following resolution was unanimously agreed to, on the proposal of Dr. NOLAN, seconded by Dr. O'NEILL, viz.:

"That the members of the Irish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain and Ireland hereby approve of the action taken by the Irish Asylum Officials Superannuation Committee, and beg to recommend the proposals made to the kind consideration of the Chief Secretary."

A resolution of thanks to Mr. John Redmond, M.P., for the kind support given by him to the representatives of the above-mentioned Committee was proposed by Dr. DRAPES, seconded by Dr. O'NEILL, and also passed unanimously.

A discussion on the best method of increasing interest in the work of the Association amongst the Assistant Medical Officers of Irish Asylums was opened by Dr. Leeper, and joined in by most of the members present. Several suggestions having been made, it was proposed by Dr. LEEPER, seconded by Dr. DAWSON, and resolved:—"That a Committee be formed consisting of Drs. Leeper, Norman, Nolan, Mills and Donelan, to consider the best method of promoting increased interest in the work of the Association amongst the Assistant Medical Officers: and that the Secretary to the Division be an *ex-officio* member of the Committee and the convener thereof." The last clause was added at the suggestion of the Chairman.

Dr. NORMAN brought forward a letter which he had received from Dr. Pilcz with reference to a Congress on the Nursing of the Insane to be held in Vienna, October 7th—11th, 1908, with a request that he would form a Committee, and stated that he was prepared to receive names of those desirous of attending.

Dr. DRAPES then read a paper entitled "The Unity of Insanity, and its bearing on Classification."

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the President and Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians for the use of the College Hall.

In the evening the members dined together at the Shelbourne Hotel.

THE AMSTERDAM INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS.

Reported by W. W. IRELAND, M.D.

The International Congress for Psychiatry, Neurology, and Psychology was held at Amsterdam from the 2nd to the 7th of September. The opening meeting in the Municipal Concert Hall was honoured with the presence of Queen Wilhelmina and her husband Prince Henry, with a staff of officers and many distinguished citizens. Addresses were delivered by Dr. van Raalte, Minister of Justice, and Professor Jelgersma, of Leyden. Some national songs and hymns by Verhulst and Handel were beautifully sung by a choir of 200 ladies.

Next morning the proceedings of the Congress commenced in the rooms of the University. In the programme it was announced that there were delegates from sixteen countries of Europe and North and South America, besides Japan. Britain, Austria, and Portugal had none. There were also delegates to represent forty-two learned societies. The official languages were French, English, and German. Seven hundred and fifty members were enrolled.

The subjects were discussed in three separate rooms. There were two sittings each day, and nearly a hundred communications were announced in the programme.

Section 1 was devoted to Psychiatry and Neurology. Dr. L. J. J. MUSKENS, of Amsterdam, gave a demonstration, with lantern slides, of his researches about cerebellar connections, principally carried on with vivisections on the rabbit and the cat. He indicated that after entire removal of the flocculus cerebelli and staining by Marchi's method, no degeneration is found in the corpora restiformia or the spinal cord; but there is coarse degeneration of the middle third of the superior crus cerebelli. The ventral cerebello-thalamic bundle of Probst, or the bundle of descending collaterals of the superior crus after Pelizzi and Cajal, is in all cases degenerated on the other side.

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From observations in the cat's brain Muskens is led to believe that most of the fibres of the ventral cerebello-thalamic bundle may be considered as a part of the decussation of the superior crus; the only difference being that they cross the raphé more deeply in the pons.

As far as the discussion on the functions of the cerebellum went, it is apparent that we have not reached a clear idea of the functions of that perplexing organ.

Dr. JELGERSMA, with lantern views, gave a demonstration of numerous sections of the whole brain and cerebellum.

RAMON Y. CAJAL gave illustrations of the degeneration of the axis-cylinders of the cerebrum and cerebellum after traumatic injuries.

Dr. F. W. MOTT, commencing with a description of the lemur's brain traced the evolution in the sensory areas through the primates to the human races.

Dr. W. H. GASKELL, of the University of Cambridge, gave a demonstration of the evolution of the vertebral central nervous system, from which it was made to appear that vertebrate animals were descended from the arthropoda. Though researches in genealogy sometimes help psychology, it must be owned that this is going pretty far back.

There was animated debating amongst the French and Germans about the pathology of hysteria. The old difficulty is to find for it an organic basis. Dr. Pierre Janet insisted that it was a mental disease to be studied after the methods used in psychology.

Dr. ERNEST JONES, of London, read a paper on "The Clinical Significance of Allochiria."

Dr. DAVID ORR, of Manchester, and Dr. R. G. ROWS, of the Lancaster Asylum, gave a lantern demonstration of lesions of spinal and cranial nerves experimentally produced by toxins.

Dr. M. CHARTIER, of Paris, detailed some experiments on dogs and rabbits to show that cultures of virulent microbes injected into the carotids may become the cause of inflammations identical with acute hæmorrhagic encephalitis.

Drs. J. MOREIRA and A. PEIXOTO gave an elaborate communication on the Mental Diseases in Brazil. In this vast territory there is a great variety of climates: a tropical and a sub-tropical zone, with a range of mean temperature varying from 15° to 25° C. There are also towns situated at high elevations. Brazil is inhabited by a great variety of races, and Europeans have better health than in any other country so near the equator. Notwithstanding these diverse conditions, the learned professors assure us that they failed to find any variation or particular character in mental pathology. They have not even observed in the tropical climates any great frequency of insanities connected with malarial fevers.

Their leading idea is that there is everywhere an increase of insanity following the progress of civilisation, and the unrest and excesses which accompany it. Neurasthenia is rare in Brazil; hysteria frequent. The percentage of cases of insanity set down as due to abuse of alcoholic liquors has, for the last ten years, kept about 28 in the number admitted to treatment. General paralysis is not so common in Brazil as in Europe; but is increasing year by year In the National Hospital for the Insane at Rio there were 9609 patients from 1889; amongst these there were 266 general paralytics, of whom only 12 were women, that is 2·76 *per cent.* of the number received.

Section II was devoted to psychology under the presidency of Dr. G. Heymans, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Groningen. Among the subjects considered were the difference between perception and idea, the illusions of simultaneity for disparate impressions, the oscillations of the attention, and negative hallucinations.

The PRESIDENT gave a lecture on the biographical methods of studying psychology.

Miss LOUISE ROBINOVITCH gave the results of her studies on the genesis of great men. Out of seventy-four biographies she found only ten first-born children, Gibbon, Milton, Arago, Addison, John Adams, Brahms, and Rubinstein were named; one might add Robert Burns, Sir Henry Vane, and Sir John Moore.

Dr. PAUL SOLLIER made an attack upon the view of the emotions upheld by Professors W. James and Lange. These philosophers consider that after an affecting conception a wave of excitement passes through the whole nervous system to the arteries and viscera according to the nature and intensity of the impression, and

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there is then a returning sensation of the changes thus induced in the body; all these processes are conjoined to make up an emotion. Dr. Sollier argued that it is the sentiment of the discharge of cerebral energy along with the intense activity of the brain which constitutes the emotion.

Dr. RÖMER, Sanitary Engineer to the Royal Marine of the Netherlands, has made a study of sexual periodicity in man. His observations on the rise and fall of the "geschlechtstriebe" are illustrated by four tables of curves, showing maxima every four days. They become highest about the full moon. Dr. Römer is inclined to think that owing to the angle in which the sun's rays are reflected by the moon a species of polarisation takes place, which may explain the effects.

Section III, which was given to the consideration of the care and nursing of the insane, was held in a room the walls of which were covered with portraits of former professors.

Dr. VAN DEVENTER read a paper on the "Education, Rights, and Duties of Attendants on the Insane." He would have those desirous of such employment to go through a course of training commencing with some knowledge of nature and of a trade which might be useful, and, with the female nurses, acquaintance with domestic economy and cooking. They should then have to go through a special education with yearly examinations, to end with a certificate or diploma. Dr. Deventer proposes liberal salaries for the attendants, and that they should be assured against accidents, sickness, and retirement from age, and pensions given to their widows and orphans.

It may be safely said, that unless the emoluments of the attendants on the insane be largely increased, there is no chance of candidates presenting themselves to go through such studies and examinations; but with the material we have for attendants and nurses we may console ourselves with Deventer's remark that the *la véritable education du garde-malade reside en bonne partie dans l'expérience.*

In a pamphlet of thirty pages lying for distribution, Dr. Deventer gives some account of his experience of twenty-five years in charge of the Hospital Wilhelmina, at Amsterdam, and the Asylum of Merenberg. During the last half century the number of the insane has increased much beyond the accommodation provided for them. Dr. Deventer looks back upon the time when, during the Easter Fair, the public were admitted, on payment, to see the mad people, and the keepers were accustomed to provoke them to fury in order to increase the interest of the spectacle. He is able to report great improvements, some of them introduced by himself, in the treatment of the insane in Holland. He argues at length in favour of the employment of female nurses in the male wards.

He tells us that for some years back a great number of lunatics have been admitted into the receiving houses (*asiles urbains*) situated in or near the town. These establishments have a special organisation, or, as at the Wilhelmina Hospital, occupy a particular section of the buildings. It has been found that from 30 to 75 *per cent.* of the patients admitted quit the urban hospitals recovered after from some weeks to six months medical treatment, and are thus saved from being consigned to the asylum. These good results are obtained especially when the patients are admitted without delay and on the first appearance of the mental derangements.

Dr. Deventer was followed by Dr. SHUTTLEWORTH, who detailed what was being done in England to raise the education and position of the attendants on the insane. It formed a striking antithesis when Dr. ALT, of Uchtspringe in Saxony, and Dr. PEETERS, of Gheel, dilated at length on the merits of the family treatment of the insane. No question here of special studies or examinations for the attendants. The willingness to receive a lunatic into a cottage at a small board seems of itself to confer the ability to treat the patients in a way superior in every respect to that bestowed in the hospitals and asylums. Dr. Peeters maintained that even cases of acute insanity were better treated when boarded in families in Gheel. He further observed that from the absence of amusement and healthy occupation in the closed asylums (*asiles fermés*) there was a superadded tendency for the patients to sink into dementia.

These views were repeated in a special conference, and seemed to have passed without public criticism, although every one was not convinced. Indeed, during the whole Congress there was a dearth of discussion; but with so many papers it was difficult to get through them all.

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Dr. MARIE, of Villejuif, considered that all cases of acute insanity should go as early as possible to the hospitals. To make room for fresh arrivals convalescent and chronic patients should be transferred to colonies thrown around the asylums where country work would be provided for them. Harmless lunatics, epileptics, and grown-up imbeciles might be boarded in more distant places.

Dr. VAN RENTERGHEM, in a paper on "Psychotherapy," defended the employment of hypnotic suggestion against the strictures of Déjérine and Dubois, in which he was supported by Dr. Lloyd Tuckey.

Dr. W. W. IRELAND read a paper on "The Increase of Nervous Diseases and of Insanity"; after which Dr. J. H. MACDONALD read Dr. Easterbrook's paper on "The Treatment of Active Insanity by Rest in Bed in the Open Air." The rest treatment was introduced by Dr. Paetz, of Alt-Scherhitz, in 1881, and the open-air treatment has been used for several years on an extensive scale in the State Hospital in Ward's Island, New York, as recorded in a communication to the Congress by Dr. William Mabon. It has also been used for several years by Dr. H. Marr, of the Woodilee Asylum. Dr. Easterbrook has, at the Ayr Asylum, combined these two methods. He has found that, in his patients lying in bed all day in the verandahs, the open-air has a calmative effect, promoting sleep and increasing the appetite. The improvement commences with the mental symptoms, whereas, when the patients were walked about by attendants the mental improvement was subsequent to that of the general health.

There was an interesting exhibition in the City Museum illustrating the History of Medicine and Pharmacology. The members were supplied with a catalogue of 104 pages, in Dutch, French, English, and German, with ten plates designed to portray the dismal apparatus of confinement and restraint used in the old asylums. A collection of these were exhibited in one room, and in another the complex instruments of physiological research, amongst which the instruments for registering muscular and other motions designed by Dr. Wertheim Salomonson, were especially noteworthy. Old strait waistcoats, muffs, and manacles form not unusual exhibits for visitors to medical associations, though it may be questioned whether it is wise for those who have in their hands the treatment of the insane to be so ready to recall neglect and mismanagement, which have passed away never to return. Practitioners in ordinary medicine and surgery take no delight in reminiscences of the old blunders of Dr. Sangrado and Diaforius, bleeding in fevers, leeching in consumption, mercurial salivations by the quart, and other horrors of the past. It is assumed, somewhat too lightly, that the present generation of medical men are quite exempt from carrying to excess treatment based upon theories not completely proved.

The members had reason to be grateful to the Secretaries, Drs. Deventer, Wayenburg, and Londen, for securing them accommodation, and rendering their stay in Amsterdam agreeable. The usefulness of these International Congresses consists, not so much in announcing or discussing new scientific discoveries, as in diffusing amongst medical men and jurists a knowledge of the most advanced ideas on the care and treatment of the insane.

The entertainments so kindly provided were certainly as much attended as the formal meetings. They comprised a reception by Dr. and Mrs. Deventer, another by the Students' Club, and a third by the Burgomaster of Amsterdam, and a choice Choral Entertainment in the Leidische Plain Theatre.

There was an excursion to Zaandam to see the hut where the Tzar Peter lived when he came to Holland to learn shipbuilding. From the deck of the steamboat we looked down upon the flat fields, gardens, and moist meadows divided into squares by ditches and canals. We had the pleasure of exchanging greetings with our American colleagues, most of them already known to us by reputation. Amongst others we met with Dr. Alder Blumer, Dr. Brush, Dr. C. H. Hughes, Dr. Hurd, and Dr. Carlos MacDonald. There were forty American members at the Congress.

On Saturday there was an excursion to Leyden and the Hague. We were shown through the asylum at Endegeest, where there are about 400 patients. The Congress terminated with a public dinner in the Kursal of Scheveningen, a fashionable watering-place, and a concert. It may be here mentioned that preparations have been already begun for holding the next International Congress at Vienna in the autumn of 1908.

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At the International Congress held at Milan in 1906 a Committee was elected to consider the causes of mental diseases and their prophylaxis. The members met at Amsterdam in the University. It was announced that the King of Italy had promised his patronage, and the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs had engaged to bring this business before the governments of different countries and to ask them to send delegates. In a communication drawn up by Dr. van Deventer, of Amsterdam, and Dr. J. W. Deknatel, of Breda, it was recommended that an International Committee should be formed for the study of mental diseases, which should collect all documents and information relating to the prevention of such derangements and to the degeneration of the human race, with a view to enlighten governments and peoples about the general measures to prevent such degenerations, especially insanity. Each country might send several delegates, but should only have one vote. It was suggested that the sum of from 10,000 to 30,000 francs should be granted for the expenses of a central bureau, and that the money should be raised by contributions of so much for each million of the population (a shrewd proposal, coming from a small State). The International Committee should meet once a year, and should hold an International Congress every three years, and publish noteworthy contributions to the knowledge of the subject.

"The Commission will prepare the organisation of the international statistics of lunacy," assuredly a most desirable object.

The meetings of the Committee at Amsterdam were occupied with some brisk debates about laying down rules of procedures and lines of inquiry. Members of different countries had a difficulty in understanding one another. How many questions connected with insanity require to be settled before we can set out on the collective investigation of its etiology! *e.g.* What amount is to be allowed to drunkenness as an efficient cause? Is insanity increasing? Is cerebral apoplexy a nerve-substance or arterial disease? Then we must agree to have a common classification of insanity. British alienists will be urged to receive paranoia, and Germans to give up katatonia.

Drs. MARIE and LADAME proposed that an international commission should be constituted to consider the conditions under which foreigners who fall insane should receive assistance or be sent back to their own countries.

REPORT ON THE MENTAL HOSPITALS OF THE COLONY OF NEW ZEALAND FOR 1906.

This report has been prepared by Dr. Frank Hay, who has succeeded to the post of Inspector-General on the death of Dr. Macgregor, who had served the Department of Asylums and Hospitals for twenty years, during which time the number of patients on the registers increased from 1613 to 3206, while the number of officials increased from 213 to 464. The cost per patient in 1886 was £30 11*s.* 8½*d.*, net £27 0*s.* 9*d.*; while the cost in 1906 was £35 2*s.* 10*d.*, net £26 10*s.* 6½*d.* It is interesting to note that ordinary attendants are now paid £95 as against £80 maximum, nurses £55 as against £45 maximum in 1886. Dr. Hay relates that the Departments of Asylums and Hospitals were administered by no ordinary man; Dr. Macgregor had a mind as massive as his frame, his nobility of thought, his geniality, his forcefulness in action, made up a personality which left its mark on the civil service of the Colony. He bequeathed to the Department a tradition of justice, of courage to do what is right without thought of applause or blame, and of a righteous regard for the public purse. Those who had the advantage of knowing something of Dr. Macgregor and his work will re-echo Dr. Hay's testimony.

The official records of the mental hospitals, now departmentally disjoined from the general hospitals of the Colony, form interesting reading. As we have indicated, the total number of patients has greatly increased and they are now accommodated in seven public and one private asylum. The numbers in the former vary from 714 in the Dunedin Asylum to 145 in Nelson Asylum. The accommodation for men is sufficient for present requirements, but an excess of 35 women is spread over the mental hospitals. The proportion of the total insane to the total population is 3·49

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