at the Hospital. After lunch, on the motion of the Chairman, the Directors of the Glasgow Royal Mental Hospital and Dr. Henderson were cordially thanked for the arrangements made in connection with the meeting and for their kind hospitality.

On the meeting re-assembling the Chairman intimated that the November meeting would probably be held at the Aberdeen Royal Mental Hospital.

Three interesting cases of organic brain disease were then presented by the medical staff:

(1) Korsakov's psychosis without neuritis.

(2) Dementia following delirium probably associated with endocrine insufficiency.

(3) Alzheimer's disease.

Interesting papers on "Occupational Therapy" were read by Miss DOROTHEA ROBERTSON, B.A.Cantab., Instructress; Miss BRODIE, Lady Superintendent, both by invitation; Dr. A. G. W. THOMSON, Physician; and Dr. D. K. HENDERSON, Physician Superintendent.

The papers dealt with the question of occupation from the point of view of the instructors, the nurse and the physician, and an interesting discussion followed.

Dr. WM. WHITELAW, M.B., Director of the Western Asylums Research Institute, read a short paper on "A Study of the Blood-Sugar Content in the Psychoses."

Members had an opportunity of inspecting the Occupational Therapy Department of the Hospital, and great interest was taken in the exhibition of craft work done by patients, which included raffia and pine needle basketry, embroidery, underglaze and overglaze painting, rug making, cane work, metal work and toy making.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the meeting.

IRISH DIVISION.

THE SPRING MEETING of the Irish Division was held on April 24, 1924, at the Central Criminal Asylum, Dundrum, by the kind invitation of Dr. T. Considine, Medical Superintendent, Dr. T. Considine in the Chair.

The members were shown over the institution previous to the meeting by Dr. Considine.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed.

The HON. SECRETARY read correspondence, and explained the present position of the Association as regards the establishment of a Diploma in Mental Disease by the Universities and Licensing Bodies in England, Scotland and Ireland.

A ballot for the election of an Hon. Secretary and two Representative Members of Council was next proceeded with. Drs. Greene and Scroope were appointed scrutineers of the ballot, and it was declared by the Chairman that Dr. Leeper was elected Hon. Secretary for the ensuing year, and that Dr. J. O'C. Donelan and Dr. J. G. Graham were elected Representative Members of Council for the Division for the ensuing year.

The meeting next proceeded to elect two Examiners for the Certificate of Proficiency in Knowledge of Mental Disease of the Association. Dr. J. O'C. Donelan and Dr. R. R. Leeper were elected Examiners for the Certificate.

The following gentlemen were elected ordinary members of the Association:

R. MARSHALL, M.D., F.R.C.P., Medical Registrar, Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast.
Proposed by Drs. W. R. Dawson, M. J. Nolan, and Richard R. Leeper.

J. E. HERBERT, M.B., B.Ch., R.U.I., Senior Assistant Medical Officer, District Mental Hospital, Omagh.
Proposed by Drs. Patrick, W. R. Dawson, and Richard R. Leeper.

DANIEL LANE KELLY, L.R.C.P.&S.Irel., Inspector of Lunatics and Senior Medical Inspector, Local Government Department, Dublin.
Proposed by Drs. J. O'C. Donelan, M. J. Nolan, and Richard R. Leeper.

WILLIAM CALWELL, *O.B.E.*, M.D., M.Ch., Consulting Visitor in Lunacy to the Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland.
Proposed by Drs. W. R. Dawson, M. J. Nolan, and R. R. Leeper.

JOHN WATSON, M.D., B.Ch.Edin., Resident Medical Superintendent, Londonderry District Asylum.
Proposed by Drs. M. J. Nolan, W. R. Dawson, and R. R. Leeper.

FRANCIS LEO MCLAUGHLIN, M.B., B.Ch., N.U.I., Assistant Medical Officer, Tirconaill Mental Hospital, Letterkenny.
Proposed by Drs. J. C. Martin, R. R. Leeper, and H. R. C. Rutherford.

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.70.290.494 Published online by Cambridge University Press

The meeting next proceeded to fix the dates of meetings of the Irish Division for the ensuing year.

Having regard to the fact that the Annual Meeting of the whole Association would, this year, be held in Ireland, it was decided to abandon the Summer Meeting of the Division, fixed to be held in July next, subject to the approval of the President of the Association.

The following dates were fixed for the meetings of the Irish Division:

Autumn Meeting to be held at the Royal College of Physicians on Thursday, November 6, 1924; Spring Meeting to be held on April 23, 1925; Summer Meeting to be held on July 2, 1925.

The meeting next proceeded to discuss the present position of the Association as regards the future training and registration of mental nurses in Ireland. After a somewhat lengthy discussion, the following resolution was proposed by Dr. J. A. Greene, seconded by Dr. J. Mills, and passed unanimously:

> "That we, the Members of the Irish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain and Ireland, again request the Government of Ireland to give proper representation on the Irish Nursing Council to medical men engaged in the active treatment of insanity, and who are and have been responsible for the training of the mental nurses in this country."

The Hon. Secretary was directed to forward this resolution to the Minister of Local Government, together with a covering letter stating that the Division was prepared to wait upon him as a deputation, whenever he could receive it, in order to express to the Governmental authorities the importance of this urgent matter.

The meeting next proceeded to discuss the circular letter of the Association to all Universities and Licensing Bodies in the Kingdom as regards the establishment of a Special Diploma in Mental Disease.

The HON. SECRETARY informed the meeting that the Conjoint Boards of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ireland had, he understood, decided to create such a Diploma, and the Hon. Secretary also reported that he had interviewed the heads of the Medical Schools of Trinity College, the National University, etc., and put forward the desirability of these Universities to establish a Diploma in Psychiatry as part of their educational curriculum.

A hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Considine for his kindness in entertaining the Division and for his hospitality was proposed by Dr. M. J. Nolan and carried by acclamation. This terminated the proceedings.

WOHLGEMUTH AND HIS REVIEWERS.

THE REFUTATION OF PSYCHO-ANALYSIS.

From the numerous reviews of my book (A. Wohlgemuth: *A Critical Examination of Psycho-Analysis*, London, 1923 [Allen & Unwin, Ltd.]), it seems to be evident that I have not made myself sufficiently clear with respect to the "Unconscious." Most of my critics appear to think that my main argument is directed against the existence of the "unconscious" and all the rest is "mere garnishing." This is not the case. In the same measure as the "New Psychology" rests not so much upon the assumed existence of an "unconscious," for this is of much older date than Freud, but upon the alleged discovery of the means to penetrate into it, to gain access to it, so is my chief argument directed against these pretended means, *i.e.*, against psycho-analysis.

The question of the "unconscious" is more of philosophical interest than of psychological importance. In psychology the assumption of an "unconscious" is quite unnecessary, since all known accredited phenomena can be more satisfactorily accounted for without it. I therefore still hold that an "unconscious psychic process" is a contradiction in terms, for a psychic process is, by definition, a conscious process. Countless nervous processes are happening every moment in the brain; the very existence of the life of the organism depends upon them. But only, and only then, if the nervous processes result in, or are accompanied by, consciousness are they psychic, otherwise they are physiological. Several critics have asked, what becomes of the idea, or thought, when it ceases to be conscious? The answer is very simple: There is no thought or idea; it ceases to exist with the cessation of the process. A lighthouse sends out flashes of light

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.70.290.494 Published online by Cambridge University Press