(2) Pellagra and Allied Conditions.
  (*a*) Symptomatology.
  (*b*) Endocrinology.
  (*c*) Pathology.
  (*d*) Bacteriology.
    *Leader:* Dr. G. A. WATSON.

(3) The Accessory Sinuses. The Study of their Pathology, Bacteriology and Ætiological Relationship to Mental Disorder.
    *Leader:* Dr. F. A. PICKWORTH, Director of the Joint Board of Research, City and University of Birmingham.

(4) Biochemical Research into Liver Function.
    *Leader:* Dr. R. L. MACKENZIE WALLIS.

(5) The Bacteriology of the Intestine.
  (*a*) Aerobic Methods, in Particular the Study of the Coliform Group and their Relation to Insanity.
    *Leader:* Dr. F. H. STEWART, Pathologist and Bacteriologist to Staffordshire Mental Hospital, Cheddleton.
  (*b*) Anaerobic Methods, especially the Study of the Diphtheroid and Leptothrix Group and their Relationship to Mental Disorders.
    *Leader:* Dr. W. M. FORD-ROBERTSON, Pathologist and Bacteriologist to St. Andrew's Hospital, Northampton.

*Members desiring to take part in these researches should communicate with the Honorary Secretary,* Dr. W. M. FORD-ROBERTSON, *St. Andrew's Hospital, Northampton.*

## APPOINTMENTS.

HANCOCK, ALLEN COULTER, *M.C.*, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.Lond., D.P.H., D.P.M., to be Medical Superintendent, Kent County Mental Hospital, Barming Heath, Maidstone.

NICOL, WILLIAM DREW, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.Lond., D.P.M., to be Deputy Medical Superintendent, Horton Mental Hospital, Epsom.

LORD, JOHN ROBERT, *C.B.E.*, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., to be Lecturer on Clinical Psychiatry, London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women (University of London).

## OBITUARY.

### RICHARD BLACKWELL MITCHELL, M.D.Edin.,

### Ordinary Member 1881–1914.

Dr. R. B. Mitchell died on June 18, 1928, at Edinburgh, where he had lived since his retirement from active work. Dr. Mitchell was a native of Orkney where he was born about seventy-three years ago. He studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh, and graduated M.B., C.M. in 1879. He obtained the M.D. degree with honours in 1885.

After leaving College in 1879 he spent some time as a ship's surgeon, visiting various foreign countries—a broadening experience particularly congenial to an Orcadian. He commenced his life's work as Assistant Physician in the Fife and Kinross District Asylum, from which he was promoted to a similar position in the Royal Asylum, Morningside, Edinburgh, under the late Sir Thomas Clouston.

In 1885 he was appointed Medical Superintendent of the Midlothian and Peebles Asylum, a post which he retained until his retirement nearly thirty years later. During this long period the institution was completely reorganized and largely rebuilt, and the land attached to it was extended from a few acres to an arable farm of several hundred acres. Similar changes are represented in the normal development of most Scottish mental hospitals, and it is not always easy to estimate the exact share taken by an individual superintendent in their promotion. It is certain, however, that without his active co-operation they could not have been successfully carried out.

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