November 23rd finally arrived and with it came the first Joint Meeting of the Louisiana Psychiatric Association and the Mexican Society of Neurology and Psychiatry. Confusion was rife on our Saturday arrival date and all early arrivals awaited with eagerness for Sam Benbow to achieve order from confusion. This he was able to do time and again during the convention and in the last analysis the venture would have to be called a success. Sam’s Mexican counterpart was Dr. Guido Belsasso who rendered yeoman service from his side.

The pre-convention arrangements for registration did not pan out and our Dr. Benbow had a busy time of it arranging bull fight tickets for those interested. Buses took the group on Sunday morning to the auditorium of the Social Security Bldg. for the inauguration of officers in the Mexican society. Although the name is the same, “Social Security” in Mexico has nothing to do with retirement but involves something of a cross between our medicare and public health systems. Only 7 million Mexicans are covered by the program.

Gustavo Diaz Ordaz, President of the Republic, was listed on the program but his greeting was given by Dr. S. Aceves, Secretario de Salubridad y Asistencia (Health & Welfare.) It was here we had our first contact with Dr. M. Velasco Suarez, the incoming president of the Mexican group and the head of the Neurological and Psychiatric Institute. Over the next few days Dr. Velasco Suarez was uniformly a good host with our comfort his prime interest. Many of the physicians we met had double surnames and for those who stayed home, the first surname is that of the person’s father and the last surname that of his mother.

Dr. Velasco Suarez following the inauguration took us on a tour of the hospital and research center which he heads. At the inauguration, for the first time we learned through the speeches of Dr. Velasco Suarez and Andre Touzet — Mexico keeps psychiatry and neu- (Continued on Page 4)
Group Therapy Meet Slated For April

Clifford J. Sager, M.D. and Asya Kaydis will lead the Twelfth Annual Institute of the Louisiana Group Psychotherapy Society. The meeting is scheduled for Friday through Sunday, April 18 through 20, in New Orleans.

Dr. Sager is Professor of Psychiatry and chief of the Family Treatment and Study Unit of New York Medical College. Mrs. Kadas is Director of the Group Therapy Department and Co-Director of the Family Therapy Training Program at the Post Graduate Center for Mental Health, New York City.

An increased number of hours of small group experience is planned for this institute. Additionally, there will be a workshop conducted by the guest speakers, “Family Therapy Demonstration Group.” Attendance at the workshop will be limited.

Jacob M. Weisler, M.D., 501 Medical Arts Building, 3439 Prytania Street, New Orleans, La. 70115, can provide additional information.

Executive Council Notes

The November meeting of the Executive Council of Louisiana Psychiatric Association, was held November 8, 1968. Members voted to establish the first Friday of each month as the regular meeting date.

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Ruben Roy, M.D., was appointed coordinating chairman for L.P.A. committees. He was authorized to use long-distance telephone calls at L.P.A. expense in his efforts to promote year-round activities in the committees.

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Dr. Touzet is continuing efforts to achieve two seats for L.P.A. on the New Orleans Area Health Planning Council.

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In membership mail ballots concerning those applications for admission to membership in L.P.A., 82 members replied. (Continued on page 3)
District Branches Seek Greater Participation

Increasing the activity and participation of District Branches is a current flowing through American Psychiatric Association, according to William Sorum, M.D.

He reported on the fall meeting of the Assembly of District Delegates. The possibility of area trustees, to act as an adjunct of the members of the A.P.A. Council are being considered. In addition, the time devoted to area meeting at the Assembly was increased.

Psychiatrists are urged to become active in Area Health Planning Councils in their individual areas and to be cognizant of local programs such as Job Corps and Office of Economic Opportunity. Psychiatrists are urged to participate and to contribute qualitatively and quantitatively in these community efforts.

Central offices and secretaries were pointed out as assisting in achieving a smoothly functioning District Branch. The district branch newsletters were mentioned as helpful in a cohesive role.

Increasing programs of government medicine have created a need to restate confidentiality. Many are apprehensive that the formerly clear-cut lines of physician-patient confidentiality have become blurred and a new description is required.

Continuing medical education, particularly through a proposed self-assessment program, was urged by participants at the Assembly. The proposed method would provide for individual psychiatrists to take tests and receive the results from the test. The problem of privacy arose with this issue, according to Dr. Sorum.

The perpetual problem of election of individuals to the honor of Fellow in A.P.A. came under the Assembly’s scrutiny. Dr. Sorum said there is a tendency throughout the nation to nominate members who have been members longer. Some suggestions called for specific achievements to be mentioned in the nominations, and some members called for a better definition of requirements.

The Michigan Psychiatric Association submitted a motion requesting the Assembly to take positions on gun control and violence on television. Dr. Sorum reported that he voted to table the motion.

Following Dr. Sorum’s report, several members of the Executive Council pointed out the need to have continuity in attendance at the Assembly. Dr. Touzet moved, Dr. Burford seconded, that Kenneth Ritter, M.D., be named alternate delegate to the Assembly. The motion was carried. Continuity of the delegate permits the delegate to become familiar with the policies and procedures of the Assembly.

Committees

Louisiana Psychiatric Association

Coordinating Chairman is Reuben Roy.


Allied Professions: The chairman is J. Weisler. The members are T. Butler, R. Davis, C. Davis, E. Rigsby, C. Smith, E. Svenson, T. Young.

Childhood, Adolescence & Education: The chairman is D. Burford. The members are: J. Cross, C. Davis, A. Johnstone, E. Knight, J. Kuehn, E. Leatherman, E. MacKenzie, L. Paine, C. Ramsey, R. Roy, C. Smith, P. Ware, E. White, T. Young.

Community & Public Relations: The chairman is W. Sorum. The vice chairman is A. Mullen. The members are: G. Arneson, W. Bruschi, T. Butler, C. Davis, R. Dawes, E. Norman, C. Steele.


Legislative Matters: The chairman is C. Davis. The vice chairman is H. Olliver. The members are: S. Benbow, F. Brewer, A. Lavender, C. Steele, W. Thompson, T. Young.


Grievance & Ethics: The chairman is R. Roy. The members are A. Cohen, E. Knight, M. Miller, K. Ritter, W. Super, A. Touzet, G. Usdin, T. Young.

Executive Council Notes

(Continued from Page 2)

A request was received from A.P.A. for assistance in disseminating a pamphlet (cost to be paid by the individual psychiatrist ordering copies) which defines “psychiatrist.”

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(Other items at the meeting appear as individual news stories)
MEXICO MEETING

(Continued from Page 1)

rology rather close rather than follow the trend here of a division. During our tour we were told Mexico has a five year residency program, the first two years of which are identical for psychiatry, neurology and neuro-surgery and only in the last two years of the five does specialization occur.

Following this tour the Mexicans had a delightful lunch for us utilizing the entire facilities of a restaurant — Oh! Those Magueritas. After lunch came the bull fights and we were twice honored — the worst bull fights in years and one of Mexico's rare November rains. We were out of doors.

The papers began on Monday and those our group presented were very good. Listening to the Mexican paper over the translation earphones was a little like getting instructions from an aircraft tower while flying a plane, you had to have an ear for it.

Van Spruiell gave an interesting study — "Creativity & Psychosis" the inspiration of which was derived from his visit eight years ago to the Museo de Frida Kahlo where Diego Rivera and his wife, Frida, lived and worked. Unfortunately the language barrier prevented my perceiving how the Mexicans responded to this.

Judging from the number of questions asked from the floor during the discussion period following Max Sugar's presentation of the "Community Management of the Psychotic Child," a lively interest in this subject was shown by our colleagues "south of the border."

Mottram Torre's paper on "Irrational Behavior in High Office" presented "historical data about the effects of irrationality on the functioning of a number of high governmental officials." He suggested the need for development of health maintenance programs for prompt treatment of the leader that would hopefully minimize or avoid "administrative disruption coincident to such illness."

John Stocks, in his paper, elaborated on the idea that a "psychotherapeutic milieu is inseparable from the psycho-therapy being done in it" and that administratively the issue becomes one of effective intervention in the pathologic process rather than replacement or reorganization of the unit.

Robert Davis was unable to attend the Congress as planned and Dr. Mike Connell read a provocative paper on suicide; while Dr. Sam Benbow reported on "Intensive Inpatient Psychotherapy." The "Integration of Treatment and Research on a clinical psychiatric unit" was discussed by Dr. Lindsey Graham and Dr. Michael Sottarelli.

Featured guest speakers in the Neurology and Neuro-surgical sections were Dr. A. Earl Walker from Johns Hopkins University and R. Frank Fabiani, Director, Parkinson Institute, Miami, Florida. Dr. Fabiani discussed the treatment of Parkinson's Disease with L-Dopa.

As one Mexican physician stated, the outstanding feature of the Congress was the presentation of the different points of view.

While the program proceeded at the Camino Real, Senores de Velasco Suarez, de Belsasso and particularly Senoras Lorna de Mateo and Magda de Fernandez Cerdeno were taking the ladies on various tours. These included seeing extensive Diago Rivera Murals at the Zocolo and at the water works. Shopping trips were also arranged.

Members Speak

Members of Louisiana Psychiatric Association frequently make speeches to non-medical organizations, such as men's clubs, women's clubs, parents' organizations and service clubs. This is an important function and good public education.

Edith Rigsby, M.D., of Shreveport, spoke to the Woman's Department Club of Minden. Her topic was, "Some Aspects of Anxiety in the American Female."

Genevieve A. Arneson, M.D., of New Orleans, recently spoke to the parent's group at a Jefferson parish school. James T. Henry, M.D., of New Orleans, spoke to the parent's club of St. Rosalie school last month.

Please send your name, topic, and the group addressed to the Newsletter.

Academy of Psychoanalysis

The American Academy of Psychoanalysis held its 13th Winter meeting at New Orleans in December. Among those participating were Arthur W. Epstein, M.D., Morton L. Enelow, M.D., and Robert G. Heath, M.D. The theme of the session was "Adolescent and Early Adult Sexuality." A new workshop was offered to area Residents in psychiatry. The visiting Faculty for this workshop were Lewis R. Wolberg, M.D., New York Medical College; Leon Salzman, M.D., of Georgetown University in Washington; and Otto A. Will, Jr. M.D., Medical Director, The Austin Riggs Center, Stockbridge, Mass.