

Eighth annual report : 1st April, 1957, to 31st March, 1958 / Devon Mental Hospital Management Committee.

Contributors

Devon Mental Hospital Management Committee.

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DEVON MENTAL HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT



1st April, 1957, to 31st March, 1958

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DEVON MENTAL HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

Chairman: W. B. Hallett Esq., J.P.

Exminster Hospital,
Exminster, near Exeter
(telephone: Exeter 71337)

1629 beds

Medical Superintendent:
J.E.A. Bartlet, M.D.,
M.R.C.P.E., D.P.M.

Digby-Wonford Hospital,
Exeter
(telephone: Exeter 74057)

611 beds

Medical Superintendent:
Lewis Couper, M.D., Ch.D.,
D.P.M.

Group Administrative Office:
Exminster Hospital
(telephone: Exeter 71337)

Group Secretary: D.W. Miller, F.H.A.
Deputy Group Secretary: S.W. Keyte, A.H.A.

Finance Office:
26 Queen Street, Exeter
(telephone: Exeter 54941)

Finance Officer: R.E. Wilman, A.C.A., F.H.A.
Deputy Finance Officer: C.H. Heath,
A.I.M.T.A., F.H.A.

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Division of Health

Chairman: W. D. Halliday, M.D., F.R.C.P.

Members:

Medical Department:
J. B. Burt, M.D.,
H. C. Burt, M.D.,
H. C. Burt, M.D.

1923-24

Sanitary Department:
Sanitary, 1st Floor
(Telephone: 7137)

Medical Department:
Sanitary, 1st Floor
H. C. Burt, M.D.,
H. C. Burt, M.D.

1924-25

Sanitary Department:
Sanitary, 1st Floor
(Telephone: 7137)

Members:

Group Executive: J. B. Burt, M.D.,
Group Executive: J. B. Burt, M.D.,
Group Executive: J. B. Burt, M.D.

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Group Executive: J. B. Burt, M.D.

Members:

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
1923-24

MEMBERSHIP OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

1957 - 1958

Chairman

W. B. HALLETT Esq., Fontygary, 38, Bellevue Road, Exmouth.

Vice-Chairman

G. W. A. JACKSON Esq., 44 Queen Street, Exeter.

Members

Lady Evelyn ANSTEY, Altamira, Topsham, Near Exeter.

Mrs. D. A. E. BOOTH, Barclay's Bank House, Hampton Avenue, St. Marychurch, Torquay.

L. H. FOWKE Esq., Picardi, Portland Avenue, Exmouth.

W. H. GODDARD Esq., 4, The Crescent, Exeter.

Dr. E. D. IRVINE, 5 Southernhay West, Exeter.

C. A. JACKSON Esq., Moortang, Two Mile Oak, Newton Abbot.

Mrs. M. NICHOLS, Melrose, Polsloe Road, Exeter.

The Reverend H. S. READ, Modbury Vicarage, Ivybridge.

Dr. H. SCOTT FORBES, 8 Baring Crescent, Exeter.

Miss A. E. TUCKER, Primrose Cottage, Kings Nympton, N. Devon.

Alderman J. G. WARNE, 97 Bonhay Road, Exeter.

Dr. C. W. WILSON, Ebberley Hill, St-Giles-in-the Wood, Torrington.
(resigned February, 1958)

MEMBERSHIP OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

1957 - 1958

Chairman

M. E. WILKINSON, Esq., Portland, Maine, 20, Bellevue Road, Exeter.

Vice-Chairman

G. M. A. JACKSON, Esq., 14 Green Street, Exeter.

Members

Lady Evelyn ARNOLD, Alton, Hampshire, Exeter.

Mrs. D. A. E. BORTH, Esq., 20, St. James's Place, London, W. 1, Exeter.

L. E. FOWLER, Esq., 11, St. James's Place, London, W. 1, Exeter.

M. E. JACKSON, Esq., 14, The Crescent, Exeter.

Dr. E. G. IRVING, 2, St. James's Place, Exeter.

C. A. JACKSON, Esq., 14, The Crescent, Two Mile Oak, Newton Abbot.

Mrs. M. JACKSON, Esq., 14, The Crescent, Exeter.

The Reverend H. S. READ, Esq., 14, The Crescent, Exeter.

Dr. H. SCOTT FOWLER, 2, St. James's Place, Exeter.

Mrs. A. E. TUCKER, Esq., 14, The Crescent, Exeter.

Alison J. G. WILKINSON, Esq., 14, The Crescent, Exeter.

Dr. C. W. WILKINSON, Esq., 14, The Crescent, Exeter.
(resigned February, 1958)

SUB-COMMITTEES.

1957 - 1958

*** **

FINANCE:

All the Members of the Management Committee

HOUSE:

Exminster Hospital:

C.A.Jackson Esq. (Chairman)
A.J.Withycombe Esq. (Vice-Chairman)
Lady Evelyn Anstey
R.H.Baker Esq., J.P.
L.H.Fowke Esq.
W.B.Hallett Esq., J.P.
W.T.Harvey Esq.
Mrs.C.A.Jackson
G.W.A.Jackson Esq.
Mrs.E.Kelly
Mrs.M.Nichols
Sir Arthur C. Reed
The Reverend Sub Dean T.G. Shelmerdine
Miss A.E. Tucker
Alderman J.G.Warne

FARM:

W.B.Hallett Esq., J.P. (Chairman)
J.Crooke Esq. (Vice-Chairman)
G.W.A.Jackson Esq.,
J.B.Martin Esq.
J.G.Paul Esq.
P.D.Rowsell Esq.
The Reverend Sub Dean T.G.
Shelmerdine
J.J.Wale, Esq., J.P.
Alderman J.G.Warne
A.J.Withycombe Esq.

MEDICAL ADVISORY:

W.B.Hallett Esq., J.P.
Dr.S.M.Allan
Dr.L.Couper
Dr.J.Russell (Retired October 1957)
Dr.H. Scott Forbes
Dr.T.J.K.Brownlees
Dr.W.J.Doyle
Dr.E.D.Irvine
Dr.T.M.Preece
Dr.G.C.C.MacVicker
Dr.C.Seward
Dr.C.W.Wilson (Resigned February 1958)
Dr.B.V.Earle

Digby-Wonford Hospital:

Alderman J.G.Warne (Chairman)
A.J.Withycombe Esq. (Vice-Chairman)
Lady Evelyn Anstey
Mrs.D.A.E.Booth
W.H.Goddard Esq.
Mrs.P.Goodman
W.B.Hallett Esq., J.P.
Dr. E.D. Irvine
G.W.A.Jackson Esq.
Mrs.M.Nichols.
Alderman H.C.Pedrick
Alderman Mrs.J.M.Phillips, O.B.E., J.P.
The Reverend H.S. Read
The Reverend E. Royle
Dr. H. Scott Forbes
Miss A.E. Tucker
Dr.C.W.Wilson (Resigned February, 1958)

WORKS:

W.B.Hallett Esq. (Chairman)
C.A.Jackson Esq.
G. W. A. Jackson Esq.
Mrs.M.Nichols
Sir Arthur C. Reed
Alderman J.G.Warne
A.J.Withycombe Esq.

SUPPLIES:

W.B.Hallett Esq., J.P. (Chairman)
C.A.Jackson Esq.
G.W.A.Jackson Esq.
Mrs.D.A.E.Booth
Mrs.M.Nichols
Miss A.E.Tucker
Alderman J.G.Warne

DEVON MENTAL HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

E I G H T H A N N U A L R E P O R T

1957 - 1958

The Management Committee has pleasure in presenting its report for the year ended 31st March, 1958.

MEMBERSHIP

We commenced the year with a membership of fourteen, with Mr.W.B.Hallett as Chairman and Col.C.W.A. Jackson as our Vice Chairman. We were very sorry, however, to lose the services of Dr.C.W.Wilson who was compelled, for family reasons, to resign from the Committee in January. The Regional Hospital Board appointed Dr.A.C.Austin to fill the vacancy; we knew him when he held an appointment on the medical staff of Wonford Hospital and he now has a country practice near Exeter; we cordially welcome him.

SUB-COMMITTEES AND OTHER REPRESENTATION

In recording changes in the membership of Sub-Committees we wish to thank Mrs.E.Kelly and Mr.R.H.Baker for their long and valued services to Exminster Hospital, both before and after the inception of the National Health Service. Their places were taken, at the end of the year, by Mrs.B.Allanson and Mrs.J.R.Ormiston. Lady Evelyn Anstey was appointed as an additional member of the Works Sub-Committee.

The two House Sub-Committees have met monthly and their members have, in turn, made the statutory visits to the hospitals; their reports continue to be valuable, especially with regard to improvements, the need for which occupied much of our attention throughout the year.

The other Sub-Committees have met as often as was necessary. Two of our members have continued to serve on the Exeter Clinical Area Committee and three have represented us on the Joint Finance Committee. The Vice Chairman attended a meeting of Chairmen of Hospital Management Committees in the Region and he and the Group Secretary have represented us at Regional Branch meetings of the Association of Hospital Management Committees. At the Annual Conference of this Association our resolution calling for greater co-ordination in provision for senile patients was carried unanimously.

Dr.Lewis Couper succeeded Dr.John Russell on the Joint Medical Advisory Committee for the Exeter and Mid-Devon and East Devon Groups of hospitals.

The Group Secretary regularly attended meetings of Secretaries arranged by the Regional Hospital Board and was appointed a member of the Board's Working Party on the Training of Hospital Administrative Staff.

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENTS

In May we heard, with great regret, that Dr.John Russell had tendered his resignation from the post of Medical Superintendent of the Digby-Wonford Hospital. He was, however, persuaded by the Regional Hospital Board to continue in office until his successor took up his appointment, but he finally left us in October. We then recorded our appreciation of his long and valuable services to the hospital and particularly of his energetic action in continually representing the need for major development in the facilities for mental treatment. The success of his efforts had by then been demonstrated in approval, by the Minister of Health, of the development scheme which has since commenced at Digby. In October we welcomed, as Dr.Russell's successor, Dr.Lewis Couper.

In January we received with regret the resignation from his Medical Superintendency of Exminster Hospital of Dr.S.M.Allan. Our appreciation of his long and valuable services was then recorded, although he continued in post until his successor, Dr.J.E.A.Bartlet, took up his duties in July, 1958. Dr.Allan had been Medical Superintendent of Exminster Hospital since 1939.

We wish both Dr.Russell and Dr.Allan a long and happy retirement.

DEVELOPMENTS AND IMPROVEMENTS

Although no additional beds were provided during the year, greater use has again been made of in-patient facilities. Whilst the average bed occupancy was 41 less than in 1956, admissions were 44 more:-

(figures are for the calendar years)	1956	1957
Average number of beds occupied	2179	2138
Admitted	1113	1157

The average number of beds available continues far in excess of the "recognised" dormitory space and of the day space calculated in accordance with Board of Control standards:-

Average number of available beds	2237
Recognised dormitory space	1868
Recognised day space	1467
Average number of beds occupied	2138

Of the admissions, 1019 were on a voluntary basis, i.e. 88%, which compares favourably with the national figure (shewn in the Annual Report of the Board of Control) of 82.6%.

Out-patient work has increased considerably during the year.

During the year planning for the extensive development scheme at Digby continued, culminating in a conference at the Ministry of Health when the Regional Board's, and our own, Architects obtained approval for the plans with scarcely any amendments. We would wish to record our appreciation of their efforts, which were highly successful. Building operations commenced on 14th January, 1958 and so good is the progress that we confidently anticipate that the finishing date of January, 1960 will be realised. The scheme will provide a modern admission unit, two villas and staff quarters, besides a modernisation of the central kitchen and increased engineering services. A total of 132 additional beds will be provided.

The modernisation schemes at Exminster have continued, from capital monies provided by the Regional Hospital Board. Work commenced in April and July respectively on the sanitary annexes for wards 22 and 23 (night annexe) and ward 20; progress was slower than had been anticipated, but the new annexes came into use in April and July, 1958, respectively. One reason for the slow progress was the need, noted in our last report, to improve the hot water service to these and other annexes. It was accepted that, even although the annexe building programme would be slowed down, priority must be given to this engineering work. The contract commenced in January and this part of the work is now completed. Further sections of the hospital must, however, be attended to. The sanitary annexe for ward 12 was commenced in January and was handed over, well on time, in November, 1958. We now look to the continuation of the programme in the modernisation of ward 12 and the provision of sanitary annexes for wards 19 and 24, together with the construction of an external corridor for the range of wards 17 to 24.

We regret once again to report that the Exminster major scheme first proposed in 1950 - for the re-building of the kitchen and stores on a new site, the redesign of the central area and the provision of an admission unit and new wards - has still not reached the planning stage. We have continued to represent this need to the Regional Hospital Board and are informed that it is recorded as a major scheme with the Ministry; unfortunately it is not yet at the top of the list.

The new Occupational Therapy buildings at Exminster were opened in January; reference is made later in our report to the benefits which have resulted.

The modernisation of the treatment wards on the female side of Exminster Hospital (29, 30 & 31) has continued and we appreciated the Regional Hospital Board's action in accepting the expenditure thereon as capital.

Minor capital allocations during the year permitted us to build a greenhouse at Digby, effect much needed improvements in fire precautions at Wonford and to instal additional electrical switchgear at Exminster.

Planning has proceeded for a lift and for kitchen and catering improvements at Wonford; the former has since been approved and the work is in hand at the date of this report.

The improvement in engineering services noted in our last report has continued; by the end of the year the external and internal water mains had been replaced at Digby and the electrical re-wiring of Wonford,

REPORTING AND INFORMATION

Although no additional beds were provided during the year, Greater has been made of in-patient facilities. Whilst the average bed occupancy was 45.4 per cent in 1956, admissions were 14,000.

(Figures are for the calendar years)	
1956	1957
14,000	14,000
45.4	45.4
1956	1957

The average number of beds available continues for in excess of the "recommended" statutory space and of the day space calculated in accordance with Board of Control standards:-

1956	1957
14,000	14,000
45.4	45.4
1956	1957

Of the admissions, 10,119 were on a voluntary basis, i.e. 72.2%, which compares favourably with the national figure (shown in the Annual Report of the Board of Control) of 68.6%. Out-patient work has increased considerably during the year.

During the year planning for the extensive development scheme at Dippy continued, culminating in a conference at the Ministry of Health when the Regional Board, and our own Architects obtained approval for the plans with scarcely any amendments. We would wish to record our appreciation of their efforts, which were highly successful. Building operations commenced on 15th January, 1956 and so good is the progress that we confidently anticipate that the finishing date of January, 1960 will be realised. The scheme will provide a modernisation unit, two village and adult quarters, besides a modernisation of the central kitchen and increased engineering services. A total of 150 additional beds will be provided. The modernisation scheme at Exminster has continued, from capital monies provided by the Regional Hospital Board. Work commenced in April and July respectively on the auxiliary annexes for wards 22 and 23 (night annex) and ward 20 (day annex) was almost then had been anticipated, but the new annexes were not in April and July, 1956, respectively. Our plans for the new provision was the need, noted in our last report, to improve the hot water service to these and other annexes. It was accepted that, even although the scheme building programme would be allowed down, priority must be given to such engineering work. The contract was awarded in January and this part of the work is now completed. Further sections of the hospital unit, however, be attached to. The auxiliary annexes for ward 12 was commenced in January and was handed over, well in time, in November, 1956. We now look to the completion of the programme in the modernisation of ward 12 and the provision of auxiliary annexes for wards 19 and 24, together with the construction of an external corridor for the range of wards 17 to 24.

We repeat once again to report that the Exminster major scheme first proposed in 1950 - for the rebuilding of the kitchen and stores on a new site, the modernisation of the central area and the provision of an admission unit and new wards - has still not reached the planning stage. We have continued to represent this need to the Regional Hospital Board and are informed that it is recorded as a major scheme with the Ministry accordingly it is not yet at the top of the list.

The new Occupational Therapy building at Exminster were opened in January; reference is made later in our report to the benefits which have resulted. The modernisation of the treatment wards on the female side of Exminster Hospital (25, 30 & 31) has continued and we anticipated the Regional Hospital Board's action in meeting the expenditure between an capital.

Minor capital allocations during the year permitted us to build a greenhouse at Dippy, erect much needed improvements in the provision of ward and to install additional electrical switches at Exminster. Planning has proceeded for a lift and for kitchen and catering improvements at Worsfold; the former has since been approved and the work is in hand at the date of this report. The improvement in engineering services noted in our last report has continued by the end of the year, the external and internal water mains had been replaced at Dippy and the electrical re-wiring of Worsfold.

which had commenced in May, was proceeding, if somewhat slowly. We are pleased to report, however, that an increased maintenance allocation from the Regional Hospital Board will now permit this important work to be completed by April or May, 1959. The work has caused a continuing upheaval in the life and work of the hospital and will bring in its train a need for extensive redecoration of the wards.

Two most welcome special allocations of maintenance money were made during the year; for catering improvements, which we devoted to the provision of a lift in the Exminster kitchen and for the necessary power cables for the new electrically-heated food trollies, and, for Digby-Wonford Hospital, entirely to the purchase and installation of catering equipment at Wonford; and, late in the year, for furniture and equipment to a total of £4,000, with which were purchased floor cleaning equipment and furniture of all descriptions, including a first instalment of lockers for patients. We regard this last item as of the greatest importance and have devoted a maximum amount to the provision of further lockers in the year 1958/59.

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE LAW RELATING TO MENTAL ILLNESS

The Report of the Royal Commission was published in May, 1957. It is, of course, a subject of great interest and importance to us. We studied the report and submitted observations, generally and upon a number of particular matters, both to the Regional Hospital Board and to the Association of Hospital Management Committees. Whilst opinions expressed in the report have already been of value to us and to our officers, we naturally await amending legislation with considerable interest.

Dr. Couper and the Group Secretary attended, in March, a conference of the National Association for Mental Health, on this subject.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

The completion of the new buildings provided for this purpose at Exminster permitted an encouraging expansion in this important part of the treatment of mental illness. We are gratified at the progress which has already been made and at the new forms which this treatment has been able to take. At Digby-Wonford Hospital, also, occupational therapy has increased in quantity and scope; its progress is, however, limited by the virtual non-existence of suitable accommodation and by inadequate staffing. Our proposals to remedy both these deficiencies were submitted to the Regional Hospital Board and we are pleased to record that approval has recently been given for the erection of a suitable, detached, building for occupational therapy at Wonford. It is expected that this building will be completed early in 1959.

We asked Dr. Allan to visit Banstead Hospital, Surrey, to look at the arrangements there for the industrial employment of in-patients; he reported thereon but we decided not to embark on such a scheme at present.

RELIGIOUS MINISTRATION

The full-time Church of England chaplain at Exminster and the eight visiting chaplains have regularly conducted services and ministered to their flocks. We gladly record our appreciation of their work. Special services are held for Easter, Harvest and at Christmas - when the Services of Nine Lessons and Carols are always popular. Members of the Committee, nurses in uniform and officers attended the annual Hospital Sunday service of Evensong in Exeter Cathedral in October.

LEAGUE OF FRIENDS

The Friends of Digby-Wonford Hospital have continued to render most valuable service to the patients and we wish once again to record our sincere appreciation of their efforts. Not only have they generously provided two television sets for each hospital and a garden party for Wonford in July, but by visiting individual patients and by sending Christmas greetings and presents, and birthday greetings, to some eighty patients who are friendless, have indeed been Friends of the Hospital.

which had commenced in 1947, was presented, it seemed timely. We are pleased to report, however, that an increased maintenance allocation from the National Hospital Board will now permit this important work to be completed by April or May, 1959. The work has caused a continuing upheaval in the life and work of the Hospital and will bring in its train a need for extensive redecoration of the wards.

Two most serious special situations of maintenance arose early in the year; for existing equipment, which we devoted to the provision of a lift in the Eastward Kitchen and for the necessary power cables for the new electrically-heated food trolleys, and, for high-voltage electrical, entirely to the purchase and installation of new heating equipment at Wandsworth and, late in the year, for furniture and equipment to a total of £1,000, which were purchased from existing equipment and furniture of all descriptions, including a first installation of lockers for patients. We regard this year as of the greatest importance and have devoted a certain amount to the provision of further lockers in the year 1958/59.

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE LAW RELATING TO MENTAL ILLNESS

The Report of the Royal Commission was published in May, 1957. It is, of course, a subject of great interest and importance to us. We studied the report and submitted observations, generally and upon a number of particular matters, both to the National Hospital Board and to the Association of Hospital Management Consultants. Similar opinions expressed in the report have already been of value to us and to our officers, as naturally while meeting legislation with considerable interest.

Dr. Cooper and the Group Secretary attended, in March, a conference of the National Association for Mental Health, on this subject.

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

The completion of the new building provided for this purpose at Exeter has resulted in encouraging expansion in this important part of the treatment of mental illness. We are situated at the premises which has already been made and at the new town which this treatment has been able to take. As high-voltage Hospital, also, occupational therapy has increased in capacity and scope; progress is, however, limited by the virtual non-existence of suitable accommodation and by inadequate staffing. Our proposals to remedy both these deficiencies were submitted to the National Hospital Board and we are pleased to record that approval has recently been given for the extension of a suitable, detached, building for occupational therapy at Wandsworth. It is expected that this building will be completed early in 1959.

We asked permission to visit Wandsworth Hospital, Surrey, to look at the arrangements there for the industrial equipment of in-patients; he reported thereon but we decided not to embark on such a scheme at present.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE

The full-time Church of England chaplain at Exeter and the eight visiting chaplains have regularly conducted services and ministered to their flock. We gladly record our appreciation of their work. Special services were held for Easter, Harvest and at Christmas - when the services of Miss Landon and Carol are always popular. Members of the Committee, nurses in uniform and officers attended the annual Hospital Sunday service of worship in Exeter Cathedral in October.

LEAGUE OF FRIENDS

The Friends of Digg-Wendford Hospital have continued to render most valuable service to the patients and we wish once again to record our sincere appreciation of their efforts. Not only have they generously provided two education sets for each hospital and a garden party for Wandsworth and Exeter are patients and by sending Christmas greetings and presents, and birthday greetings, to some eighty patients and their friends, have indeed been friends of the Hospital.

STAFF

The nursing staff position has, in total, remained almost constant throughout the year although, at both hospitals, there has been a small, but welcome increase in the numbers of full-time, trained staff. At Exminster, also, we note with pleasure that the number of students at the end of the year (46) had increased by eleven since March, 1957. We still, however, rely on a large number of part-time and largely unqualified staff; even so, on 31st March, 1958, we had a total of 103 nursing staff vacancies in the group hospitals.

In January the Regional Hospital Board found it possible to finance one additional junior medical officer post (of three which we had requested) but the medical staff establishment remains considerably below that which we consider necessary properly to provide all the care and treatment, and the out-patient facilities, which are needed. Approval in principle, although not yet an actual appointment, has since been notified for an additional consultant for Exminster.

In other grades of staff we have continued very much at the former levels although, with the completion of the new Occupational Therapy buildings at Exminster, we secured approval for four additional therapists, two of whom had been appointed by the end of the year. The long-needed post of Psychiatric Social Worker at the Digby-Wonford Hospital has at last been filled. In the ancillary grades we have increased our employment of ward orderlies, particularly at Exminster, in an effort to take some of the burden of non-nursing duties from the nursing staff and we have had small increases approved in the domestic grades as a result of the national reduction in the hours of the working week.

NURSE TRAINING

During the year, the General Nursing Council introduced a revised syllabus of training for the mental nursing register and this was adopted by the Digby-Wonford Hospital in April, 1958; at the same time approval was given for the new training school for the combined hospital. An application has since been made to adopt the new syllabus at Exminster and this will eventually bring to an end the Preliminary Training School which was established at that hospital to serve not only our own group but also the Royal Western Counties and the St. Lawrence's (Bodmin) hospitals.

To facilitate the changeover to the new syllabus, we held a meeting of heads of training schools in our own group at Exminster in May and our nursing officers attended a similar regional meeting at Plymouth in November. An Inspector of the General Nursing Council visited the group hospitals in June and her report was of assistance in planning future nurse training. Many of the recommendations for improvements which were contained in the report have since been carried out; Education and Procedure Committees have been set up for each training school.

In October two Mental Nursing Officers of the Ministry of Health visited our hospitals; their report was not received until October, 1958.

ADMINISTRATION

We have continued to approve and introduce suggestions which our officers from time to time make with a view more closely to co-ordinating the administration of our group of hospitals. Group contracting for supplies has been extended; we believe as far as practical. This was facilitated during the year by the appointment, on 1st April, of Mr. A.C. Tipper to the new post of Senior Administrative Assistant, with particular responsibility for supplies and transport. We studied the interim report of the Committee on Hospital Supplies and agreed to join with the Royal Western Counties, the Moorhaven and the St. Lawrence's Hospital Management Committees in an experimental arrangement for joint tenders for certain items of textiles, clothing and glassware. It is too early yet to assess the benefits which may have accrued from the venture, but we are satisfied that the detailed consultation which was necessary between our officers and those of the other mental and mental deficiency hospital groups can be placed on the credit side. During the year preparations were made to bring all motor transport and its repair and maintenance onto a group basis and this became effective in May, 1958.

The merging of the Digby and Wonford sections into one hospital is now complete.

FINANCE

Our Finance Officer, Mr. R.E. Wilman, has prepared his customary brief report on the group's finances and this, together with a summary of the accounts, is attached as an appendix to our report.

STAFF

The nursing staff position has, in total, remained almost constant throughout the year although, at both hospitals, there has been a small, but welcome increase in the number of full-time, trained staff. At Exeter, also, we note with pleasure that the number of students at the end of the year (40) had increased by eleven since March, 1957. We still, however, rely on a large number of part-time and largely unqualified staff; even so, on 31st March, 1958, we had a total of 103 nursing staff working in the group hospitals. In January the Regional Hospital Board found it possible to finance the additional junior medical officer post (of three which we had requested) but the medical staff establishment remains considerably below that which we consider necessary properly to provide all the care and treatment, and the out-patient facilities, which are needed. Approval in principle, although not yet an actual appointment, has since been notified for an additional consultant for Exeter.

In other grades of staff we have continued very much at the former levels although, with the completion of the new Occupational Therapy buildings at Exeter, we secured approval for four additional therapists, two of whom had been appointed by the end of the year. The long-needed post of Psychiatric Social Worker at the Digg-Wentford Hospital has at last been filled. In the auxiliary grades we have increased our employment of ward orderlies, particularly at Exeter, in an effort to take some of the burden of non-nursing duties from the nursing staff and we have had small increases approved in the Domestic Grades as a result of the reduction in the hours of the working week.

NURSING TRAINING

During the year, the General Nursing Council introduced a revised syllabus of training for the mental nursing register and this was adopted by the Digg-Wentford Hospital in April, 1958; at the same time approval was given for the new training school for the qualified hospital. An application has since been made to start the new syllabus at Exeter and this will eventually bring us on and the previously training school which was established at that hospital to serve not only our own group but also the Royal Western Counties and the Ex-Lancashire (Bodmin) hospitals.

To facilitate the changeover to the new syllabus, we held a meeting of heads of training schools in our own group at Exeter in May and our nursing officers attended a similar regional meeting at Plymouth in November. An Inspector of the General Nursing Council visited the group hospitals in June and her report on assistance in planning future nurse training. Many of the recommendations for improvement which were contained in the report have since been carried out. Education and Procedure Committee have been set up for each training school.

In October two Mental Nursing Officers of the Ministry of Health visited our hospitals; their report was not received until October, 1958.

ADMINISTRATION

We have continued to approve and introduce suggestions which our officers from time to time make with a view more closely to co-ordinating the administration of our group of hospitals. Group committees for welfare have been extended; we believe as far as practical. This was facilitated during the year by the appointment, on 1st April, of Mr. C. Tipper to the new post of Senior Administrative Assistant, with particular responsibility for supplies and transport. We studied the interim report of the Committee on Hospital Supplies and agreed to join with the Royal Western Counties, the Ex-Lancashire and the Ex-Lancashire's Hospital Management Committee in an experimental arrangement for joint tenders for certain items of supplies, clothing and linens. It is too early yet to assess the benefits which may have accrued from the venture, but we are satisfied that the detailed coordination which was necessary between our officers and those of the other mental and mental deficiency hospitals can be placed on the credit side. During the year preparations were made to bring all motor transport and its repair and maintenance into a group basis and this became effective in May, 1958. The merging of the Digg and Wentford sections into one hospital is now complete.

FINANCE

Our Finance Officer, Mr. E. Wilson, has prepared his customary brief report on the group's finances and this, together with a summary of the accounts, is attached as an appendix to our report.

CATERING

In April we were pleased to welcome to our staff Mr.E.S.Heard, as catering officer for Exminster and we are equally pleased to report that his experience and energy have had a most beneficial effect on the standard of feeding at that hospital. Unfortunately, we have yet to recruit a similar officer for Digby-Wonford Hospital; the standard of catering there is not all that we would desire. Nevertheless we have paid considerable attention to this problem, by setting up a special catering sub-committee and by availing ourselves of the services of the Ministry's Catering Advisory Service, one of whose officers made two visits during the year. There is no doubt, however, that staffing difficulties must be overcome before the standard will be satisfactory. When, eventually, the kitchens have been upgraded to our satisfaction, long term benefits would accrue from the establishment of a training scheme for cooks, a project already adopted in many hospital groups.

FARMS & GARDENS

The dissolution of the Digby farm followed closely upon the drastic reductions already effected at Exminster. During the year we gradually sold the Guernsey dairy herd; we transferred pigs and poultry to Exminster and surplus implements were re-allocated within the group. Finally, on Lady Day and with the Minister's approval, we leased some 28 acres at Digby to a farmer and so reduced our holding there to market gardens only. The acreage under cultivation for food production in the group at the end of the year had been reduced to 150. Greater emphasis is now placed upon the production of fresh vegetables and fruit, whilst at Exminster we produce almost the total meat requirements of the group and an increasing quantity of eggs.

LAUNDRIES

No progress has been made in the proposal, which has from time to time been made by the Regional Hospital Board, completely to centralise the laundry services at Exminster; we received a visit from the Ministry of Health's laundry engineer in January, and we endorsed his report which favoured a central laundry. The improvements necessary to the premises and plant at Exminster, for this purpose, will be extensive; we understand that the matter is receiving Ministry consideration. In the meantime we are increasingly concerned that the laundry facilities at Digby will be inadequate to serve the enlarged hospital when the developments are completed.

REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD

Again we gladly record our appreciation of the help which is so readily given by members and officers of the Board. In April, Mr.J.R.Mackie, Chairman of the Board's Mental Health Committee and Dr.R.L.Cheverton, the Board's Senior Assistant Administrative Medical Officer, attended our monthly meeting and discussed with us the development of the mental health services in our area. Many other visits were made by the Board's officers - by the Secretary, the Deputy Secretary, the Architect and Engineer, and by Dr.Cheverton; the detailed planning of the development at Digby and the various schemes of modernisation at Exminster has been greatly facilitated by these visits.

BOARD OF CONTROL

In January two Commissioners of the Board of Control visited both hospitals and recorded the customary entry in the Visitors' Book.

LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES

Relations between officers of the two Local Health Authorities and our own officers are cordial and become increasingly helpful and, indeed, necessary, in providing a complete mental health service. We acknowledge,

CONCLUSION

In April we were pleased to welcome to our staff Mr. E. S. Harty, an entering officer for Examiners and we are greatly pleased to report that his experience and energy have had a most beneficial effect on the standard of feeding at that hospital. Unfortunately, we have yet to recruit a similar officer for Digny-Hospital; the standard of catering there is not all that we would desire. Nevertheless we have paid considerable attention to this problem, by setting up a special catering sub-committee and by involving ourselves in the services of the Ministry's Catering Advisory Service, one of whose officers made two visits during the year. There is no doubt, however, that catering difficulties must be overcome before the standard will be satisfactory. When, eventually, the kitchen have been upgraded to our satisfaction, long term benefits would accrue from the establishment of a training scheme for cooks, a project already adopted in many hospital groups.

FOOD & NUTRITION

The discussion at the Digny first followed closely upon the domestic production already alluded to at Examiners. During the year we gradually sold the country dairy herd; we transferred pigs and poultry to Examiners and various improvements were re-allocated within the group. Finally, on Lady Day and with the Minister's approval, we leased some 25 acres of Digny as a farm and so reduced our holding there to market gardens only. The average water cultivation for food production in the group at the end of the year had been reduced to 150. Greater emphasis is now placed upon the production of fresh vegetables and fruit, whilst at Examiners we produce almost the total meat requirements of the group and an increasing quantity of eggs.

LABOR

No progress has been made in the proposal, which has been made by the Regional Hospital Board, completely to centralize the laundry services at Examiners; we received a visit from the Ministry of Health's laundry engineer in January, and we endorsed his report which favoured a central laundry. The improvements necessary to the present and plant at Examiners, for this purpose, will be extensive; we understand that the matter is receiving Ministry consideration. In the meantime we are intensifying our work that the laundry facilities at Digny will be adequate to serve the enlarged hospital when the developments are completed.

REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD

Again we kindly record our appreciation of the help which is so readily given by members and officers of the Board. In April, Mr. J. A. Huckle, Chairman of the Board's Health Committee and Dr. R. L. Chaverton, the Board's Senior Assistant Administrative Medical Officer, attended our weekly meeting and discussed with us the development of the central health services in our area. Many other visits were made by the Board's officers - by the Secretary, the Deputy Secretary, the Architect and Engineer, and by Dr. Chaverton; the detailed planning of the development at Digny and the various schemes of modernization at Examiners has been greatly facilitated by these visits.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

In January two Committees of the Board of Control visited both hospitals and recorded the satisfactory state in the Visitors' Book.

LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES

Relations between officers of the two local health authorities and our own officers are cordial and become increasingly helpful and, indeed, necessary, in providing a complete mental health service. We acknowledge,

too the benefits which derive from the link between our Committee and the Health Committees of the Local Authorities, provided by common membership.

RECREATIONAL AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

We do not underestimate the importance of these activities both for patients and staff and we take an interest in the many traditional, and the increasing number of new activities. There is a refreshing tendency to remove some of the barriers which have in the past existed between patients' and staff events.

At both hospitals the customary sports continue and the male patients have flourishing cricket and football teams. Both Exminster and Digby hospitals held their annual fete and sports in July; cinema shows, concerts, dances and whist drives provided a varied winter programme and Christmas festivities continued, if anything, over an even longer period than before.

We mention with pleasure the completion of yet another successful year by the Exminster Hospital Musical and Dramatic Society; their productions included:-

"Come Back Peter" - April

Two One-Act Plays - October

"Robin Hood and Babes in the Wood" - pantomime - January

The pantomime set up a record of eleven performances and played to a total audience of over four thousand, including large parties from our own and other hospitals. We were happy to provide the customary annual dinner to the casts in January.

We also welcomed further developments in hospital entertainment in an exchange of productions between St. Lawrence's Hospital and Exminster and in a concert at Exminster in November provided by the Music in Hospitals organisation.

Finally, tribute must be paid to the loyalty and efficiency of the whole staff, whose co-operation and undoubted interest in their work deserve the highest praise.

D. W. MILLER

GROUP SECRETARY

W. B. HALLETT

CHAIRMAN

November, 1958.

too the benefits which derive from the link between our Committee and the Health Committee of the Local Authorities, provided by common membership.

RECREATIONAL AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

We do not underestimate the importance of these activities both for patients and staff and we take an interest in the many recreational, and the increasing number of new activities. There is a refreshing tendency to remove some of the barriers which have in the past existed between patients' and staff events.

At both hospitals the necessary sports facilities and the main patients have (containing cricket and football teams). Both Exminster and Dippy hospitals held their annual late and sports in July; chess shows, concerts, dances and other drives provided a varied winter programme and Christmas festivities continued, if anything, over an even longer period than before.

We mention with pleasure the completion of yet another successful year by the Exminster Hospital Medical and Dramatic Society; their productions included:-

"Come Back Peter" - April
"Two One-Ace Kings" - October
"Robin Hood and Baba in the Woods" - Pentecost - January

The Pentecost set up a record of eleven performances and played to a total audience of over four thousand, including large parties from our own and other hospitals. We were happy to provide the customary annual dinner to the staff in January.

We also welcomed further developments in hospital entertainment in an exchange of production between St. Lawrence's Hospital and Exminster and in a concert at Exminster in November provided by the Music in Hospitals Organisation.

Finally, tribute must be paid to the loyalty and efficiency of the whole staff, whose co-operation and unstinted interest in their work deserve the highest praise.

D. W. MILLER GROUP SECRETARY

W. B. HALLIDAY CHAIRMAN

November, 1968

APPENDIX

Finance

Total expenditure for the year ended 31st March, 1958 amounted to £746,063, an increase of £63,174 on the previous year. This total was heavier than had been expected, and was indeed £13,546 more than had been estimated. Staff Uniform, Patients' Clothing, Fuel, Provisions and monetary allowances to patients were all overspent, reflecting the improved standards which are rightly being demanded in the care of patients, though there is difficulty in securing funds, and there is much more that could be done were additional money available.

Drugs also cost more, an increase of 27% on the previous year, showing the rapidity with which modern methods of treatment are being introduced.

The Committee is concerned by the difficulty of providing the best possible conditions on the one hand and the need to balance its budget on the other, and has been investigating in detail methods of reducing expenditure which will not be injurious to the patients. At the same time it is hoped that the present economical administration as shown by comparative costs with other mental hospitals will encourage the Regional Hospital Board to make more money available.

An abstract of the accounts for the year is shown on the following page.

R. E. WILMAN.
Finance Officer

ATTACHMENT

FINANCE

Total expenditures for the year ended 31st March, 1938 amounted to £756,000, an increase of £23,175 on the previous year. This total was heavier than had been expected, and was mainly due to the fact that the cost of the new building, which was estimated at £23,500, was more than had been estimated. Staff salaries, patients' clothing, fuel, provisions and necessary allowances to patients were all over budget, reflecting the improved standards which are being maintained in the care of patients, though there is difficulty in securing funds, and there is much more that could be done were additional money available.

Other also cost more, an increase of 12% on the previous year, showing the difficulty with which modern methods of treatment are being introduced.

The Committee is concerned by the difficulty of providing the best possible conditions on the one hand and the need to balance the budget on the other, and has been investigating in detail methods of reducing expenditure which will not be injurious to the patients. At the same time it is hoped that the present economical administration as shown by comparative costs with other mental hospitals will encourage the Regional Hospital Board to make more money available.

An abstract of the accounts for the year is shown on the following page.

E. E. WILSON,
Finance Officer

DEVON MENTAL HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Summary of Accounts - Year to 31st March, 1958

HOSPITAL EXPENDITURE (Exchequer Funds)

<u>Estimate</u> £		£	<u>Actual</u> £
438,679	Gross Salaries and Wages (including National Insurance and Superannuation)	432,452	
135,550	Provisions	136,082	
15,655	Uniforms & Clothing	17,706	
18,100	Drugs, Dressings, Medical & Surgical Appliances	20,460	
57,364	Fuel, Light, Power, Water and Laundry	65,143	
48,189	Maintenance of Buildings, Plant and Grounds	48,511	
22,515	Domestic Repairs, Renewals and Replacements	21,660	
<u>95,110</u>	All other expenses	<u>111,034</u>	
831,162			853,048
	<u>Less:</u>		
106,629	Direct Credits (Staff board and lodging, canteens, farms and gardens, etc.)		<u>114,871</u>
<u>724,533</u>			738,177
	<u>Add:</u>		
5,483	Group Administration		5,320
<u>2,500</u>	Table 'C' Expenditure		<u>2,566</u>
£ <u>732,516</u>		TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£ <u>746,063</u>
	<u>INCOME</u>		
£			£
	For the supply of drugs and medicines		10
	Accommodation and treatment of patients in single rooms and small wards		8,961
	Rents, etc.		<u>1,288</u>
£ <u>11,000</u>		TOTAL INCOME	£ <u>10,259</u>

ENDOWMENT AND OTHER FUNDS

	<u>Capital</u> £	<u>Revenue</u> £
<u>Receipts:</u>		
From dividends, interest etc. on invested funds and endowment property		106
From Minister under Section 7		1,655
From other sources under Section 59		2,058
Other receipts		99
Cash in hand at 1st April, 1957		<u>5,466</u>
	<u>-</u>	£ <u>9,384</u>
<u>Payments:</u>		
For purposes relating to hospital services and research		1,866
Other payments - Amenities for patients		978
Amenities for staff		462
Administrative expenses		3
Cash in hand at 31st March, 1958		<u>6,075</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>9,381</u>

