politician and the taxpayer than any scheme of sterilization could be, and he was convinced it was to the factors involved in it that we should look for any practical amelioration of this problem.

Prof. BOLTON, in replying to the discussion, said that it was difficult or impossible to summarize the question, and he would therefore confine his reply to such matters of interest as had appealed to him.

He remarked that the subject of mental deficiency was much more complicated than was thought by most people, and that it was impossible to fix an arbitrary standard as a basis for diagnosis. He drew attention, for example, to the case of lack of moral sense mentioned by Dr. Baugh where, without his scientific knowledge of the history of the case, it would have been impossible to detect any degree of mental deficiency. In this connection he referred them to the relatively low mental type of the population of certain areas of the North Riding which had been noted by Dr. Russell, and he compared this observation with his own experience in East Sussex. He remarked that the mentality in rural districts might readily be regarded as subnormal on the basis of the standard of large towns, although it would not be justifiable to compare such a population with the submerged mental tenth of cities. It was, therefore, impossible to judge of the existence of mental deficiency on the basis of mentality alone.

Prof. Bolton next referred to the question whether unmarried women who had had one or two illegitimate children should be sterilized in order that they might be discharged from workhouses. This was a detail specially emphasized by Dr. Russell, who stated that he knew several such cases who were voluntarily awaiting sterilization in order that they might obtain their discharge. He remarked that he took a different view from that of Dr. Russell. He regarded the question as more complicated. From his point of view it was not a question of whether any person was willing to be sterilized, but whether it was right that a person should be allowed voluntarily to submit to sterilization, and he drew special attention to the fact that such individuals would rarely appreciate the nature of the operation and the gravity of the permanent maiming which would follow it. He opposed sterilization because he regarded it as anti-social from the point of view of our moral standards. As far as he was concerned, he would sooner risk permanent detention than submit to being made into what was practically a eunuch in order that he might be granted his liberty; he would sooner be a whole man inside an institution or prison than half a man outside. He did not consider that we should be doing our duty to mental defectives by sterilizing them and turning them out into society solely to save ourselves from expense and trouble in looking after them. Mental deficiency was the penalty of our civilization, and it was a penalty which we ought to shoulder and not endeavour to evade. If the State decided to sterilize, let it sterilize, but without asking the patient. Should a nation be so unwise as to commit what, in his opinion, was a crime, it should commit it honestly and not hide behind the supposed free will of the patient. It if wished to do wrong let it do so without making any excuse.

Members were afterwards kindly entertained to tea by Dr. and Mrs. Ewing.

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## SCOTTISH DIVISION.

THE AUTUMN MEETING of the Scottish Division was held at the Jordanburn Nerve Hospital, Morningside Park, Edinburgh, on Friday, December 5, 1930.

The following members were present: Drs. R. B. Campbell, C. C. Easterbrook, T. C. Mackenzie, J. H. C. Orr, Patrick Steele, C. A. Crichlow, J. H. MacDonald, Donald Ross, W. Tuach Mackenzie, J. H. Skeen, W. Boyd, A. M. Dryden, A. J. Brock, C. J. Shaw, J. R. Robb, J. Macleod, Alexander Dick, R. D. Hotchkis, R. D. Clarkson, S. H. Maclachlan, M. E. McLaren, T. R. C. Spence, W. J. Rait, D. McMillan, Angus MacNiven, Aidan Thomson, W. D. Chambers, W. R. D. Fairbairn, George Gibson, D. J. Forbes, R. Bailey, W. H. Bryce, T. A. Munro, R. Dods Brown, A. Ninian Bruce, J. Borrie Harris, W. M. Harrowes, Neil T. Kerr, W. M. Buchanan, J. Ivison Russell, Prof. Robertson and Dr. R. Mary Barclay.

Dr. R. B. Campbell presided at the outset, and after expressing his thanks to

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the officials of the Division for their help during his term of office, introduced his successor as Chairman of the Division, Dr. Neil T. Kerr, who thereafter presided.

The minutes of the last Divisional Meeting were read, approved and signed by the Chairman.

Apologies for absence were intimated from Drs. D. K. Henderson, John Keay, Douglas McRae, S. R. Macphail, Henry Carre, J. McDougall, C. G. A. Chislett, Mary Knight and Sir Arthur Rose.

The Secretary read a letter of acknowledgment from Mrs. Macphail, thanking the members, on behalf of her husband, for their letter of sympathy and good wishes.

Dr. Douglas McRae was nominated for the position of Divisional Chairman for the year 1931–1932.

Drs. Douglas McRae and T. C. Mackenzie were nominated for the position of Representative Members of Council, and Dr. W. M. Buchanan for the position of Divisional Secretary.

The following candidate, after ballot, was unanimously admitted an ordinary member of the Association:

JOHN BORRIE HARRIS, L.R.C.P.&S.E., L.R.F.P.&S.G., Assistant Physician, Royal Edinburgh Hospital, West House, Morningside, Edinburgh.

*Proposed by* Prof. Robertson and Drs. T. R. C. Spence and M. E. McLaren.

The SECRETARY reported that he had again been unable to arrange a meeting of the Committee appointed to consider the method of nomination for divisional appointments, and was instructed to communicate with Drs. McRae and McAllister, inquiring if they still desired to press the points raised by them, failing which the meeting was of opinion that the Committee should be discharged.

The SECRETARY reported that, as instructed, the question of the marking of the May final examination papers had been raised at the quarterly meeting of the Educational Committee at Oxford in the month of July. Similar dissatisfaction with the marking was also expressed on behalf of the Irish training schools. The standard of one of the examiners had been found to be much higher than usual. In fairness to the candidates this examiner had consented to a reassessment of the papers marked by him, and as a result, forty additional passes had been notified to the training schools in Scotland.

Dr. T. C. MACKENZIE, having asked for explanations of several points in the new Regulations and Rules for the Nursing Certificate Examination (both as revised, February, 1930) inquired by what policy the Educational Committee was actuated in making the recent changes. It almost appeared as if an effort was being made to approximate the examination for the Association's Nursing Certificate to that of the General Nursing Council's, and he deplored this, considering that with the differences presently existing between the two examinations, that conducted by the Association was much the more suitable for mental nurses.

Several other members concurred, and expressed the opinion that too many changes in the Nursing Examination had recently been rushed without full consideration.

The meeting instructed the Scottish members of the Educational Committee to raise the question at the next quarterly meeting.

On the motion of Dr. T. C. MACKENZIE, seconded by Dr. R. B. CAMPBELL, it was unanimously agreed to request the Educational Committee to postpone the date when the Revised Rules and Regulations come into force from May, 1931, till November, 1931.

Members were kindly entertained to lunch, after which Mr. T. M. GARDINER, Chairman of the Board of Managers, welcomed the Division to Jordanburn, and Dr. NEIL T. KERR thanked the managers and Prof. Robertson and his staff for their hospitality and for the arrangements made in connection with the meeting.

After lunch members were shown the accommodation for early treatment, including the University Psychological Clinic for Children and Juveniles, the Out-Patient Department, and the Jordanburn Nerve Hospital. The rearranged hospital accommodation at the West House, Morningside, and the recently unveiled bust of Pinel were also inspected.

On the reassembly of the meeting, Prof. ROBERTSON, in a short address, outlined the essential features of a comprehensive scheme for the prevention and early treatment of mental disorders, and described how provision had been made for each of these features in association with the Jordanburn Hospital.

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Dr. DREVER gave an account of the types of case seen in the Psychological Clinic, and of the methods of investigation and treatment.

Dr. ANGUS MACNIVEN described the work of the Out-Patient Department.

Dr. T. R. C. SPENCE, in an analytical review of 100 consecutive cases admitted to the wards, described the forms of mental disorder and the results of treatment, and Dr. M. E. MCLAREN gave detailed descriptions of some illustrative cases.

An interesting discussion followed, which was contributed to by Drs. HARROWES, AIDAN THOMSON, R. M. BARCLAY, J. H. MACDONALD, A. J. BROCK, DODS BROWN, T. C. MACKENZIE, R. D. CLARKSON and Dr. J. IVISON RUSSELL, the Secretary of the Northern and Midland Division. Prof. ROBERTSON shortly replied.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the business of the meeting, after which members were kindly entertained to tea.

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## IRISH DIVISION.

THE AUTUMN QUARTERLY AND CLINICAL MEETING of the Irish Division was held at Portrane Mental Hospital, Donabate, co. Dublin, on Thursday, November 6, 1930, by the kind invitation of the Committee of Management and Dr. J. O'Conor Donelan, Medical Superintendent.

The following members were present: Dr. Richard R. Leeper in the chair, Drs. J. O'Conor Donelan, J. Mills, D. L. O'Kelly, W. Eustace, J. C. Martin, G. H. Keene, F. J. Deane, Stanley Blake, B. Lyons, Eveleen O'Brien, D. E. Allman, John FitzGerald, P. J. Cassin, B. F. Honan, C. B. Molony, K. Dillon, J. Dunne, J. Kearney, and R. Thompson, Hon. Sec.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, approved, and signed by the Chairman.

Before the business of the meeting was undertaken, the Chairman informed the members of the sad news he had just received of the death of Dr. Owen Felix McCarthy, Medical Superintendent of Cork Mental Hospital. He paid a high tribute to the personal and professional qualities of Dr. McCarthy, and proposed that a letter, conveying the deep sympathy of the Division, be sent to Mrs. McCarthy.

The following were, after ballot, declared unanimously elected members of the Association:

FRANCIS DE SALES MCMENAMIN, *M.C.*, M.B., Ch.B.Edin., 28, Upper Pembroke Street, Dublin.

*Proposed by* Drs. J. O'Conor Donelan, R. R. Leeper and John FitzGerald.

JOHN JOSEPH FITZGERALD, M.D.Durh. & Brux., Assistant Physician, Mental Hospital, Cork.

*Proposed by* Drs. Owen F. McCarthy, J. O'Conor Donelan and P. Moran.

GEOFFREY J. HARRISON, L.R.C.P. & S.I., Assistant Medical Officer, St. Edmondsbury, Lucan, co. Dublin.

*Proposed by* Drs. R. R. Leeper, R. Taylor and R. Thompson.

The meeting learned with pleasure that the General Nursing Council of the Irish Free State had invited Dr. O'Kelly to allow his name to go forward for election to the Council.

The Spring Meeting was fixed to take place on Thursday, April 2nd, 1931, at the Royal College of Physicians, if convenient.

### PAPER.—"Some Aspects of Dementia Præcox, with Special Reference to Modern Methods of Treatment," by J. KEARNEY, M.B., D.P.M., Assistant Medical Officer, Portrane Mental Hospital.

After a comprehensive review of the work done to elucidate the pathology of dementia præcox, the author gave the following account of his own results with the sulfosin treatment:

Few diseases have led to so many therapeutic and other efforts to find a cure as dementia præcox. Hence, when Dr. Loberg, of Sweden, instituted the treatment of dementia præcox by sulfosin, for the introduction of which treatment here we have to thank Dr. P. J. Dwyer, Deputy Medical Superintendent, we decided to adopt it with quite open minds. You will recollect that during Dr. Loberg's visit here last May, he read a paper on this subject before the members of this

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