

Sixth meeting

Geneva, 7 May 1983

S W A Z I L A N D

Report of activities June 1982 - May 1983

From the point of view of the Mental Hospital itself, no actual progress has been made. The new hospital is a primary project of the Government's, and discussions have been held with the Dangroup consultants. Architectural plans have been drawn after discussions between the Dangroup experts and the government psychiatrist, and a site in a general hospital's grounds in Manzini has been decided, but there has been no further progress.

There has been a welcome addition to the staff in the form of a second psychiatrist, Dr. E. Guinness, since September 1983.

The hospital is still working in dilapidated buildings with totally inadequate staff. Owing to the severe financial regression it has proved impossible to augment the numbers of nurses and attendants.

However, we have continued to augment the policy of intensive treatment followed by discharge and further treatment on an out-patient basis.

The number of in-patients rose from 447 in 1981 to 517 during 1982.

The Community Psychiatry Team continued to expand its programme, and now visits 16 rural hospitals and health clinics monthly. During 1981, 2384 consultations were held, which rose to 2678 in 1982.

Two trips to inspect clinics in the northern part of the country (which is not yet visited on a regular basis) were made, and it is hoped to establish regular visiting days as soon as more nurses have psychiatric training.

Psychiatric Training

A diploma course in psychiatric nursing has now been established and the first lectures will start on the 16th of May. Sixteen nurses have applied to take the course, and interviews to select the candidates are in progress.

These nurses will be invaluable both for staffing the new mental hospital and for increasing the number of community psychiatric teams on the road.

Both Dr. Guinness and Mr. T. Harrison, the psychiatric nurse-tutor of the Swaziland Institute of Health Sciences have been giving in-service training and lectures to the nursing and assistant-nursing staff at the Mental Hospital. Mr. Harrison and Sister Linah Dlamini have lectured to the Rural Health Visitors, and a Workshop was held with both rural health visitors and certain traditional healers during August, 1982.