THE BULLETIN

OF THE

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS

COLLEGE NEWS

ANNUAL MEETINGS RECALLED

1. Twenty-five Years Ago

In this Jubilee year it seems appropriate first to recall the RMPA Annual Meeting of 1952. At that time the total membership of the Association was 1,242, and its annual income and expenditure were in the region of £6,000.

The Meeting was held in Northampton, mainly at St Andrew's Hospital, but with sessions also at St Crispin Hospital and, for the Presidential Address, at the Guildhall. The incoming President was Dr Thomas Tennent, the Physician-Superintendent of St Andrew's, and he took over from Dr P. K. McCowan of the Crichton Royal, Dumfries. It is a pleasure to be able to mention that Dr McCowan, previously of Whitchurch Hospital, Cardiff, and at one time a senior colleague of mine at Cane Hill, is still happily with us, and he and Dr K. K. Drury are our oldest surviving Past Presidents.

Dr Tennent had come from Gartnavel Royal Hospital to the Maudsley in the late '20s and had been Deputy to Professor Mapother before going on to St Andrew's. He had been Treasurer of the RMPA for some years before becoming President, and he continued as Treasurer until his untimely death in 1962.

Readers, especially those who enjoyed the hospitality of St Andrew's at last year's May Meeting, will know that the present Medical Director is Dr Gavin Tennent. I believe that this is a unique instance of a son succeeding his father in such a position, albeit after an interval.

St Andrew's, founded in 1832, has always been an independent institution—for long a 'Registered Hospital', and is one of the very few that have retained their independence since the inception of the NHS.

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