Hallucinations of sight and hearing were sometimes present, but many of the cases were quite conscious of the hallucinations, and realised that they were abnormal, and were, therefore, not to be regarded as ordinarily insane patients suffering from hallucinatory states. Altogether it appeared that 56 patients out of the original 104 had been dealt with at the Richmond Asylum War Hospital. Of these 26 had been sent to other asylums, 12 had been sent home, and the balance had been able to resume their occupations. The patients were segregated from the other asylum inmates, and not certified insane.

Dr. LEEPER pointed out that so far as he understood the causation of shell shock was due to the sudden effect upon the blood vascular system by shell explosion, driving the blood of the body towards the nerve centres, and thereby disorganising or injuring them with sudden violence, or interfering with their functions.

Major W. R. DAWSON gave a most interesting account of cases of shell shock and cases resulting from war stress. These varied from cases of slight nervous disturbance, where men were easily startled by sudden sounds or noises, to the most serious breakdowns.

Cases in which excessive tremor was a cardinal symptom in patients suffering from traumatic neurasthenia, loss of speech, and hearing, and sight. Loss of sight appeared to be regained quicker than the loss of hearing or speech. It is often most difficult to restore the powers of speech. Some had got good results from treatment by hypnotism, but this had been found of little use in other hands. Major Dawson spoke of the great kindness and attention of Dr. Forde and Dr. Dwyer with regard to the wounded soldiers, which was beyond all praise.

The CHAIRMAN said that the members were much indebted to Dr. Donelan not only for the sketch he had kindly given them of the work done amongst the war sufferers in the Richmond Asylum, supplemented as it was by Dr. Forde's careful observations as regards the clinical aspect of some of these cases, but also for the very interesting discussion which followed, to which Major Dawson's large and varied experiences as specialist adviser in nervous diseases to the troops in Ireland were a most valuable contribution. He had not had much opportunity himself of observing cases of shell shock, as, although a few soldiers had been admitted into Enniscorthy Asylum during the past two years, some were very transient cases due to a bout of drinking: others had had previous attacks, and would probably have broken down under any stress, whether they were in the army or not. He thought that the military medical experience of the present war ought to go far towards finally disposing of the so-called theory of psycho-physical parallelism, as almost every possible symptom, whether purely somatic, nervous, or mental, was found to follow shock to the brain, so that it would be quite impossible to determine where "bodily" symptoms ended or mental began. They all were the results of similar causes, and there was no line of demarcation between them. A great many of these cases were, in their symtomatology, very much akin to hysteria, and similar treatment to that employed in hysterical cases would be likely to prove efficacious.

A cordial vote of thanks to Dr. J. O'C. Donelan for his hospitality and great kindness in entertaining the Division at the Richmond Asylum was passed by acclamation.

This terminated the proceedings.

SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

THE SPRING MEETING of the above Division was held, by the kind permission of Dr. MacBryan, at 17, Belmont, Bath, on Friday, April 27th, 1917, at 2.30 p.m.

The following members were present: Drs. Aveline, Norman Lavers, MacBryan, Rutherford, and Bartlett, who acted as Hon. Divisional Secretary.

Dr. Aveline was voted to the Chair.

Letters of apology for non-attendance were received from Drs. Macdonald, Pope, Soutar, and Starkey.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Dr. G. N. Bartlett was appointed as Hon. Divisional Secretary, Dr. Aveline very kindly expressing his willingness to undertake the duties in the event of the former being called for military duty.

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Dr. Aveline and Dr. Norman Lavers were elected as Representative Members of Council.

Dr. MacBryan and Dr. Nelis were elected as members of the Committee of Management.

The following dates were fixed for the Autumn and Spring Meetings respectively: October 26th, 1917, and April 26th, 1918, the place of the meeting for the former being left in the hands of the Hon. Secretary.

The members present made a sympathetic allusion to the loss sustained by the Division in the recent decease of Dr. F. St. John Bullen, and it was proposed that the Hon. Secretary be requested to convey their sympathies to Mrs. Bullen.

The decease of Dr. Smyth, Medical Superintendent of the County Asylum, Gloucester, was recorded with regret.

The Hon Secretary was requested to express the thanks of the members to Dr. Starkey for his kind invitation to entertain the Division at the Plymouth Borough Asylum.

THE MENTAL AFTER-CARE ASSOCIATION.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of this Association was held, by the kindness of Sir Robert Armstrong-Jones, M.D., at 9, Bramham Gardens, Kensington, on March 1st, the Lord Mayor presiding.

Sir ROBERT ARMSTRONG-JONES, in welcoming the Lord Mayor, said the City of London was noted for the more than kind solicitude which it extended to the distressed and those who suffered. Whether these were individuals, or families, or social groups, or nations, the charity of the Mansion House was so well known that no words of elaboration were needed. Judging by the numerous reports in the daily Press of the meetings held at that civic centre, the Corporation of London realised the supreme importance of sound mental and physical health, and that was an asset upon which, especially at the present time, no limitation could be placed. As Treasurer of the Crippled Children's Homes the Lord Mayor's time must be fully occupied, but his heart was large enough and his sympathies deep enough to allow him to extend his beneficent help to other charities. The greatest pleasure a person could have was the full realisation and use of his mental equipment, and to lose that was a very sad event. He was glad to know that the nurses engaged in the large mental hospitals had a three years' training, and the forty examination papers he had been looking through, the work of mental nurses, compared very favourably with that of budding medical students.

The LORD MAYOR said it was in 1912 that he first had the privilege of addressing the Association, and it was a great pleasure to him to know that it was receiving such unqualified support. He was so impressed years ago with its good work that he became a life-subscriber, and he hoped others in the room would do the same. When people recovered from physical illness they required rest, change, and support; and when convalescent from mental disease surely the need for this was even greater. This Association gave that care. Some people who came out of asylums found that there was an unwillingness to associate with them, so that they felt they had no place to turn to. As there was no other body which carried on this very useful work there need be no fear of overlapping. When people came from asylums they were cured, but were not mentally strong; they required people to come along and be props to them. He commended the charity to his hearers, and felt grateful that he was allowed to participate in a small way in such a useful work.

Dr. RAYNER (for Miss Vickers, the Secretary) submitted the annual report, which showed that the work of the Association had progressed most satisfactorily during the past year, in spite of the war. The number of patients dealt with had increased, and encouraging financial support had been forthcoming. The cases were very sad, and often specially difficult. That the work was highly appreciated was shown by the efforts made by the subjects of help to repay some of their indebtedness when their progress enabled them to do so. Special thanks were tendered by the Council to Miss Lucy Wills, who had contributed two separate £100 gifts. During the year under review applications were made on behalf of 508 persons (377 women, 131 men), or 33 *per cent.* more than last year; 984 inter-

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