mention had been made of the desirability of conducting research into the problems of mental disease. He suggested that the Sub-Committee appointed to deal with this question should make a further effort to have the claims of research into the problems of mental disease recognized, and that the Sub-Committee might also consider the wider problems of the organization and equipment of mental hospitals. After some discussion Dr. Moran's suggestions were agreed to, and the Sub-Committee was requested to report progress to the next meeting of the Division. Dr. Clifford was appointed an additional member of this Sub-Committee.

The meeting then accepted, with pleasure, Dr. Green's invitation to hold the Summer Meeting at Carlow Mental Hospital on Saturday, July 18, 1936.

Dr. C. J. McCarthy, Assistant Medical Officer, Grangegorman Mental Hospital, then read a very interesting communication on **"Criminal Responsibility in the Insane"**. Dr. McCarthy stressed the many anomalies which exist in the application and interpretation of the Criminal Law with regard to the insane, and he made a number of suggestions which, in his opinion, would tend to decrease these anomalies.

Following Dr. McCarthy's paper, Dr. Scroope read an interesting commentary on Dr. McCarthy's suggestions and on present-day tendencies in medico-legal work. Both these papers were very fully discussed by the members present, many of whom expressed the obligation the Division was under to the authors for bringing this important subject before the meeting.

The Chairman then proposed a cordial vote of thanks to Dr. and Mrs. Scroope for their kind hospitality. This was carried unanimously. Subsequently the members were kindly entertained to tea by Mrs. Scroope.

MIDLAND MENTAL PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

The fourth meeting of the Midland Mental Pathological Society was held in the Birmingham University Anatomical Department on Thursday, March 26. Dr. John Beattie addressed the Society on the functional activity of the hypothalamus, laying stress on its dual nature, the anterior being related to the parasympathetic and the posterior portion related to the true sympathetic. He did not favour a precise localization of specific reactivity, but described the results which stimulation produced in the heart, stomach, bladder, body temperature and blood sugar. Twenty-eight members were present. Sir Gilbert Barling (President) congratulated the lecturer, and contributed, with others, to an interesting discussion and appreciation of the lecture.

BRITISH NATIONAL HUMAN HEREDITY COMMITTEE.

The British National Human Heredity Committee was formed in 1932 for the collection of data and the investigation of human pedigrees, as a branch of the International Human Heredity Committee working with the International Federation of Eugenic Organizations. It has now been enlarged as a Council and has secured accommodation at 115, Gower Street, London, W.C. 1; and in collaboration with the Galton Laboratory, aims at setting up a clearing-house for material on human genetics. The Council consists of a number of geneticists and leading medical men, with Prof. Ruggles Gates as Chairman, Sir Laurence Halsey as Treasurer, Dr. Fraser Roberts as Honorary Scientific Secretary, and Mrs. C. B. S. Hodson as Honorary General Secretary. The direction of the work is to be in the hands of a small Executive Committee.

The Council would be grateful to receive all available material from institutions

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and individuals, furnishing well-authenticated data on the transmission of human traits, whatever these may be. Family histories or pedigrees, twin studies and statistical researches are mainly contemplated. As research workers and others who send in material may in some cases wish to retain the sole right of publication or copyright, those who so desire are asked to accompany their material with a statement to that effect.

Reprints of published work would also be most acceptable. Many authors when publishing material may also have collected a number of pedigrees which they have been unable to reproduce in detail. It is the object of the Council that such records, by being included in the Clearing House, should not be lost. Those wishing a copy of the standard International Pedigree Symbols may obtain one from the office.

Material should be accompanied by all available details in regard to source, diagnostic symptoms, and the name and address of the person or persons who vouch for accuracy. All such details will be regarded as strictly confidential.

The other objects contemplated in this enterprise, namely, facilities for study, replies to inquiries and information service cannot be initiated for some time. An announcement of these activities will be made later.

OBITUARY.

John Mills.

By the death of Dr. Mills, which occurred in a Dublin hospital on March 18, 1936, the Irish Division has lost not only its Chairman, but one of its outstanding personalities.

Dr. Mills entered mental hospital work as far back as 1891, when he became Clinical Assistant to Dr. Conolly Norman at the Richmond (now Grangegorman) Mental Hospital. In 1893—in which year he also became a Member of the Association—he was appointed Assistant Medical Officer to Ballinasloe Mental Hospital, and he was destined to remain associated with this institution for the remainder of his life, succeeding to the post of Resident Medical Superintendent in 1916.

It is indeed difficult to convey in a few words the personality of such a man as Dr. Mills. Up to his last illness he seemed possessed of an amazing energy, with an intense interest in a multitude of affairs. He never tired talking of the many improvements he had initiated, or contemplated, in his own hospital, and, just before his last illness, extensive plans for an auxiliary hospital and other improvements—costing around £300,000—had been carried through. It is said that he knew intimately every one of his two thousand odd patients, and those who knew him can well believe it.

In wider circles, also, Dr. Mills's influence was markedly felt. He was a keen antiquarian, a Member of the Royal Society of Antiquaries, a staunch supporter of his Church and a prominent speaker in all her Councils. In the social life of the west of Ireland it is probable that few figures were better known than his. In his earlier days he was prominently identified with the East Galway Hunt, and throughout his life he was an ardent supporter of the Ballinasloe District Agricultural Society. Indeed, farming and the life of the country always seemed to appeal particularly to him, and he used his knowledge to increase greatly occupational therapy in farming pursuits amongst his patients. In this respect he often claimed to be a pioneer.

An arresting and witty speaker, an entertaining companion and the kindest of friends, Dr. Mills was literally loved by those who had the privilege of knowing him. He died probably as he would have wished, at the peak of his activity and with no sign of diminution in any of his many interests. R. Thompson.

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