Dr. MACDONALD said that was not his point, which was that there was no use in calling it a hospital if the Commissioners would only call it an asylum in their forms.

Dr. GOODALL, with regard to the President's remarks, said he did not think that the change of name could be properly compared with a change in the name of a vice, because they could not alter the conception of a vice by altering its name, but he did not see why they should not alter the conception of a disease. He was glad to know that the President approved of what he said as to psychiatrical clinics; it was undoubtedly the most important question of the day for them.

The PRESIDENT, taking advantage of his right to the last word, said he would call Dr. Goodall's attention, without resting any argument upon it, to the fact that the name "asylum" was given to these institutions originally in substitution for the name "mad-house," and the term "asylum" was chosen as being the one most completely free from all objectionable association. An asylum was really the place to which one fled for safety, but now an asylum had got to be definitely associated with lunacy, and they only thought of it in that way, but when it was first adopted it had no such significance.

Dr. EDEN PAUL contributed a paper on "Dr. Bloch's Views on Psychopathia Sexualis," as set forth in the volume which Dr. Paul has translated into English, and which is entitled *The Sexual Life of our Time in its Relations to Modern Civilisation*.

Drs. Goodall, Soutar, and Mercier took part in the discussion which ensued, and Dr. Paul replied.

The proceedings closed by votes of thanks being accorded to Dr. Mercier for presiding, and to Dr. MacBryan for his hospitality.

The members subsequently dined together at Fortt's Restaurant, Bath.

NORTHERN AND MIDLAND DIVISION.

The AUTUMN MEETING of the Northern and Midland Division was held, by the kind invitation of Dr. Archdale, at the East Riding Asylum, Beverley, on Thursday, October 22nd, 1908. Dr. Archdale presided.

The following 14 members were present:—Drs. Archdale, Anderson, Cross, Gane, Geddes, Hitchcock, Hopkins, McDowall, C., McDowall, T., May, Merson, Pierce, Simpson, Adair, and 3 visitors—Drs. Bailey, Ranson, and Stephenson.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

It was proposed by Dr. Archdale, and seconded by Dr. Geddes, that Drs. Hitchcock, T. McDowall, and Bedford Pierce should form the Divisional Committee for the next twelve months. This was carried unanimously.

The place of meeting for the Spring Meeting was left to the Secretary to arrange.

Dr. French was unfortunately prevented from being present to give his paper as announced on the Agenda.

Dr. ARCHDALE read a paper entitled "Remarks on Hospital (*i. e.* Asylum) Treatment of the Acute Insane." He first reminded the meeting of certain ætiological factors in the causation of acute insanity. From these he deduced the following principles or aims of treatment—to afford rest as complete as possible, to eradicate parasites and assist excretion, and, finally, during the stage of convalescence, to exercise all faculties in a gradual manner. He then went on to show the details of methods by which such principles might be carried out in practice. This he did by remarking on the following subjects:—Confinement to bed in the fresh air, isolation and observation, psychic treatment or suggestion therapeutics, sepsis in the mouth and other parts, disturbed metabolism, antiseptics and sanitation, regulation of the bowels, water drinking and saline injections, milk and simple diet, observations of urine and weight, hypnotics and sedatives, and exercise.

Dr. T. W. MCDOWALL remarked that the paper traversed the whole field of treatment, and offered many interesting points for discussion. He was gratified to see that Asylum Medical Officers were taking so much interest in the treatment of the acute insanities.

Drs. HOPKINS, HITCHCOCK, GEDDES, and PIERCE joined in the discussion. Dr. Hitchcock emphasised the fact that the elimination of toxins and the use of rest were most beneficial.

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Dr. ARCHDALE then replied to various questions which the paper had suggested.

Dr. COLIN MCDOWALL read a paper on "Blood Changes as a means of Prognosis in the Acute Insanities." He said that leucocytosis was a phenomenon which most authorities regarded as the reaction of the organism against an invading toxin. By an observance of the character of the leucocytosis and the presence or absence of an eosinophilia, together with the advent of dementia, a prognosis could be arrived at. Excitement with confusion gave more uniform results than did depression with excitement. The observations made regarding the latter disease did not coincide entirely with those of other workers upon this subject. Chloral and morphin as depressants were not advocated in cases in which the leucocyte count was low. A regular moderate leucocytosis was regarded as the most hopeful sign found in the blood, especially if accompanied by an eosinophilia. Whilst there was leucocytosis there was hope.

A number of coloured drawings were shown, illustrating blood in the diseases under discussion.

Dr. MERSON and Dr. ARCHDALE made some remarks on the paper, and Dr. MCDOWALL replied.

Dr. SIMPSON read a paper entitled "The Prognosis in the more Acute Forms of Mental Disorder." He pointed out the difficulties there were in treating of prognosis—arising from classification, from the peculiar individual nature of insanity, and from the meaning attached to the term "recovery." He showed how the various factors of sex, age, heredity, the form of mental disorder, the duration of the disorder, and bodily disease affected the prognosis; that the prognosis was more favourable in males than females in the ratio of 1·07 to 1; that it was more favourable in melancholia than in mania, and very unfavourable in delusional and epileptic insanity. He commented upon the public ideas and prejudices against asylums, and emphasised the necessity for early treatment.

Dr. ARCHDALE exhibited and explained the use of Oliver's hæmomanometer for estimating blood pressure.

A very interesting and instructive meeting was then brought to a close by a hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Archdale for his kind hospitality.

SCOTTISH DIVISION.

The HALF-YEARLY MEETING of the Scottish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association was held in the Hall of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, on Friday, 20th November, 1908.

There was a large attendance of members. Dr. Clouston occupied the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN referred in fitting terms to the death, since last meeting, of Dr. Cameron, Lochgilphead, and the loss thereby to the Association. It was moved that it be recorded in the minutes "That the members of the Scottish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association desire to express their deep regret at the loss of Dr. Cameron and their sympathy with the members of his family in their bereavement," and the Secretary was instructed to transmit an excerpt of the minutes to the relatives of Dr. Cameron.

The Superannuation Allowances Committee reported that Sir John Jardine, M.P. for Roxburgh, had stated his intention of bringing in next session the Bill drafted by the division. Formal notice of the Bill has to be published in the *Edinburgh Gazette* on 20th and 24th instant. It was suggested that all the Scottish members and others who can assist in the promotion of the measure should be approached in due time, and every endeavour made to ensure the passing of the Bill.

The SECRETARY, Dr. Hamilton Marr, submitted a list of acknowledgments received in connection with the illuminated excerpt from the minutes of meeting of 19th March last regarding the Jubilee of the Present Legislative System of Lunacy Administration in Scotland, a copy of which had been sent to the Chairman and the Superintendent of each of the Scottish asylums. It was unanimously resolved that letters from the General Board of Lunacy, Dr. John Macpherson, H.M. Commissioner in Lunacy, and the Chairmen of the several Scottish District Asylums should be engrossed in the minutes.

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