SESSION II

Avenues for exploration

Chairman: DR DEREK RICHTER

Chairman's opening remarks

Ladies and gentlemen, we were told that this is the first full day meeting that has ever been held on this subject of 'epidemic neuromyasthenia'. I had not realized this, but surely it makes this almost an historic occasion in bringing the facts together. The intention to publish these proceedings should surely clinch the whole business.

We were asked to give answers to five questions. One, is there really a nosological entity of this kind?

Two, what should it be called? What name should we use, if there is one? Three, what are the criteria of defining it for the purposes of diagnosis; can we name the three or four essential criteria? Four, what future research could we do to extend our knowledge of the subject and especially its aetiology? Five, what should be the treatment?

Let us keep those questions in mind.