Part IV.—Notes and News.

THE ROYAL MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

Quarterly Meeting.

The usual Quarterly Meeting of the Association was held on Wednesday, May 22, 1929, at University College, Gower Street, London, W.C., at 2 p.m., under the Presidency of Prof. J. Shaw Bolton, D.Sc., M.D.

The Council met the same morning and the Standing and Special Committees on the previous day.

The Minutes.

The Secretary (Dr. Reginald Worth) read the minutes of the meeting held on February 14, and they were approved and signed.

A Loyal Message to His Majesty the King.

The President proposed that the following message be despatched to the Private Secretary to His Majesty the King:

> "The President, Council and other Members of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association, in general meeting assembled, May 22, 1929, desire that an expression of their joy, thankfulness and profound satisfaction should be conveyed to His Majesty the King on his recovery from his recent severe illness, and that His Majesty may be long spared to reign over his loyal and dutiful subjects."

This was carried amid applause.

Later the following reply was received:

> "The King has received with much pleasure the message from the President, Council and Members of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association assembled in general meeting, and sincerely thanks them for their good wishes and congratulations on His Majesty's restoration to health.—Private Secretary."

Obituary.

Dr. Robert Lauder Mackenzie Wallis.

The President spoke feelingly of the great loss medical science and the Association had sustained in the death from pneumonia of Dr. Mackenzie Wallis on April 1, 1929, and said that a message of condolence would be sent on behalf of members to Mrs. Mackenzie Wallis. Members rose in their places as a sign of their sympathy.

The Annual Meeting.

The President announced that the Annual Meeting would be held in London, on July 9–12, 1929.

Report of the Council.

The Council had sent a letter to Sir Hubert Bond congratulating him on the honour His Majesty had conferred upon him. (Loud applause.)

Dr. Alexander Walk had been appointed the Association's representative at the Congress of French-speaking Alienists which was being held at Barcelona.

The Council had appointed Mr. T. J. Shields Assistant Librarian to the Association *vice* Mr. S. Honeyman, retired. The remuneration remained unaltered.

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Election of New Members.

Dr. Cedric Bower and Dr. W. Starkey were nominated scrutineers by the President, and the following were unanimously elected Members of the Association:

FitzGerald, Edward Joseph, M.B., B.Ch.N.U.I., Assistant Medical Officer, Lancashire County Mental Hospital, Winwick, Warrington, Lancs.
Proposed by Drs. J. Ernest Nicole, J. Gifford and F. H. M. Calder.

Hannesson, Hannes, B.Sc.Lond., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.Lond., Assistant Medical Officer, The Coppice Hospital, Nottingham.
Proposed by Drs. David Hunter, G. L. Brunton and G. W. J. Mackay.

Laws, John Joseph, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.Lond., D.P.M., Assistant Medical Officer, Horton Mental Hospital, Epsom.
Proposed by Drs. J. R. Lord, W. D. Nicol and A. Walk.

McCartan, William, M.D.Belf., D.P.H., D.P.M., Assistant Medical Officer, West Park Mental Hospital, Epsom.
Proposed by Drs. Norcliffe Roberts, P. K. McCowan and J. S. Harris.

MacKay, John, M.B., Ch.B.Glasg., Assistant Medical Officer, Cumberland and Westmorland Mental Hospital, Carlisle.
Proposed by Drs. J. H. Madill, Charles Tisdall and J. R. Gilmour.

Mullin, Bartholomew Joseph, *M.C.*, L.R.C.P.&S.Irel., D.P.H., D.P.M., Deputy Medical Superintendent, Wonford House Hospital, Exeter.
Proposed by Drs. H. Wilfred Eddison, W. Starkey and H. B. Wilkinson.

O'Connell, Daniel Joseph, M.B., B.Ch.N.U.I., Assistant Medical Officer, St. Andrew's Hospital, Northampton.
Proposed by Drs. D. F. Rambaut, Norman R. Phillips and R. Worth.

Pearce, John Dalziel Wyndham, M.A., M.B., Ch.B.Edin., Assistant Medical Officer, Kent County Mental Hospital, Chartham Down, near Canterbury.
Proposed by Drs. M. A. Collins, J. Arthur Topham and F. C. M. Taylor.

Robertson, James Andrew, M.B., Ch.B.Edin., Assistant Medical Officer, County Mental Hospital, Stafford.
Proposed by Drs. B. H. Shaw, K. K. Drury and J. R. Gilmour.

Watt, Alexander Wilson, M.B., Ch.B.Glasg., Deputy Medical Superintendent, Cumberland and Westmorland Mental Hospital, Garlands, Carlisle.
Proposed by Drs. J. H. Madill, J. H. MacDonald and A. Allan Bell.

The meeting then adjourned until 3.30 p.m.

The Maudsley Lecture.

Among those who had accepted the Association's invitation to be present on this occasion were: Dr. F. Aveling, Dr. H. B. Brackenbury, Dr. M. Bevan Brown, Dr. H. Crichton Miller, Dr. Forsyth, Prof. A. V. Hill, Dr. Neill Hobhouse, Miss Hollingsworth, Miss Edith Lord, Dr. Burnett Rae, Dr. J. R. Rees, Miss D. F. Robinson, Miss C. A. Simmins, Mrs. Spearman, Prof. Verney.

There were also present a number of psychological students of the College and members of the British Psychological Society.

The President resumed the Chair at 3.30 p.m., accompanied on the dais by Prof. C. Spearman, Ph.D., LL.D., F.R.S., Professor of Psychology in the University of London, and Dr. J. R. Lord, who, as in previous years, was in charge of the arrangements.

The President called upon Dr. Lord to read the list of those who had sent letters of regret at their inability to be present: Mr. H. M. Abrahams, Dr. E. A. Bennet, Dr. Izod Bennett, Sir James Berry, Dr. J. L. Birley, Sir Charlton Briscoe, Dr. Leonard F. Browne, Dr. H. V. Dicks, Miss Edgell, Dame Katharine Furse, Dr. Gordon, Dr. Hadfield, Mr. R. Hulme, Dr. A. N. Hutchison, The Countess of Limerick, Prof. McIntosh, Dr. D. O. Malcolm, Lord Moynihan, Sir James Purves-Stewart, Miss E. M. Sellar, Mr. Owen Smith, Mrs. StLoe Strachey, Dr. Tidy. Sir William Willcox, Dr. Worster-Drought.

The President, in introducing Prof. Spearman, said: We are here this afternoon to listen to the Tenth Maudsley Lecture, and we are privileged to have as our lecturer Prof. Spearman, who is undoubtedly the first psychologist of his day. (Applause.) In the case of some men one might produce a list of works which they have accomplished; in the case of some others, such would be almost an insult, as their work is so very well known. Prof. Spearman belongs to the latter class. (Applause.) As I happen to be a Fellow of University College, I am also

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particularly pleased personally that Prof. Spearman has invited us here to-day to listen to his lecture. We shall be listening to a man who has been lecturing in this College for twenty years or so. The older members of our Association will remember the time when psychology was essentially a subject which was studied by methods of introspection. I remember very well that time when I was studying psychology. It was a very dry subject. One read also the physiology of the sense-organs, and put the two together, but it was not easy to see in what way they were associated. Then there came along the predecessor of Prof. Spearman, Prof. James Sully, who by a study of his own children introduced a new method in the study of psychology, the objective method, and this is the method which we employ to-day. Further, it is employed in a manner which is more precise and mathematical than was the case in the time of Prof. Sully. As Dr. Galton, and later on Prof. Karl Pearson, introduced purely mathematical methods into the study of anthropology, so Prof. Spearman has introduced them into the study of the mind. One may even say that Prof. Spearman has weighed the mind. and that is one of the greatest achievements which has taken place during the greater part of a century.

There are one or two references of a personal nature I would like to make. One is the introduction by Prof. Spearman into University College of intelligence tests in the case of freshers. When my children first came to University College they wrote telling me about the intelligence tests, and they wrote in such a way that I felt certain that these had an importance much greater than the mere results, large or small, which might be obtained after they had been collated. They possessed a personal value with regard to the students themselves, who realized that psychology met them on the doorstep when they went to college. It was perhaps a small thing in itself, but it is a most important achievement to introduce it into a college of this kind.

The other is a very small matter. Our Lecturer in Psychology at the University of Leeds is a former student and assistant of Prof. Spearman, and if the latter could only hear the terms of affection and gratitude in which that gentlemen speaks of him, he would not only deeply appreciate it, but it would be evident to him that he is one of the few great teachers who can so influence their juniors.

I have great pleasure in introducing Prof. Spearman to you.

PROF. SPEARMAN then delivered the Tenth Maudsley Lecture, the subject being: "The Psychiatric Use of the Methods and Results of Experimental Psychology" (*vide* p. 357).

At its conclusion Dr. W. F. MENZIES proposed a vote of thanks to the Lecturer. He said it had been with most peculiar pleasure that those present had listened to Prof. Spearman's work that day. It was evident, however, that from Prof. Spearman's own point of view, it was only meant to be an introduction. His, the speaker's personal view was that if only members could sit there daily for three months and listen to a similar lecture, how splendid it would be. (Applause.) Because, he supposed, members of the Association had a very rough-and-ready and superficial method of dealing with these things—methods which were far from the exact processes of experimental psychology; and he was sure a cold douche to recall one from those rough methods was at times a very good thing. He supposed they were more or less materialists in this matter of brain; the tendency would be to say, That is all very well, but every idea we have partakes of cognition, affection and conation; you cannot have an idea without involving all those three, and every one of those sections involves at least a hundred sub-ideas—what Head called "sigmata." These sigmata were thought to be erected into a huge whole, which was called an idea. It was particularly in things like this that Prof. Spearman and others working with him had their benefits for psychiatrists, for they brought one back to the details of practical every-day matters. There was an idea that affection depended mainly on the emotions. It was known that emotions had their numerous factors, the principal being the endocrine glands, because without effort on the part of endocrine glands there was no use in having sensorial stimuli from the outside world. With many other educational, racial, instinctive, habitual and personal and other considerations one gradually built up what was called an emotion. That was what materialists thought was the main part which affection played, and that, they said, increased such a thing as attention.

Those vague generalities were to be corrected by such exact methods as Prof. Spearman had brought forward to-day, and he was sure that all the present

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company had listened to him with very great pleasure, and would wish to tender to him a very hearty vote of thanks indeed for it, as well as for the work he had done. It was their hope that he would go on with the work; the Association would do its best to help him in every way possible in the application of his methods to psychological medicine. Patients were not easy to deal with, and it made one look forward to the time when every general hospital would have its psychiatric wards and its psychiatric out-patients. Then Prof. Spearman would step in and examine the patients there and so help psychiatrists in their work, and so it was hoped that they would be cured more quickly. (Applause.)

Dr. H. CRICHTON MILLER said he had been asked to second this motion, as representing the visitors this afternoon, and he did so with great pleasure. It might be that the visitors were in a majority; it was an advantage of having such a famous lecturer as Prof. Spearman to give the afternoon's treat.

The vote was carried by acclamation, and the proceedings terminated.

Council Meeting.

There were several matters dealt with at the Council Meeting which the President was unable to mention at the general meeting, there being inadequate time to discuss them.

The Local Government Act, 1929.

The Parliamentary Committee reported that, at two meetings (one a special meeting), the Committee had considered the effects this Act might have on the future administration of the mental and mental deficiency services and the treatment of mental (especially early) cases.

The Committee's views were expressed in three resolutions, and these were recommended to the Council for adoption and circulation.

The Council after prolonged discussion adopted the resolutions, slightly amended, and ordered their circulation to the County Councils and County Borough Councils in England and Wales, and the County Councils and certain Burghs in Scotland as follows:

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1929.

MEMORANDUM BY THE COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION ADDRESSED TO THE COUNTY COUNCILS AND COUNTY BOROUGHS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, AND TO THE COUNTY COUNCILS AND CERTAIN BURGHS IN SCOTLAND.

The Council of this Association desire earnestly to call the attention of Local Authorities to the following resolutions adopted at a meeting held in London on May 22, 1929:

1. The Council urges that the mental hospital and mental deficiency services be administered and controlled by one *ad hoc* committee of the Local Authority in each administrative area as outlined in the Local Government Act.

2. The Council desires to record its complete agreement with the findings of the Report of the Mental Deficiency Committee, known as the "Wood Report," as expressed in the final paragraph of page 13, which states that "the only really satisfactory criterion of mental deficiency is the social one, and if a person is suffering from a degree of incomplete mental development which renders him incapable of independent social adaptation and which necessitates external care, supervision and control, then such person is a mental defective." The Council endorses the view that such individuals, distinct from those found to be uneducable but not socially defective during the school period, should become the responsibility of the appropriate authority.

3. The Council urges that in submitting schemes under the Local Government Act, 1929, Local Authorities should provide suitable accommodation and facilities for earlier treatment, both in-patient and out-patient, for the purpose of reducing the incidence of mental illness, and that such facilities should be wherever possible in association with medical schools.

The Council offers to place the special knowledge and experience of members at the disposal of Local Authorities in the hope that the principles underlying these resolutions may be carried into practice.

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Should any Local Authority wish to avail itself of this offer of assistance, correspondence should be addressed to the General Secretary, Royal Medico-Psychological Association, Springfield Mental Hospital, Tooting, S.W. 17.

R. WORTH,
General Secretary.

Nurses' Consultative Committee.

The Educational Committee announced that the Nurses' Consultative Committee had met and that its report had been referred to the Questionnaire Sub-Committee for examination.

The President-Elect.

The PRESIDENT declared the name of the President-Elect for 1929–30 to be Dr. Thomas Saxby Good, of Littlemore Hospital, Oxford.

Causes of Primary and Secondary Amentia.

On the recommendation of the Research and Clinical Committee a letter was ordered to be sent to the Minister of Health urging that a departmental committee of inquiry into the causes of primary and secondary amentia should be appointed.

The Mott Memorial Volume.

Referring to the publication of the Mott Memorial Volume on May 16, the President proposed a vote of thanks and congratulation to its Editor, Dr. J. R. Lord, on the successful conclusion of his heavy labours. The book was an admirable production in every way and most appropriate to and worthy of the occasion.

Dr. Lord said that Lady Mott was more than satisfied.

Report of the Royal Commission on Lunacy and Mental Disorder.

On the motion of Prof. G. M. ROBERTSON it was decided to circularize all members requesting them to ask the new members of Parliament to use their influence to have the suggestions of the Commission, together with further developments, passed into law at as early a date as possible.

SOUTH-EASTERN DIVISION.

THE SPRING MEETING of the South-Eastern Division took place on Wednesday, April 10, by the courtesy of Dr. A. A. W. Petrie and the Committee of Visitors, at the Banstead Mental Hospital, Sutton.

There were present 39 members and several visitors.

The Divisional Committee of Management met at 11 a.m. At noon, members and guests were shown over the hospital in groups by the medical and other officers. There was much of interest to see, especially the way in which a large part of the hospital had been modernized by the reconstruction of the old three-storey blocks and the division of the large wards into smaller units.

THE LUNCH

At 1 p.m. members and guests were hospitably entertained to lunch.

Dr. J. R. LORD, in proposing the toast of "Banstead Mental Hospital," coupled with the name of Dr. A. A. W. Petrie, said that the history of Banstead was peculiarly bound up with the personality of its medical superintendents and medical officers. Originally Banstead was meant to house the chronic mental patients of the county of Middlesex, and it was taken over by the London County Council in 1888. There were many present who could speak of the history of Banstead in greater detail than he could, but he felt that he himself had no small knowledge of that hospital, as he would try to show. His first acquaintance with Banstead was in the early '90's, when he visited at the invitation of Dr., now Sir Hubert Bond, who was originally appointed there as pathologist. The Medical Superintendent was Dr. T. Claye Shaw, a keen observer of human nature, who showed much originality of thought, and was for years lecturer on Mental Disorders at

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