affecting Southern Ireland, Dr. J. O'C. Donelan and Dr. O'Doherty be asked to kindly forward to the Hon. Secretary a statement on the matter for submission to the Government.

It was regrettable that a copy of the proposed Bill was not before the meeting, but, whilst generally approving of the proposed amendments to the Bill before the British Parliament, the meeting was of opinion that Clause 5 (Forfeiture for Fraud) should stand as in the original Bill and that Clause 19 should be deleted.

A hearty vote of thanks, proposed by Dr. M. J. NOLAN and seconded by Dr. J. O'C. DONELAN, expressing the best thanks of the members for the kind hospitality of Dr. Gavin and for the pleasant day they had spent owing to his kindness and forethought, brought the proceedings to a termination.

PARLIAMENTARY NEWS.

June 23, 1923: *Mental Deficiency Administration.*—Mr. FRANK GRAY asked the Minister of Health whether he was aware that many complaints had been made in several localities of the exercise of the wide powers conferred by the Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913 to 1919, over individuals; and whether he would cause inquiry to be made into the exercise of these powers and the foundation for the complaints made.—Lord E. PERCY replied: As far as I am aware, the powers referred to are exercised with care and discretion. If the hon. Member has any specific cases in mind and will give me particulars I will ask the Board of Control to investigate them.

July 11, 1923: *Discharge of Private Lunacy Patients.*—Mr. HAYDAY asked the Minister of Health by what authority the London County Council, through their asylum regulations, had interfered with the right guaranteed to a petitioner by Section 72 of the Lunacy Act, 1890, to direct the discharge or transfer of a private patient from a pauper asylum by exacting four weeks' payment if the patient was taken away, whereas in institutions for rich patients the provisions of Section 72 were punctiliously carried out and the patient was allowed to leave at once on the legal direction given by his petitioners; and would he see that this practice was stopped.—Mr. NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN replied: Inquiry is being made by the Board of Control and I will communicate the result to the hon. Member.

July 12, 1923: *Sect.* 79, *Lunacy Act.*—Mr. F. HALL asked the Minister of Health whether, in view of the fact that the provisions of Section 79 of the Lunacy Act, in regard to the right of friends as distinct from relatives, to apply for the discharge of patients, are rendered nugatory by concealment of that right, he will see that the recommendation of the Cobbe Committee as to the posting up of that section in the waiting-rooms of asylums is carried out, and that similarly the provisions of Section 22 of the Lunacy Act shall be posted up in infirmaries in such a way as to acquaint friends and relatives with their rights under the said section?—Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: As regards Section 79, I would refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Pontypool (Mr. Griffiths) on March 12 last. As regards Section 22, I doubt if any advantage would be secured by such action as is suggested.

July 12, 1923: *Sect.* 8, *Lunacy Act.*—In answer to Mr. T. GRIFFITHS, Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said the result of the inquiry made by the Board of Control showed that in only a very few institutions had the requirement of Section 8 of the Lunacy Act not been fully adhered to. The reference was as to informing patients in private asylums as to their rights of appeal. The Minister added that the Board had warned the authorities concerned and had received assurances that the Statute requirements would be fully observed.

July 19, 1923: *Insane Prisoners.*—Sir ROBERT NEWMAN asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he could state how many persons during the last four years had become insane and been certified as such while undergoing terms of imprisonment; whether any of them had died in that condition before being released from custody; and how many convicted persons during the last four years had committed suicide while serving a sentence of imprisonment.—Mr. BRIDGEMAN replied: The number of convicted, debtor, and surety prisoners certified insane in prison during the last four years is 432. None of these persons died while still in prison and before removal to an asylum. I have no information as to how many of these persons died before they were discharged from asylums. During the same four years 28 prisoners committed suicide in prison.

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July 19, 1923: *Nurses' Registration.*—Dr. CHAPPLE asked the Minister of Health whether he could state the number of nurses who had applied for registration under the Nurses Registration Act, 1919, up to July 14, 1923; and whether existing nurses would be eligible for registration if otherwise qualified, should their applications be received within a period of two years from the date on which the recent order came into operation.—Lord EUSTACE PERCY replied: I am informed that up to July 14, 40,436 applications had been received. After this date the council have no power to admit applications for registration as an existing nurse, and the reply to the second part of the question is, therefore, in the negative.

July 25, 1923: *Nurses' Registration.*—Replying to Dr. CHAPPLE, Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said he had not taken the advice of the law officers of the Crown upon the power of the General Nursing Council to exclude from the register existing nurses who, "being otherwise qualified," made application for admission within two years from the date on which the rule, made on July 7, came into operation.

July 26, 1923: *Sect.* 8, *Lunacy Act.*—Lord E. PERCY, dealing with a lengthy question by Mr. T. GRIFFITHS, said that in the year 1922 there were three private institutions in the provinces which had failed to comply fully with the requirement of Section 8 of the Lunacy Act. This failure did not invalidate the reception orders. The authorities concerned had been warned and had given assurances that the law would be strictly observed.

July 27, 1923: *Court of Appeal for Certified Lunatics.*—Mr. R. RICHARDSON asked the Minister of Health if he is aware that the recent transfer of the Lunacy Department by Order in Council from the Home Office to his department has had the result of throwing into abeyance many matters connected with legal sanction and the liberty of the individual; and, in view of the fact that the scope of his Ministry does not extend to judicial investigation, will he consider the possibility of instituting a court of appeal for persons unjustifiably confined in asylums?—Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: The transfer of certain powers under the Lunacy Acts to the Ministry of Health by Order in Council under the Ministry of Health Act has not had the result suggested by the hon. Member; the second part of the question does not, therefore, arise.

July 27, 1923: *Sect.* 22, *Lunacy Act.*—Mr. F. HALL asked the Minister of Health whether, in view of the fact that the Lunacy Act provides that no sick person can be committed to an asylum unless the initiative is taken by a relative, while, in the case of the poor, patients are constantly committed to asylums against the wishes of their friends and relatives, who are told by Poor-Law officials that they have no voice in the matter, he will see that steps will be taken forthwith by his department to post up in the waiting-rooms of infirmaries Section 22 of the Lunacy Act, 1890, so that the rights of the friends and relatives of poor patients shall no longer be purposely concealed from them?—Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: The hon. Member is doubtless aware that the Lunacy Act provides for other means of admission to an asylum in addition to the particular one stated in the question. His suggestion of wrongful action on the part of Poor-Law officials is one which I cannot, on my present information, accept. If the hon. Member has any proofs of it, I shall be glad to be made acquainted with them. As I stated in answer to his question of July 11, I doubt if the posting up of Section 22 would serve any useful purpose, but I am quite ready to consider the point further on receipt of the particulars above mentioned.

July 30, 1923: *Nurses' Registration Rules.*—Dr. CHAPPLE asked the Minister of Health whether he was aware that, under section 3 (2) (*c*) of the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919, rules were to be made enabling persons who had been *bona fide* engaged in practice as nurses under certain conditions to be admitted to the register, providing application was made within a period of two years after the date on which a rule first came into operation, and that a rule first came into operation on July 7, 1923; could he now say whether persons to whom this rule applied might, if otherwise qualified, be admitted to the register; and would he say whether he had satisfied himself that the General Nursing Council was correctly interpreting the Act and the new rule.—Mr. NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN replied: The hon. Member has not quoted the Act correctly. The wording of the section in question is, "the date on which the rules to be made under the provisions of this paragraph first come into operation," and I am advised that the effect of the provision is to allow a period of two years from the date when the first body of rules came into operation. This date was July 14, 1921, and the two years'

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period having now expired the General Nursing Council have no power to admit further applications for registration as existing nurses.

August 1, 1923: *Prestwich Mental Hospital.*—Major McKENZIE WOOD asked whether the Minister of Health had received any protest from the medical profession in Lancashire in regard to the appointment of the superintendent of Prestwich Asylum, Manchester.—Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said that the Board of Control had received no official information of the appointment of a medical superintendent at Prestwich Mental Hospital; but he understood that an appointment, to which strong exception was taken, was made last week by the Lancashire Asylums Board. The appointment rested with that body alone, but the Board of Control, in January last, suggested that it would be of advantage if it were consulted in regard to it. He did not know why this advice had not been acted upon, but the Board of Control proposed to make some inquiry about the appointment.

August 1, 1923: *Voluntary Boarder in Mental Institutions.*—Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, replying to a lengthy question of innuendo by Mr. R. RICHARDSON, said he could find no evidence that the existing voluntary boarder system in mental institutions was open to abuse. He knew of no grounds for a further inquiry into its working.—Mr. RAWLINSON asked whether, in the cases of those patients who were received into private mental institutions in 1922 without being seen by a magistrate and without the provisions of Section 8 of the Lunacy Act, 1890, having been adhered to, such patients had since been discharged, or, if not, under what power they had respectively been detained.—Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said he was advised that failure to comply fully with requirements of the Section mentioned did not invalidate the reception orders authorising the detention of patients. Steps had been taken to remedy the defect as to the giving of notice.—In reply to Mr. RITSON, Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said the Board of Control had suggested to authorities of all institutions receiving private patients the desirability of requesting patients to whom a notice under Subsection (2) of the Section had been given to acknowledge its receipt in writing. The authorities were further advised that if the signature of any such patient were unobtainable, the notice should be endorsed to that effect.

EDUCATIONAL NOTES.

Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.—The Morison Lectures will be delivered by Dr. Alexander Blackhall-Morison, F.R.C.P.Edin. & Lond., within the Hall of the College, 9, Queen Street, Edinburgh, on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, October 15, 16, and 17, 1923, commencing each day at 5 o'clock. Subject: "The Progress of Neurology, Psychology, and Psychiatry during the Century, since the Foundation of the Lectureship."

London County Council.—The Maudsley Hospital, Denmark Hill, S.E. 5.—Lectures and practical courses of instruction for a Diploma in Psychological Medicine, sixth course, 1923.

Part II.—Eight Lectures on Morbid Psychology. By Edward Mapother, M.D., M.R.C.P., F.R.C.S. On Mondays at 2.30 p.m. and 4.30 p.m., commencing October 8.

Eight Lectures on the Psychoneuroses. By Bernard Hart, M.D., M.R.C.P. On Mondays at 3.30 p.m. and 5.30 p.m., commencing November 5.

Six Lectures on the Pathology of Mental Diseases, including Brain Syphilis, its Symptomatology and Treatment. By Sir Frederick Mott, *K.B.E.*, LL.D., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S. On Tuesdays at 4.30 p.m., commencing November 6.

Five Lectures on the Legal Relationships of Insanity, and Treatment. By C. Hubert Bond, D.Sc., M.D., F.R.C.P. On Tuesdays, October 9, 16 and 23, at 4.30 p.m. On Thursdays, October 11 and 25, at 4.30 p.m.

Eight Lectures on the Practical Aspect of Mental Deficiency. By F. C. Shrubsall, M.D., F.R.C.P. On Wednesdays at 2.30 p.m., commencing October 10. On Tuesdays at 2.30 p.m., commencing November 6.

Six Lectures on Crime and Insanity. By W. C. Sullivan, M.D. On Wednesdays at 4.30 p.m., commencing October 10. On Thursdays at 4.30 p.m., commencing November 8 and 15.

Six Lectures in Clinical Psychiatry. By E. Mapother, M.D., M.R.C.P., F.R.C.S. On Wednesdays at 2.30 p.m., commencing on November 7.

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