The discussion which followed showed the wide divergence of views which are held on the psychology of sex, and was contributed by Drs. Brown, Elder, Forsyth, Mercier, and Jones. Dr. McDougall replied.

A further joint meeting was held on March 24th, 1914, Sir George H. Savage again in the chair.

Dr. HENRY DEVINE contributed a paper on "The Biological Significance of Delusions," of which the following is an abstract:

Delusional formations fulfil a definite function, and constitute one method of adjustment to experience. The highest psychic operation is the adaptation of the individual to reality, the co-ordination between desires and circumstances. This high level of conduct cannot always be maintained, and there is a tendency to gratify desires by seeking refuge in inferior mental operations, such as day-dreams or reveries. Delusions have frequently the same function. They constitute a method of escape from reality in individuals who are unable to adjust themselves to external difficulties by efficient action.

It is by no means usual to establish an obvious correlation between external situations and the delusional content. The reason for this depends upon the fact that the individual suffering from such a disorder as dementia præcox, in which the delusions appear to be chaotic and meaningless, does not succumb to situations of any particular difficulty, but, owing to defects in his personality, he cannot adjust himself to quite ordinary situations. The delusions relate to internal conflicts, the nature of which is not apparent on the surface.

Details are given of the analysis of an actual case. It is shown that the patient, owing to unfavourable conditions in early life, exhibits a fundamental defect of psycho-sexual evolution which prevents him from reacting effectively to situations which present themselves. The patient becomes relatively isolated in the world, and is unable to get into contact with his surroundings. The complicated delusional formation which is evolved is shown to be an attempt at adjustment, each delusional thought having a definite purpose and individual insignificance.

Then followed a discussion on this communication, and on Dr. Rows' paper on "The Importance of Disturbances of the Personality in Mental Disorders" (reprinted in the Journal, page 192) by the PRESIDENT, and Drs. E. JONES, BROWN, and MITCHELL. Drs. ROWS and DEVINE replied.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS.

The Divisional Meetings are proposed as follows:

South-Eastern Division.—7th or 8th October, 1914 (St. Luke's Hospital); 28th or 29th April, 1915.

South-Western Division.—22nd October, 1914; 22nd April, 1915.

Northern and Midland Division.—22nd October, 1914; in April, 1915.

Scottish Division.—13th November, 1914; 19th March, 1915.

Irish Division.—5th November, 1914, Royal College Physicians; 15th April, 1915, near Dublin; 1st July, 1915.

APPOINTMENTS.

Branthwaite, R. W., M.D.Brux., L.R.C.P.Lond., M.R.C.S., a Medical Inspector under the Board of Control (Mental Deficiency Act).

Brown, Ralph, M.D.Lond., Senior Assistant Physician to Bethlem Royal Hospital.

Colyer, Claud G., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.D.S., Dental Surgeon to the Surrey County Asylum, Netherne.

Devine, Henry, M.D., B.S.Lond., M.D.Bristol, M.R.C.P., Medical Superintendant of the Portsmouth Borough Asylum.

Evans, Albert Edward, M.B., B.S.Lond., a Medical Inspector under the Board of Control (Mental Deficiency Act).

Gill, S. E., M.D.Lond., a Medical Inspector under the Board of Control (Mental Deficiency Act).

Phillips, J. G. Porter, M.D.Lond., M.R.C.P., Resident Physician and Medical Superintendent to Bethlem Royal Hospital.

Thomson, A. Maurice, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., R.U.I., D.P.H.Camb., Assistant Medical Officer, Middlesex County Asylum, Napsbury, St. Albans.

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