oxford, 1953.

Statistical mechanisms. *Thalès*, **7**, 1; Presses Universitaires de France; 1953.

Addresses

Royal Medico-Psychological Association;
University of Aberdeen;
University of London;
British Psychological Society.

TABLE A 1—SHOWING THE MOVEMENT OF THE HOSPITAL POPULATION DURING THE YEAR 1953.

	Voluntary Patients.						Temporary Patients.						Certified Patients					
	M.			F.			M.			F.			M.			F.		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
On the Hospital Registers, January 1st, 1953	..	..	..	23	49	72	..	..	..	2	2	4	31	51	82	..	..	..
Total cases admitted during the year..	..	..	..	41	74	115	..	..	..	..	5	5	10	10	20	..	..	..
Cases Regraded .. .. .	..	..	..	1	3	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	4	6	..	..	..
Total cases under treatment during the year	..	..	..	65	126	191	..	..	..	2	7	9	43	65	108	..	..	..
Cases discharged or transferred during the year—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Recovered	17	35	52	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..
Relieved	15	22	37	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	..	..
Not Improved	4	16	20	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	..	3	2	5	..	..	..
Regraded	1	3	4	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	..	1	3	4	..	..	..
Died during the year	4	2	6	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	6	12	18	..	..	..
Total cases discharged, transferred, regraded and died during the year .. .. .	..	..	..	41	78	119	..	..	..	2	4	6	12	18	30	..	..	..
On the Hospital Registers, December 31st, 1953	..	..	..	24	48	72	..	..	..	..	3	3	31	47	78	..	..	..
Average daily number on the Registers during the year	..	..	..	22	48	70	..	..	..	1	3	4	31	51	82	..	..	..
Certified Persons (i.e., separate persons in contradistinction to "cases" which may include the same individual more than once) under care during the year																		
admitted .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	45	69	114	..	..	..
recovered .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	14	26	..	..	..
.. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

Table 1. Summary of data for the first 100 years of the project.

TABLE A2—GENERAL TABLE, SHOWING THE MOVEMENT OF THE HOSPITAL POPULATION DURING EACH YEAR SINCE 1ST JANUARY, 1942, TOGETHER WITH THE RECOVERY AND DEATH RATES.
(UNDER THE MENTAL TREATMENT ACT, 1930, VOLUNTARY AND TEMPORARY PATIENTS ARE NOW INCLUDED).

Year.	Admissions.									Total number under Treatment.			Discharged or Transferred.									Died.			Remaining on Registers December 31st			Average Daily Number on Registers.			Percentage of Total Recoveries on the Total Number of Admissions.			Percentage of Total Recoveries on the Direct Admissions.			Percentage of Recoveries yielded by Direct Admissions on the Direct Admissions.			Percentage of Deaths on Average Daily Number on Registers.		
	Direct.			Indirect.			Total.						Recovered.			Relieved.			Not Improved.																							
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.			
1942	27	41	68	3	1	4	30	42	72	91	136	227	11	20	31	6	7	13	5	4	9	5	12	17	63	92	155	60	92	152	36.6	47.6	43	40.7	48.8	45.6	37	48.8	44.1	8.3	13	11.2
1943	45	54	99	3	3	6	48	57	105	115	150	265	19	30	49	4	8	12	13	4	17	7	12	19	68	95	163	68	94	162	39.6	52.6	46.6	42.2	55.5	49.5	40	55.5	48.5	10.3	12.7	11.7
1944	26	48	74	5	1	6	31	49	80	99	147	246	14	24	38	9	4	13	5	10	15	16	15	31	55	91	146	61	95	156	45.1	49	47.5	53.8	50	51.3	53.8	47.9	50	26.2	15.8	19.8
1945	35	60	95	-	2	2	35	62	97	90	153	243	7	31	38	3	17	20	9	8	17	8	8	16	63	88	151	61	92	153	20	50	39.2	20	51.7	40	17.1	50	37.9	13.1	9	10.5
1946	48	53	101	3	4	7	51	57	108	114	145	259	24	28	52	6	7	13	16	9	25	10	12	22	58	89	147	61	89	150	47.1	49.1	48.1	50	52.8	51.5	45.8	41.5	43.6	16.4	13.5	14.7
1947	60	65	125	9	4	13	69	69	138	127	158	285	13	32	45	16	22	38	21	7	28	12	9	21	60	87	147	57	86	143	18.8	46.4	32.6	21.7	49.2	36	18.3	49.2	34.4	21	10.5	14.7
1948	46	74	120	2	7	9	48	81	129	108	168	276	25	30	55	10	27	37	11	17	28	9	13	22	53	75	128	57	79	136	52.1	37	42.6	54.3	40.5	45.8	52.2	40.5	45	15.8	16.5	16.2
1949	42	71	113	-	5	5	42	76	118	95	151	246	25	28	53	5	13	18	9	13	22	7	13	20	49	80	129	53	83	136	59.5	36.8	44.9	59.5	39.4	46.9	59.5	39.4	46.9	13.2	15.7	14.7
1950	46	67	113	3	5	8	49	72	121	98	152	250	22	35	57	17	17	34	1	7	8	16	14	30	42	76	118	47	79	126	44.9	48.6	47.1	47.8	52.2	50.4	47.8	52.2	50.4	34.0	17.7	23.8
1951	41	84	125	6	7	13	47	91	138	89	166	255	17	36	53	7	19	26	9	6	15	5	10	15	50	92	142	42	79	121	36.2	39.6	38.4	41.5	42.9	42.4	41.5	42.9	42.4	11.9	12.7	12.4
1952	53	98	151	4	9	13	57	107	164	107	197	304	18	43	61	16	29	45	8	15	23	7	6	13	56	102	158	54	93	147	31.2	40.2	37.2	34.0	43.9	40.4	34.0	43.9	40.4	13.0	6.5	8.8
1953	49	87	136	5	9	14	54	96	150	107	191	298	18	36	54	16	23	39	8	19	27	10	15	25	55	98	153	54	101	155	29.5	32.4	31.4	36.7	41.4	39.7	36.7	41.4	39.7	18.5	14.9	16.1

