A sister of the patient has also suffered from epileptic fits from the age of 11, and from similar clonic spasms since the age of 14. The maternal grandmother was an epileptic, but was mentally normal and did not suffer from myoclonus. The patient's father was stated to have been peculiar mentally, but was not certified.

Dr. O'Reilly then discussed the differential diagnosis, with special reference to hysteria and chorea.

Dr. PICKWORTH mentioned the association of the thalamus with " shivering ", and suggested the possibility of irritation of the thalamic region from chronic sinus disease as a causative factor in the case.

The meeting closed at 4.45, and member were kindly entertained to tea.

SCOTTISH DIVISION.

BY the courtesy of the Directors and of Dr. W. D. Chambers, Physician-Superintendent, the meeting of the Scottish Division was held on March 20, 1936, at the James Murray's Royal Mental Hospital, Perth.

Dr. R. W. Clarkson, Divisional Chairman, was in the Chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, approved and signed by the Chairman.

Before proceeding to the ordinary business tributes were paid to the memory of Dr. W. M. Buchanan, who had occupied the post of Divisional Secretary for several years, and in that capacity had done so much to further the interests of the Association. The Chairman read a letter received from Mrs. Buchanan thanking the Division for the wreath sent on the occasion of Dr. Buchanan's funeral.

A report was presented by Dr. J. H. MACDONALD outlining the preliminary arrangements for the Quarterly Meeting of the Association to be held in Glasgow on May 12, 13 and 14. Further elaboration of the details was remitted to the special committee appointed at the last meeting.

Dr. JAS. VALENTINE, Assistant Physician, Murray's Royal, Perth, read a paper on the subject of **" Alcoholic Addiction "**. Many members took part in the discussion which followed.

The Division was entertained to luncheon by the Directors under the Chairmanship of G. D. VALENTINE, Esq., Sheriff-Substitute of the County, who welcomed the members to Perth. Dr. L. C. BRUCE, on behalf of the members, returned thanks to the Directors for their generous hospitality. After luncheon the members inspected Gilgal House.

For the remainder of the afternoon and evening the members were invited to join with the Caledonian Medical Society, whose Annual Meeting was being held at Perth, and at which Dr. L. C. BRUCE delivered his Presidential Address.

IRISH DIVISION.

THE SPRING QUARTERLY MEETING of the Irish Division was held at the Central Criminal Lunatic Asylum, Dundrum, co. Dublin, by the kind invitation of Dr. G. W. M. Scroope, Resident Physician and Governor, on Saturday, April 4, 1936.

In the forenoon the members were kindly shown various sections of the Asylum by Dr. Scroope and his staff. Later, the members were hospitably entertained to luncheon.

The following members were present: Dr. J. C. Martin in the Chair; Drs. S. Blake, R. D. Brennan, W. J. Coyne, P. J. Cassin, T. J. Conlon, L. S. Clifford, Kathleen Dillon, F. J. Deane, J. J. Delany, J. Dunne, J. O'Conor Donelan, H. J. Eustace, Ada English, May FitzGerald, J. FitzGerald, P. Grace, T. A. Greene,

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D. Hegarty, B. F. Honan, J. Kearney, D. L. Kelly, J. V. Kelly, R. R. Leeper, D. B. Lothian, P. Moran, C. B. Molony, C. J. McCarthy, Eveleen O'Brien, E. N. M. O'Sullivan, D. O'Sullivan, G. W. M. Scroope, R. Taylor, and Dr. R. Thompson (Hon. Sec.).

Apologies for unavoidable absence were received from a number of members.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, approved and signed by the Chairman.

Following the reading of the minutes, the CHAIRMAN referred in feeling terms to the great loss the Division had recently sustained in the death of its Chairman, Dr. John Mills. He paid a striking tribute to the life-work and character of the late Dr. Mills, and similar tributes were paid by Dr. LEEPER, Dr. D. L. KELLY, Dr. DEANE, Dr. GREENE, Dr. DUNNE, Dr. GRACE and Dr. DONELAN. A vote of sympathy was passed in silence, the members standing, and the Secretary was directed to convey to Mrs. Mills and family the deep sympathy of the meeting.

The following nominated candidates were, after ballot, declared elected members of the Association :

JACKSON, WINIFRED M., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.Belf., Assistant Medical Officer, County Mental Hospital, Armagh.
Proposed by Drs. D. E. Allman, F. J. Deane and J. C. Martin.

JOHNSTON, JOHN MOORE, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.Dub. Univ., Resident Medical Superintendent, The Mental Hospital, Omagh, co. Tyrone.
Proposed by Drs. J. E. Herbert, J. C. Martin and J. FitzGerald.

SMITH, HENRY ST. GEORGE, M.A., M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O.Dub. Univ., Resident Medical Superintendent, The Stewart Institution, Palmerstown, co. Dublin.
Proposed by Drs. G. H. Keene, R. R. Leeper and R. Taylor.

GLASS, JOSEPH VINCENT, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.(N.U.I.), D.P.M., Assistant Medical Officer, District Mental Hospital, Carlow.
Proposed by Drs. T. A. Greene, M. J. Nolan and R. R. Leeper.

The meeting then proceeded to the election of the Officers of the Division for the year 1936–1937, and the following, after ballot, were declared elected :

Hon. Secretary : Dr. R. Thompson.

Representative Members of Council : Drs. J. C. Martin and P. J. Cassin.

Dr. LEEPER then proposed that Dr. Martin be elected Chairman of the Division for the ensuing year. This was seconded by Dr. GREENE and carried unanimously.

The Mental Nursing Advisory Committees to the General Nursing Councils were reconstituted as follow :

For Irish Free State.—Drs. S. Blake, J. O'Conor Donelan, P. Grace, R. R. Leeper and J. C. Martin.

For Northern Ireland.—Drs. F. J. Deane, Dorothy Gardner, N. B. Graham, M. J. Nolan and J. Watson.

Dr. O'Conor Donelan and Dr. Nolan were renominated Examiners for the Association's Certificate in Psychological Medicine.

The following were renominated Examiners for the Nursing Certificates of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association :

Preliminary Nursing Examination : Dr. C. B. Molony.
Final Nursing Examination : Dr. John FitzGerald.
Final M.D. Examination : Dr. Eveleen O'Brien.
Nurse Examiner : Miss Williams.

The SECRETARY and Dr. FITZGERALD then brought to the notice of the meeting the present position regarding provision for the "sane epileptics" and mental defectives in the Irish Free State. Dr. FitzGerald reported a gratifying increase of interest in these questions by various local bodies, and he appealed to the members to continue to stimulate public opinion until remedying legislation had been passed.

Dr. MORAN then brought to the notice of the meeting the published Report of the Hospitals' Commission. He regretted that in this report practically no

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mention had been made of the desirability of conducting research into the problems of mental disease. He suggested that the Sub-Committee appointed to deal with this question should make a further effort to have the claims of research into the problems of mental disease recognized, and that the Sub-Committee might also consider the wider problems of the organization and equipment of mental hospitals. After some discussion Dr. Moran's suggestions were agreed to, and the Sub-Committee was requested to report progress to the next meeting of the Division. Dr. Clifford was appointed an additional member of this Sub-Committee.

The meeting then accepted, with pleasure, Dr. Green's invitation to hold the Summer Meeting at Carlow Mental Hospital on Saturday, July 18, 1936.

Dr. C. J. McCarthy, Assistant Medical Officer, Grangegorman Mental Hospital, then read a very interesting communication on **"Criminal Responsibility in the Insane"**. Dr. McCarthy stressed the many anomalies which exist in the application and interpretation of the Criminal Law with regard to the insane, and he made a number of suggestions which, in his opinion, would tend to decrease these anomalies.

Following Dr. McCarthy's paper, Dr. Scroope read an interesting commentary on Dr. McCarthy's suggestions and on present-day tendencies in medico-legal work. Both these papers were very fully discussed by the members present, many of whom expressed the obligation the Division was under to the authors for bringing this important subject before the meeting.

The Chairman then proposed a cordial vote of thanks to Dr. and Mrs. Scroope for their kind hospitality. This was carried unanimously. Subsequently the members were kindly entertained to tea by Mrs. Scroope.

MIDLAND MENTAL PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

The fourth meeting of the Midland Mental Pathological Society was held in the Birmingham University Anatomical Department on Thursday, March 26. Dr. John Beattie addressed the Society on the functional activity of the hypothalamus, laying stress on its dual nature, the anterior being related to the parasympathetic and the posterior portion related to the true sympathetic. He did not favour a precise localization of specific reactivity, but described the results which stimulation produced in the heart, stomach, bladder, body temperature and blood sugar. Twenty-eight members were present. Sir Gilbert Barling (President) congratulated the lecturer, and contributed, with others, to an interesting discussion and appreciation of the lecture.

BRITISH NATIONAL HUMAN HEREDITY COMMITTEE.

The British National Human Heredity Committee was formed in 1932 for the collection of data and the investigation of human pedigrees, as a branch of the International Human Heredity Committee working with the International Federation of Eugenic Organizations. It has now been enlarged as a Council and has secured accommodation at 115, Gower Street, London, W.C. 1; and in collaboration with the Galton Laboratory, aims at setting up a clearing-house for material on human genetics. The Council consists of a number of geneticists and leading medical men, with Prof. Ruggles Gates as Chairman, Sir Laurence Halsey as Treasurer, Dr. Fraser Roberts as Honorary Scientific Secretary, and Mrs. C. B. S. Hodson as Honorary General Secretary. The direction of the work is to be in the hands of a small Executive Committee.

The Council would be grateful to receive all available material from institutions

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