In the forenoon members were shown round the Hospital, and the new Tuberculosis Hospital was inspected.

The members and visitors were then entertained to lunch by Dr. Vincent. At the conclusion a very cordial vote of thanks was moved by Dr. Dove Cormac, and carried by acclamation.

The minutes of the Spring Meeting were read and confirmed, and signed by the Chairman, Dr. Dove Cormac.

The three following candidates for membership were balloted for and declared duly elected :

ARTHUR BLACKWELL PAUL, M.A., M.B., B.Ch.Camb., Consulting Physician, Cheshire County Mental Hospital, Chester ; Hon. Physician, Chester Royal Infirmary.

Proposed by Drs. Healey, Grills and Chevens.

ROBERT STEWART KENNEDY, M.B., Ch.B., Assistant Medical Officer, Cheshire County Mental Hospital, Chester.

Proposed by Drs. Grills, Healey and Chevens.

ALASTAIR GORDON COUSTON, L.R.C.P.&S.Edin., Assistant Medical Officer, Cheshire County Mental Hospital, Chester.

Proposed by Drs. Grills, Healey and Chevens.

The following were elected as the Divisional Committee: Drs. Archdale, Barkas, Dove Cormac and Edgerley.

Dr. Shaw was suggested for nomination as Chairman ; Dr. J. Ivison Russell as Secretary ; Drs. Blair and Archdale as Representative Members of Council.

The invitation of Dr. Dove Cormac for the Spring Meeting, 1932, to take place at Macclesfield was accepted. The date and place of the Autumn Meeting were not fixed.

The CHAIRMAN reported the following resolution of the Divisional Committee as regards the appointment of Examination Inspectors, and this was approved :

> " That the Area Examination Secretaries be nominated to act as Inspectors in their areas, provided that each, with the approval of the Registrar, may nominate a deputy to act for them."

Dr. ARTHUR HALL then gave a lecture on **"Ocular-Fixation Attacks in Chronic Epidemic Encephalitis."** He showed lantern-slides illustrating the condition, and discussed the symptom from the clinical point of view, especially in relation to sleep states. An interesting discussion followed, in which several members took part. Dr. Hall was thanked for his paper.

Dr. J. E. NICOLE read a paper by Dr. Fitzgerald and himself on **"The Sero-Diagnosis of Syphilis in Mental Hospital Practice"** (*vide* p. 96). This gave rise to considerable discussion.

Dr. F. T. THORPE then demonstrated the pathology of three cases, with lantern-slides : (1) Pick's disease ; (2) Alzheimer's disease ; (3) argyria.

Dr. VINCENT then gave **"Some Observations on Hypnagogic Hallucinations."** These were illustrated by drawings from his own experience of the state. The relationship to migraine and other conditions was discussed.

Tea was served during the afternoon, and a long and interesting meeting concluded at 5.30 p.m.

SCOTTISH DIVISION.

THE AUTUMN MEETING of the Scottish Division was held at the Argyll and Bute Mental Hospital, Lochgilphead, on Friday and Saturday, October 23 and 24, 1931.

Present : Drs. Jas. Valentine, W. McWilliam, J. A. Jenkins, M. R. Knight, R. D. Hotchkis, J. H. MacDonald, John Keay, Neil T. Kerr, Ronald Stewart, George Gibson, T. R. C. Spence, Angus MacNiven, W. M. McAlister, D. K. Henderson, Donald Ross, W. D. Chambers, C. J. Shaw, Douglas McRae and W. M. Buchanan.

Dr. Neil T. Kerr presided at the outset, and after expressing his thanks to the officials of the Division for their help during his term of office, introduced his successor as Chairman of the Division, Dr. Douglas McRae, who thereafter presided.

Before taking up the ordinary business of the meeting the Chairman feelingly referred to the deaths of Dr. John Carswell and Dr. Samuel Rutherford Macphail. Short personal tributes were paid to the memories of these old colleagues and friends by Dr. J. H. MacDonald, Dr. George Gibson and Dr. Donald Ross. It was unanimously resolved that it be recorded in the minutes that the members of the Scottish

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Division of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association desire to express their deep sense of loss sustained by the deaths of Dr. John Carswell and Dr. S. R. Macphail, and their sympathy with the members of their families in their bereavement, and the Secretary was instructed to send an excerpt of the minute to Mrs. Carswell and Mrs. Macphail.

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

The SECRETARY submitted a letter from Mrs. Alexander, thanking the Division for its kind letter of sympathy, and a letter from Mrs. Macphail, thanking the Division for the floral tribute sent at the time of her husband's death.

The following candidates, after ballot, were unanimously admitted ordinary members of the Association:

RONALD STEWART, M.B., Ch.B.Glas., Deputy Medical Officer of Health for Mental Services, Corporation of Glasgow, 23, Montrose Street, Glasgow.
Proposed by Drs. W. M. Buchanan, Donald Ross and D. K. Henderson.

JAMES VALENTINE, M.B., Ch.B.Glas., Assistant Physician, Glasgow Royal Mental Hospital; 1055, Great Western Road, Glasgow.
Proposed by Drs. D. K. Henderson, W. M. Buchanan and T. F. Rodger.

GEORGE MACDONALD BELL, M.B., Ch.B.Edin., Medical Superintendent, Banff District Asylum, Banff.
Proposed by Drs. Wm. Boyd, Wm. Tuach Mackenzie and D. J. Forbes.

WILLIAM NOEL JAMES CHAPMAN, M.B., Ch.B.Edin., D.P.H., Dipl. Psych., Assistant Medical Officer, Lanark District Asylum, Hartwood.
Proposed by Drs. Neil T. Kerr, G. Dunlop Robertson and W. M. Buchanan.

The SECRETARY reported that, as instructed at the last meeting, he had written to the General Board of Control for Scotland in the following terms:

"KIRKLANDS MENTAL HOSPITAL,
"BOTHWELL;
"*11th June*, 1931.

"THE SECRETARY,
"GENERAL BOARD OF CONTROL,
"EDINBURGH.

"SIR,—

"At a meeting of the Scottish Division of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association on 5th inst., following the submission of your letter of 5th March, 1931, I was instructed to write and ask if the Division may not be favoured with the views of your Board on the points raised in my letter of 26th February, 1931.

"I am, Sir,
"Your obedient Servant,
"WM. M. BUCHANAN,
"*Divisional Secretary*."

The following reply had been received:

"GENERAL BOARD OF CONTROL
"FOR SCOTLAND,
"EDINBURGH;
"*23rd July*, 1931.

"SIR,—

"The Board direct me to say that they have given careful consideration to the matters referred to in your letter of 26th February, 1931, but they have been unable to find any grounds upon which they can directly interfere.

"Your Association will doubtless agree that certain administrative changes were to be expected as the result of the coming into force of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1929, and I need hardly add that if any matter arises upon which the Board feel that they are called upon to take action, they will not fail to do so.

"I am, Sir,
"Your obedient servant,
"J. A. W. STONE,
"*Secretary*."

The SECRETARY reported that at the Annual Meeting in Dublin, it had been decided that the Divisional Secretaries should act as Examination Inspectors for

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the November Nursing Examinations, and further, that he had declined to act in this capacity in Scotland. After some general discussion regarding Examination Inspectors, Dr. J. H. Macdonald moved that such inspectors be appointed in the Scottish Division. There being no seconder, the motion fell.

Dr. D. K. HENDERSON, in introducing a discussion on tentative arrangements for the Second International Congress of Mental Hygiene, reviewed the growth of the mental welfare movement, and drew attention to the fact that Scotland was not officially represented at the First Congress at Washington in 1930, and meantime had no representation in the chain of international organizations for Mental Hygiene. He expressed the view that such independent representation was desirable, and considered that it could best be attained through the Scottish Association for Mental Welfare—a body which had been doing excellent work for many years. This Association was fully representative of all interests, its membership including psychiatrists, psychologists, educationists and social workers, along with members of the central and local authorities concerned. It was deserving of more active support than it had received from every member of the Scottish Division. Dr. Henderson was cordially thanked for the comprehensive and helpful survey made in his paper, the discussion of which was adjourned.

This concluded the business of the first day's session, prior to which members and their guests were kindly entertained to tea by Dr. and Mrs. Ross at Tigh-na-Linne. A dinner at which members' wives were present was held in the Masonic Hall in the evening. The enjoyment of this was enhanced by a charming programme of Gaelic music.

On the meeting reassembling on the morning of October 24, the discussion of Dr. Henderson's paper was resumed. Dr. Ross (who had recently attended, in the Scottish interest, a preliminary meeting held in Paris to discuss arrangements for the Second International Congress), Dr. Knight, Dr. MacNiven, Dr. McAlister and the Chairman took part. It was unanimously agreed that those members of this Division who were also members of the Scottish Association for Mental Welfare, should express to that Association the opinion that it should approach the Council of the International Body for recognition as the national organization for Mental Hygiene in Scotland, and that such approach would have the sympathetic support of the members of the Division.

It was unanimously agreed that the Division send an invitation to the President to hold the February Quarterly Meeting of the Association in Scotland, preferably in Glasgow.

Dr. Ross gave a brief summary of the state of affairs with respect to " pauper lunatics " in Scotland prior to the passing of the Act of 1857, which set up District Lunacy Boards and provided for the erection of " District Asylums "—institutions which came to enjoy a deservedly high reputation.

The Argyll and Bute Mental Hospital was the very first of these institutions to be built, and received its first patient in 1863. In summarizing its history he was really giving an epitome of the chief changes which had taken place in the institutional treatment of mental disorders since that day. On the wall were portraits of his four predecessors in office—Sir John Sibbald, Dr. J. M. Rutherford, Dr. John Cameron, and Dr. C. J. Shaw—along with that of Dr. A. Campbell Clark; and he proceeded to outline a few of the great changes effected by these men—improvements which had their origin in Lochgilphead, and spread till they became world-wide in their adoption. On the motion of Dr. Kerr, Dr. Ross was cordially thanked for his paper.

The following cases were demonstrated by Dr. Ross:

1. Case of verbigeration of unusual degree.
2. Case of congenital mental defect with rudimentary eyes, one of three children of the same family with the same defect.
3. An extreme case of achondroplasia in an imbecile.
4. A case of moral defect, with a long history of escapes and recertifications dating back to 1883.
5. Case of encephalitis lethargica in a child, with complete unilateral arrest of development.
6. Two cases of encephalitis lethargica in an uncle and nephew, the nephew's illness being attributed to the fact that he had occupied the uncle's bed after the latter's removal for treatment ten years ago.

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Thereafter members were conducted throughout the various parts of the hospital and its annexes by Dr. Ross.

Members were kindly entertained to lunch at the hospital, after which the Rev. Mr. Macphail, in the unavoidable absence of the Chairman, welcomed the Division to Lochgilphead on behalf of the Joint Committee of Argyll and Bute Mental Hospital, and Dr. J. H. Macdonald thanked the Joint Committee and Dr. Ross and his staff for their kind hospitality and for the arrangements made in connection with the meeting. During lunch the pipe band and the brass band of the institution played musical selections on the lawn.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editors of the 'Journal of Mental Science.'

SIR,—I have read with interest the review of *Family Council Law in Europe* in your October issue. As this is a subject of which I have made considerable study, I should be much obliged if you would allow me to make one or two comments.

I can well imagine that the book reviewed—*Family Council Law in Europe*—presents some matters confusedly, and that the statements which strike me as misleading in the review are due to faults in the book. None the less, it is desirable to put forward the facts with which I am acquainted, and which are in divergence.

Family councils are spoken of as "dying institutions," and this assertion is apparently drawn from the statement that they have "fallen into disuse in Germany and been superseded by State responsibility in Scandinavia." In regard to Germany, the case is really comparable to that of Scandinavia and Holland. In all these countries it may really be maintained that the problem of the borderline case—that is, the person who, from some temperamental disability or disease (including senility), is really only fit for the responsibilities of a minor—have been *extended*. The "supersession" of responsibility by the State instead of the family council seems to have come into being in order to deal with cases where there was no family to assume responsibility.

In all the countries named, legislation is codified. This system tends to legislative economy, and to creating one enactment to cover as many cases as possible. Thus in countries where, under some family council system, it has long been possible to deal with irresponsible persons who are not clearly insane and certifiable, by making their families responsible (with legal assistance) for dealing with their affairs, when further legislation was demanded for cases where no suitable relatives could be found, both sets of minors have been included under a State system which could be invoked equally by members of the family, or by social workers and institutions replacing the family guardians.

I know the book published by the Eugenics Society, and in my view its general trend emphasizes a serious gap in our English system in that we have no convenient means of dealing with cases which are either non-certifiable, or whom, as in the case of the senile, family affection hesitates to certify, while in almost every other civilized state a convenient system exists for treating as minors or partial minors such cases, either by the family council system, built up on Roman law, or by the substitution of State guardianship. This hardly makes the impression of an interesting study of an obsolescent system of no practical interest or concern to psychiatrists and those dealing with social problems.

CORA HODSON.

THE BOARD OF CONTROL.

On the retirement of Mr. O. E. Dickinson, the Board of Control have appointed Mr. P. Barter to be Secretary of the Board, and Mr. W. Fairley to be Assistant Secretary.

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