Association present be confined to a suggestion that a representative committee of all classes of asylum officers be formed to consider and report as to the best scheme for superannuation."

Dr. LAWLESS proposed, and Dr. MOORE seconded—"That this meeting does not approve of a contributory scheme for pensions." The resolution was carried on a show of hands.

Dr. Nolan's original notice of motion was then again considered at some length. Finally, Dr. DRAPES moved, and Dr. DONELAN seconded, an amendment thereto in the following terms:

"That Dr. Nolan's resolution with regard to restoring the deleted sections of the Superannuation Act of 1890 be referred to a committee to be appointed to deal with the question of pensions generally, and that if a committee for this purpose be not appointed at to-morrow's conference, a committee of this Association be so appointed."

This amendment was adopted on a division, and being put as a substantive motion was unanimously adopted.

A rather protracted discussion took place (introduced by the President) upon the claim of Dr. Taylor (Medical Superintendent of the Monaghan Asylum) to be assisted to meet the expenses in his action against the Irish Local Government Board, taken with success to compel that body to assess under the Local Government (Ireland) Act the amount of increase in salary due to him for increased duties imposed upon him by the Act. It was recognised that Dr. Taylor's case was a valuable precedent, but as he is not a member of the Association it was felt that the matter should be left rather to the individual discretion of the superintendents than dealt with by the Division.

The proceedings then terminated.

On the same evening fifteen members, including the President, dined together at the Shelbourne Hotel.

A MEDICO-LEGAL CASE.

COMMUNICATED BY SIR JOHN BATTY TUKE.

[The Editors request that members will oblige by sending full newspaper reports of all cases of interest as published by the local press at the time of the Assizes.]

The following curious trial is taken from records of criminal trials before the High Court of Justiciary in Edinburgh, in volume iii of 'Ancient Criminal Trials in Scotland,' compiled from the original records, etc., by Robert Pitcairn. Printed for the Maitland Club, 1833.

"16 Decr. 1561 James Guyld, indicted for Stealing etc. as after specified.

"Mr. Alexander Sym, as prelocutour for James Guyld, beand callit to underlye the law upone his lyff, allegit that he is minor, within the zeiris of xviij their ald, as it may be considerit be inspectione of his face, lyik as he is in deid, and salbe profin gyff neid beis; and thairfoir aucht nocht to underly ane Assyse upone his lyif, nor to thoill jugement thairupone, nother be the Commoune law, nor Municipale law, or use of this realme. And attour the barne him selff is ydiot of natur, nor hes nocht the knawlege to decerne the perrell and the feir of deid; and thairfoir aucht not for to underly ane Assyse, as said is, of lyif: And forder, is subdewit to ane malancolius humour, naturallie descendand from his progenitouris, swa that he is mair desyrus to dee nor to leif, as be experience is notour, the samekill that his fader exponed himselff sindré tymes to the perell of deid, and wald have drowned him selff in the North Loch, wer nocht he wes releved theirfra be nychtbouris; and syclyik Maister Walter Guyld, his fader bruder, occupiit with the same humour, slew him selff in Paris. And thairfoir, the said James, beand bayth minor, and approacheand mair to pupillaritie nor maioritie, and occupiit with the said humour, mair willing to dé nor to leif, and haifand na cuyr of deid, aucht not to underly the law for the lybellit pretendit cryme, etc.

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"And eikis allegeance, that the same boy ranne sindrie tymes nakit to Ingland, and left his claythis behind him: and swa may be understuid that he hes this said humour, as said is: and offeris him to preif the said allegeance sufficientlie.

"The Justice findis be Interlocutour that the said mater sould pass to Assyse, nochtwithstanding ony allegeance, because of the practik sene of befoir.

"*Verdict.*—James Guild, Convict, be deliuerance of the said Assyise, of arte and parte of the thiftius steling and taking furth of the purse of Elizabeth Danielstoune, the spous of Neill Layng, hingand under hir aprone, in the moneth of Apryill, upoun ane Monunday, ane mercat day of Edinburgh, scho being upone the Hie Streit, standand at the crame of Willeam Speir, indueller in the said burgh, in comoning with him, the tyme of the putting of ane string to ane penner and yncome quhilk scho had coft fra the said cramer, of ane signet of gold: ane vther signet of gold, sett with ane cornelene; ane gold ring sett with ane grite sapheir: ane vther gold ring with ane sapheir formit like ane harte; ane gold ring sett with ane turquhase; ane small dowble ring of gold sett with ane dyamont and ane rubye, ane ald Angell-Nobill, and ane Cussett dukett."

Appended is a rendering of the above into English or Scotch of the present day:

Mr. Alexander Sym, as counsel for James Guild, called to underlie the law for his life, pleaded that he is a minor, under eighteen years old, as may be judged by inspection of his face, and as he is indeed, and shall prove if need be, and therefore ought not to undergo an assize for his life, nor to suffer judgment thereon, either by the common law, municipal law, or usage of this realm. And, moreover, the bairn himself is a natural idiot, and has not knowledge to discern the peril and fear of death, and, further, is subject to a melancholy humour, naturally inherited from his progenitors, so that he is more desirous to die than to live, as by experience is notorious, so much so that his father exposed himself sundry times to the peril of death, and would have drowned himself in the North Loch had he not been rescued therefrom by neighbours. And so also Walter Guild, his father's brother, possessed by the same humour, killed himself in Paris. Therefore the said James, being a minor, and nearer pupillarity than majority, and possessed of the said humour, more willing to die than to live, and having no fear of death, ought not to underlie the law for the pretended crime, etc. And it is further alleged that the same boy ran sundry times naked to England, and left his clothes behind him, and so it may be understood that he has the said humour, and offers to prove the said allegation.

The Justice finds by interlocutor that the said matter should pass to an Assize, notwithstanding any allegation, because of former practice.

Verdict.—James Guild, convicted by deliverance of the said Assize of being art and part in the theftuous stealing and taking out of the purse of Elizabeth Danielstoun, wife of Neill Laing, hanging under her apron, in the month of April, upon a Monday, a market day of Edinburgh, she being on the High Street, standing at the booth of William Speir, resident in the said burgh, communing with him while he was putting a string to a pencase and inkhorn which she had bought from said booth-keeper, a gold signet ring, another gold signet ring set with a cornelian, a gold ring set with a great sapphire, another gold ring set with a sapphire formed like a heart, a gold ring set with a turquoise, a small double ring of gold set with a diamond and a ruby, an old angel-noble, and a cusset ducat.

The editor of this collection of trials mentions that the Assize or jury in the above case consisted of thirteen burgesses, and further observes, "No traces are left on record of the fate of this poor creature, but it is likely that the punishment was trivial, and that his relations would be bound over under penalties for his future good behaviour."

THE PROPOSED PSYCHIATRIC CLINIQUE IN EDINBURGH.

A special meeting of the Edinburgh Medico-Chirurgical Society was held on February 19th, 1902, in the Royal College of Physicians, for the purpose of dis-

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