

the bare minimum for the great majority of their constituents who need medical help. The medical profession has a great opportunity to help Parliament. If our work is fruitful good, young graduates will see and accept the challenge of general practice for what it is, namely, the opportunity to harness modern scientific knowledge to the medical needs of healthy or ill men, women and children, and to enrich their lives while they are still in their own homes.

### THE DUBLIN WEEKEND

**T**HE first general meeting of the College to be held outside London took place at the Gresham Hotel, Dublin, on Sunday, 3 May 1964. Eighty-four members and associates of the College attended and several interesting matters were discussed (see page 100).

On the previous day one of the most successful symposia ever organized by the College was held in the examination hall of Trinity College, Dublin, with Dr David Stafford-Clark in the chair. The subject of the conference was Problems of Sex in General Practice and the speakers in the morning and afternoon sessions were: Dr J. Barnes, Dr J. Marshall, Dr T. McCracken, Dr A. D. H. Browne, Dr I. Rosen and Dr Elizabeth Doherty. The meeting ended with a lively panel discussion, and all the 250 people present must have come away feeling that they had learned something really valuable for their work as family doctors.

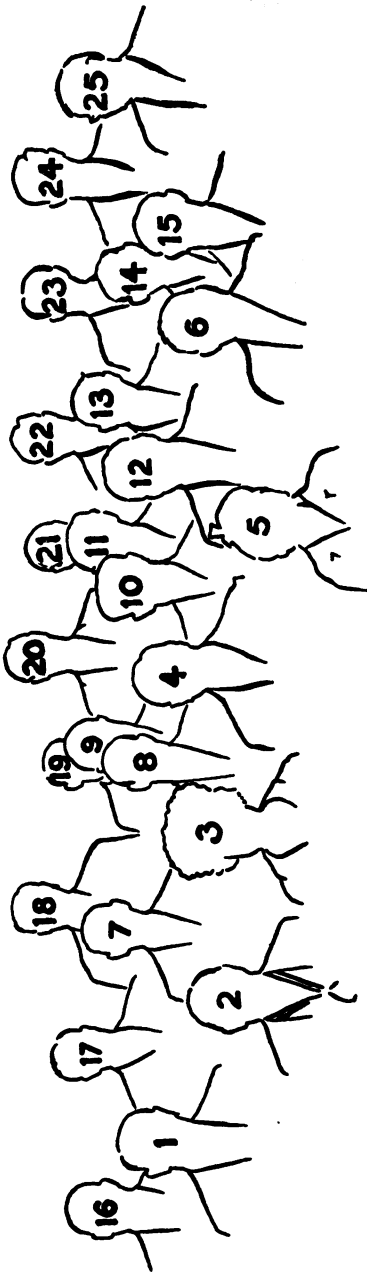
On the morning of Saturday, 2 May, the President of Eire (Mr Eamon De Valera) graciously received, at his home in Phoenix Park, the president and members of the Council of the College, members of the Irish Council and the chairman of the New Zealand Council—a gesture which was very much appreciated.

At the dinner held at the Gresham Hotel on the evening of 2 May, the chairman of the Irish Council (Dr G. C. Maguire) presided. The toast of the College was proposed by Mr Sean McEntee (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Health) and Dr K. M. Foster (chairman of Council) responded. The toast of the guests was proposed by Dr J. J. Sheehan (provost of the East of Ireland Faculty),



Taken during Reception given by the President of the Irish Republic, at Dublin, on 2 May 1964.

*Photograph: Irish Press*



- 1. Dr P. D. Delany, chairman, New Zealand Council
- 2. Dr F. M. Rose, president of the College
- 3. Dr Elizabeth M. Doherty
- 4. President Eamon De Valera, President of the Republic of Ireland
- 5. Dr Mary Sheppard
- 6. Dr G. C. Maguire, chairman, Irish Council
- 7. Dr J. I. O'Sullivan

- 8. Dr D. M. Leahy, honorary treasurer, Irish Council
- 9. Dr J. M. Hunter
- 10. Dr J. J. Sheehan, vice-chairman, Irish Council
- 11. Dr J. C. T. Sanctuary
- 12. Dr J. H. Hunt, honorary secretary of Council
- 13. Dr V. G. Doyle, honorary secretary, Irish Council
- 14. Dr J. C. C. Crawford

- 15. Dr K. M. Foster, chairman of Council
- 16. Dr D. W. Macnamara
- 17. Dr R. G. Cronin
- 18. Dr R. Cove-Smith
- 19. Dr A. S. Boyd
- 20. Dr E. J. O'Brien
- 21. Dr M. I. Cookson
- 22. Dr I. J. F. Hooper
- 23. Dr R. A. McIlrath
- 24. Dr J. S. McCormick
- 25. Dr S. J. Carne, honorary secretary of Council

and Professor D. K. O'Donovan (professor of medicine, University College, Dublin) replied.

The Council of the College is extremely grateful to all those whose arrangements made this college weekend in Dublin such an outstanding success, especially the chairman and officers of the Irish Council.

### THE FAMILY'S ILLS

**T**HERE is no observer better placed to study family illness than the family doctor, and it is a matter for surprise that the science of genetics has been meagrely supported by general practitioners. All of us in practice see examples of the occurrence of different illnesses among members of a kinship which lead us perhaps in a passing thought to guess at a possible association soon to be forgotten in the press of subsequent events. It may be for lack of a recording system capable of fixing our ideas, at the time at which they occur, that so few of our opportunities are taken.

The "F" book method of recording family illness, described by DR KUENSSBERG<sup>1</sup> goes further, for in its application associations between diseases which might remain unrecognized except by the accident of inspiration are brought to the notice of the observer. The method has the qualities which are required of a satisfactory system. It is easy to operate and the decisions to be made and recorded by the doctor are few and precisely defined. The secretarial exercises of entry, summation and primary analysis are simple and logical, enabling quick confirmation or refutation of the surmise which may begin at morning coffee—and otherwise go no further.

Problems of interpersonal relationships are an increasing factor in a crowded island. Phenomena such as mass hysteria, teenage Beatle-reactions are probably extensions of the situations which we observe in patients at home. *Folie a deux* is accepted by the psychiatrists as a more-than-coincidental occurrence. The interplay of the emotions of husband and wife or mother and child brings patient after patient to see us under circumstances in which we can sometimes glimpse a pattern, but in which we more often grope unguided.

<sup>1</sup>J. Coll. gen. Practit, 1964, 7, 410.