should be amended so that the salary or wages and emoluments of an established officer or servant shall for the purpose of computing the amount of a superannuation allowance or gratuity be calculated according to the average amount of his salary or wages and emoluments during the last *five years* of his service, instead of *ten years*, as according to the present Act."

(7) *Proposed by* Dr. BRUCE *and seconded by* Dr. CAMPBELL: "In the event of an established officer or servant having served twenty years or more in the asylum service, and having to resign his appointment in the asylum service for compassionate grounds before reaching his pensionable age, he should be eligible for pension on reaching the required pensionable age, although not at the time in the service of the Asylum."

(8) *Proposed by* Dr. MACDONALD *and seconded by* Dr. T. C. MACKENZIE: "That any period or periods of service spent in any institution for the care and treatment of the insane prior to the passing of the Asylums Officers' Superannuation Act (1909), should be added to any subsequent period counting for pension in any institution coming within the provisions of the Asylums Officers' Superannuation Act."

(9) *Proposed by* Dr. MCRAE *and seconded by* Dr. SKEEN: "In the case of an established officer or servant dying while in the service of an Asylum, an annual allowance or an annuity should be paid to the widow and children or dependants of the officer or servant."

Dr. Easterbrook had to leave the meeting at this point, and Dr. G. M. Robertson took the chair.

Dr. W. H. BRYCE read an interesting and instructive paper on "Some Considerations in Psychotherapy," which was followed by a discussion in which several members took part.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman for presiding terminated the business of the meeting.

A dinner, after the meeting, was held in Messrs. Ferguson and Forrester's, and was well attended.

IRISH DIVISION.

THE AUTUMN MEETING of the Irish Division was held on November 4th, 1920, at the Royal College of Physicians, Kildare Street, Dublin.

Members present: Lieut.-Col. W. R. Dawson (in the Chair), Drs. J. Mills, P. J. Irwin, F. E. Rainsford, H. M. Eustace, H. R. C. Rutherford, W. S. Smyth, and R. R. Leeper (Hon. Divisional Secretary).

Letters of apology for unavoidable absence were read from Dr. M. J. Nolan (Downpatrick), and Dr. J. M. Colles, K.C.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The meeting next proceeded to consider the report of the Irish Public Health Council, and discussed in detail the relevant portions of the report.

As the meeting was not large it was decided to reconsider the report at the Spring Meeting, and the following notice of motion was handed in by Drs. RAINSFORD and MILLS and ordered to be sent to all the members of the Division as part of the agenda for the Spring Meeting of the Irish Division:

(1) "That the Members of the Irish Branch of the Medico-Psychological Association, on consideration of the report of the Irish Public Health Council, are strongly of opinion that in the matter of the organisation of the Ministry the alternative proposal (B) would be in every way the more suitable from considerations of efficiency, economy, and administration."

(2) "That they approve generally of the establishment of Health Councils for each county in Ireland."

(3) "That they approve of the establishment of a State Medical Service, centrally appointed and centrally controlled, which service will include Lunacy Administration."

(4) "That, as regards cost of maintenance of asylums, they are of opinion that the State should bear half the cost of maintenance, as is proposed in the case of the other Public Health and Medical Services."

Clause 10 of the recently introduced "Ministry of Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill" was then considered by the meeting, as it is understood that this

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.67.276.134 Published online by Cambridge University Press

Bill is to extend to Ireland. After some discussion, not all of a favourable character as regards the principle of the clause, it was proposed by Dr. RAINSFORD, seconded by Dr. LEEPER, and passed:

> "That, with reference to the Ministry of Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, as the Irish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association understand that Clause 10 is likely to be made applicable to Ireland, they are of opinion that the proviso 'that this Clause shall not apply to a person who has been certified as a lunatic under the Lunacy Acts' should be deleted."

The Hon. Secretary was directed to forward, at once, a copy of the resolution to the Hon. Secretary, Parliamentary Committee of the Association, and to request his attention to the matter of the resolution.

Dr. RAINSFORD read an interesting communication entitled "Note on a Case of Pellagra" (see p. 48), which was discussed by the members present.

The CHAIRMAN thanked Dr. Rainsford for the very interesting case he had so fully reported, and remarked that, owing to its rarity, the members were possibly unable to discuss the case as fully as it deserved.

This terminated the proceedings.

PARLIAMENTARY NEWS.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

October 25th, 1920: *Soldiers unidentified in mental hospitals.*—Mr. WATERSON asked the Secretary for War how many soldiers remained unidentified in mental hospitals, and what steps were being taken to make the general public aware of the facts so as to secure identification.—Mr. CHURCHILL replied: There is no unidentified soldier in the mental hospitals under the control of the War Office, and so far as the Department is aware there is no unidentified soldier in any other mental hospital.

Maintenance of pauper lunatics.—Mr. R. YOUNG asked the Minister of Health what was the cost per patient repaid to boards of guardians for lunatic patients in county asylums; whether, owing to the increased cost in such asylums for lunatic patients there was a growing tendency to retain these mental cases in workhouses; and whether he would consider that an increase in the grants repaid to boards of guardians should be given to secure the removal of mental patients to suitable hospitals where more highly skilled treatment could be obtained.—Dr. ADDISON replied: The grant payable to a board of guardians in respect of a lunatic in a county asylum is 4*s*. weekly. I have been unable to find any evidence of the tendency suggested and I do not think that an increase of the grant is called for on this ground.—Mr. FORESTIER-WALKER asked the Minister of Health whether, in view of the greatly increased cost of maintenance of pauper lunatics, he was prepared to introduce legislation amending the Act of 1888, so as to provide repayment to boards of guardians of a contribution proportionate to the present high cost of maintenance and also towards the large increase of salaries and bonuses of the officials of Poor-law unions.—Dr. ADDISON replied: As I have repeatedly stated, in view of the contemplated legislation for the reform of the Poor-law, it would not be practicable to deal with these particular points at the present time.

November 3rd: Treatment of loss of memory cases.—Mr. AUBREY HERBERT asked the Secretary for War whether ex-service men who from shell-shock or some other cause had lost their memory during the war would be provided with suitable accommodation in homes and not in lunatic asylums.—Major TRYON (Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Pensions) replied: Special accommodation is provided by my Department for any ex-service man suffering from loss of memory due to his service in the late war, but should the malady unfortunately develop into certifiable insanity the patient can no longer be detained in a Ministry institution, but must be transferred, in accordance with the present Lunacy Laws, to the care of the Board of Control.

Maintenance of pauper lunatics.—Lieut.-Comdr. HILTON YOUNG asked the Minister of Health whether, in attempting an equitable readjustment of existing Government subventions in relief of rates, he would take into consideration the

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.67.276.134 Published online by Cambridge University Press