Apologies for absence were intimated from Dr. Chambers, President of the Association, Drs. Soutar, Drapes, Keay, Mitchell, Easterbrook, Oswald, Havelock, Phillips, Carre, Parker, Turnbull, Tuach-Mackenzie, Alexander.

The Secretary submitted a letter from the relatives of the late Sir J. Batty Tuke, thanking the members of the Division for their kind expression of sympathy. Letters of acknowledgment were also intimated from Dr. Urquhart and Dr. Watson.

The Secretary reported that the Committee appointed at last Divisional meeting to consider the question of the proposed site for the new Reception Hospital in Edinburgh had made very careful inquiry into the matter, and that as a result of the inquiry it was considered that no good purpose would be served by interviewing the various interested authorities, and the Committee recommended that nothing further should be done.

Drs. G. Douglas McRae and Neil T. Kerr were unanimously elected Representative Members of Council, and Dr. R. B. Campbell was re-elected Divisional Secretary. Dr. T. C. Mackenzie was nominated as an Examiner for the Certificate in Psychological Medicine.

The following four candidates, after ballot, were admitted to membership of the Association:

(1) Campbell, Finlay Stewart, M.D.Glas., District Medical Officer, Glasgow. *Proposed by* Drs. Kerr, Dunlop Robertson, and Campbell.

(2) Clark, John N., L.R.C.P. & S.E., L.R.F.P.S.Glas., Assistant Medical Officer, Lanark District Asylum, Hartwood. *Proposed by* Drs. Kerr, Dunlop Robertson, and Skene.

(3) Roberts, Ernest T,, M.D.Edin., D.P.H.Cantab., Chief Medical Officer, Glasgow School Board. *Proposed by* Drs. Campbell, Easterbrook, and Gostwyck.

(4) Abel, Williamina, M.D., D.P.H., D.Sc., Pathologist, Royal Asylum, Edinburgh. *Proposed by* Drs. Geo. M. Robertson, Ross, and Elmslie.

Dr. WHITELAW read an interesting paper on "Encephalitis accompanying the Uræmia of Pregnancy," which was discussed by Dr. YELLOWLEES and Dr. IVY MACKENZIE.

The meeting then adjourned for tea, which was kindly provided by Dr. Macgregor.

After tea, the members visited Dr. Ivy Mackenzie's wards, and Dr. MACKENZIE read an instructive paper on "Psychiatry in the Wards of a General Hospital," and he showed several interesting cases with mental symptoms, which were being treated by him in his wards.

As Dr. Yellowlees had to leave before the conclusion of the business, Dr. Carlyle Johnstone took his place in chair.

Votes of thanks to the Managers of the Victoria Infirmary, to Dr. Macgregor, and to Dr. Ivy Mackenzie for their hospitality, and for the trouble which had been taken to make such an interesting and successful meeting, and also to the Chairman for his conduct in the chair, concluded the business of the meeting.

Sixteen members afterwards dined together in the Central Station Hotel.

IRISH DIVISION.

THE SPRING MEETING of the Division was held on Thursday, April 16th, at St. Patrick's Hospital, Dublin. The following members were present:

Dr. Thomas Adrian Greene (in the chair), Dr. W. R. Dawson (Inspector of Asylums), Sir John Lentaigne, Dr. Drapes, Dr. Oakshott, Dr. Rainsford, Dr. O'Neill, Dr. W. Eustace, Dr. H. R. C. Rutherford, Dr. Keene, Dr. Redington, Dr. Leeper (Hon. Secretary).

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed, and letters of apology for unavoidable absence were read from the President, Dr. Hetherington, Dr. W. Graham.

The meeting next proceeded to elect an Hon. Secretary of the Division, two representative members of Council, and two examiners for the ensuing year. On a vote being taken, Dr. Rainsford was appointed scrutineer, and the following gentlemen were declared elected by the Chairman:

Dr. Leeper, elected Hon. Secretary of the Division; Dr. E. D. O'Neill (Limerick) and Dr. O'C. Donelan (Richmond Asylum) were elected representative members of Council; Dr. E. D. O'Neill and Dr. Redington (Portrane Asylum) were elected examiners for certificates of the Association.

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.60.250.537 Published online by Cambridge University Press

The meeting next proceeded to fix times of meetings of the Division for ensuing year:

Autumn Meeting, Thursday, November 5th, 1914; Spring Meeting, Thursday, April 15th, 1915; Summer Meeting, July 1st, 1915.

It was decided to change the date fixed for Summer Meeting of this year from July 24th to July 2nd, subject to the sanction of the President, the meeting to take place at the Mullingar or Carlow Asylum.

On a ballot being taken, Dr. Norman Bell Graham, Assistant Medical Officer, Belfast District Asylum, was unanimously elected a member of the Association.

Dr. RAINSFORD next brought forward his notice of motion, drawing the attention of the members to the dearth of original papers presented during the past year, and to discuss a remedy for this defect.

The members discussed this motion very fully, and expressed themselves as most anxious to interest the younger members of the Division in the matter.

Dr. RAINSFORD pointed out that many assistant medical officers were possibly reluctant to write original papers, but would willingly attend the meetings and join in discussion upon clinical subjects, and he proposed that a discussion be opened at the Summer Meeting of the Division "On the Use of Hypnotics in the Treatment of Acute Mania," and that a circular notifying this be forthwith sent to all the members of the Division.

The Hon. Secretary was instructed to have this done, and all the members cordially endorsed the opinions of Dr. Rainsford and approved of his suggestion.

It was pointed out that much clinical material must exist in the larger asylums, now lost sight of, which, if properly utilised by the younger members, could be of great value to psychological medicine, and it was hoped that medical superintendents would place every facility in the way of their assistants in future for the carrying out of this much-needed work, and interest, so far as possible, the younger members in the work of the Association.

Dr. KEENE thought that Dr. Rainsford's suggestion was a good one, and said that the junior members did not care to write papers which would be discussed by senior and more experienced men, but could do good work in writing papers upon subjects connected with the amusements of patients, etc., and other matters with which they were occupied in asylum life.

Dr. DRAPES pointed out that there was great difficulty in getting permission to perform *post-mortem* examinations in Ireland, and hence the lack of elaborate papers, but all assistant medical officers could bring forward cases of clinical interest which occurred in their practice. A paper need not necessarily be a very learned or exhaustive one, but could deal with clinical aspects of cases which were of great interest and importance in the treatment of the insane.

The members next proceeded to discuss the effects of the Government of Ireland Bill upon the existing legislation regarding the superannuation of asylum officials which was adjourned from the Autumn Meeting.

It was decided to take no action at present, but that the Hon. Secretary was to keep the matter before the Division so as to secure existing rights of asylum officials, and bring forward the matter again at the July Meeting, so that a deputation be formed, if thought desirable, to interview the Irish Members of Parliament, and ascertain their views informally upon the subject.

Dr. W. R. DAWSON kindly delivered his lecture, illustrated by a fine series of lantern-slides, upon "The Boarding Out of the Mentally Affected."

The description of the system of boarding out, under suitable guardianship, of patients in Scotland was fully and clearly described, and numerous photographs of houses so used were exhibited upon the screen.

Dr. GREENE said he wished, as chairman of the meeting, to cordially thank Dr. Dawson for his kindly action in coming amongst them again and for his paper.

Dr. DRAPES said that all present felt a deep debt of gratitude to Dr. Dawson for coming amongst them and giving them such an interesting and instructive lecture. Ireland, he believed, was especially favourable to the boarding out of the many harmless imbeciles and dements in asylums. He believed that the Irish people would treat such cases kindly and well, but that he felt that cleanliness would have to be secured for these boarded-out cases, and that this might be a matter of difficulty. A contrast could be made between the condition of children reared in workhouses and those who were boarded out in Ireland, and the benefits to be

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.60.250.537 Published online by Cambridge University Press

derived in these cases were marked and unmistakable in the case of boarded-out children. He wished to express his warm appreciation of Dr. Dawson's action in again coming amongst them, and the division owed him a debt of gratitude for his sympathy and co-operation with their work and efforts on behalf of the insane of the country.

Sir John Lentaigne said he was personally interested in the matter, as he had much to do with the provision of suitable accommodation for patients under the Court of Chancery. It was most regrettable that Ireland had been excluded from participation in the benefits of the Mental Deficiency Bill, which was a most useful and beneficent measure. He hoped to see the boarding out of suitable patients carried out some time extensively in Ireland. He wished to thank Dr. Dawson for his valuable paper, and to congratulate the Division on the very remarkable communication they had just listened to.

Dr. Keene and others having joined in the discussion, Dr. Dawson said he felt it a privilege to come and again associate with his old friends. Their one object was the kindly treatment and care of the insane, and with these noble objects before them, which was their common bond of unity, it would always be a pleasure to come amongst the members of the Association.

As the discussion was of a lengthy character, the Chairman, with the kind sanction of Dr. Eustace, decided to postpone the reading of Dr. Eustace's paper, "Notes on Intestinal Auto-Intoxication," till the next meeting of the Division.

Dr. Dawson proposed a vote of thanks to Dr. Leeper for his kind hospitality and for the entertainment provided for them, which was passed with acclamation, and Dr. Leeper having replied that it would always be a great pleasure to him to entertain the Division whenever they wished to visit St. Patrick's Hospital, the proceedings terminated.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE.

Section of Psychiatry.

Sir George H. Savage, President, in the Chair.

A joint meeting of this Section, with the British Psychological Society, was held on Tuesday, March 10th, 1914, at 1, Wimpole Street, W. An important contribution was made on "The Definition of the Sexual Instinct," by Wm. McDougall, M.B., F.R.S., of which the following is a synopsis:

"The present condition of opinion on the problem of the nature and *rôle* of instinct in general, and of the sex instinct in particular, is chaotic among both academic and medical psychologists. This is largely due to the continued prevalence of two of the classical errors of nineteenth century psychology—namely, psychological hedonism and the doctrine that instinct is compound reflex action.

"Erroneous conceptions of the sex instinct fall for the most part into two classes: (1) Those which are unduly simple, representing the sex instinct as merely the tendency to respond to certain disagreeable, sense stimuli with movements which abolish the disagreeable and procure pleasurable sensations; (2) those which ascribe to the sex instinct a variety of mental and bodily processes which spring from other and entirely distinct roots.

"Of errors of the latter type, the commonest is that which confounds the parental with the sex instinct. This is due in part to loose and ambiguous usage of the word 'love,' and in part to certain similarities of the behaviours prompted by the two instincts respectively, and of the biological ends subserved by them; possibly, also, to some innate connection between them.

"In a similar way, modesty, jealousy, masochistic, sadistic, and other tendencies are by some authors attributed to alleged 'components' of the sexual instinct. The Freudian doctrine seems to comprise errors of both types.

"The alleged duplicity of the sex instinct (impulses of detumescence and of contrectation) is an unneccessary assumption. But on its afferent or perceptive side the sex instinct is more highly evolved and complex than is generally recognised.

"The grounds of the assumption that the sex instinct is normally active from the earliest years of infancy will not bear examination. The awakening of the sex instinct normally begins about the eighth year and goes on until puberty is established. The criteria to be regarded in this connection."

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.60.250.537 Published online by Cambridge University Press