A vote of thanks to Dr. Craddock for his hospitality concluded the proceedings.

The members and friends subsequently dined at the Club, Gloucester.

IRISH DIVISION.

Special Meeting.

A Special Meeting of this Division was held at 41, Upper Fitzwilliam Street, Dublin, on Monday, October 5th, 1903. Dr. M. J. Nolan occupied the chair, and there were also present Drs. C. Norman, B. C. Harvey, H. M. Eustace, and W. R. Dawson (Hon. Sec.). Letters regretting inability to attend were notified from Drs. J. Mills, J. Oakshott, and R. R. Leeper.

The minutes of the previous meeting were slightly amended and signed.

Youghal Auxiliary Asylum.

The Hon. Secretary stated that the meeting had been called with reference to the impending arrangements for the management of Youghal Auxiliary Asylum, and read portions of two letters from Dr. Oscar Woods, and a leading article from the 'Cork Constitution,' explaining the circumstances. In 1901 the Committee of the Cork Asylum, deciding to take advantage of the 76th section of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, obtained the sanction of the Lord Lieutenant to making the Youghal Auxiliary part of the parent asylum. In the August of the present year, the asylum approaching completion, it was decided to appoint some nuns as officials, and also to have no resident medical officer, but a visiting physician at a salary of £100. The matter was then before the Lord Lieutenant for his approval, and Dr. Woods had suggested that a copy of the first clause of the resolution bearing on the subject which was passed at the Annual General Meeting of the Association at Cork in 1901 should be forwarded to His Excellency through the Inspectors of Lunatics, and reinforced by a further resolution from the Division.

After a prolonged discussion, in which all present joined, it was decided to fall in with Dr. Woods's suggestion as regards the copy of the first clause of the Cork resolution, and to send with it a covering letter expressing the opinion that an institution to contain some 400 insane, like that at Youghal, could not safely be managed without a resident medical officer, and that such an officer could be secured for the same salary that it was proposed to offer to the visiting physician, a post which had long been discarded as obsolete.

The Secretary was also directed to forward to the Inspectors, with a letter strongly expressing the opinion of the meeting, a resolution urging them to use all their influence to check such a tendency to retrograde and obsolete methods.

The proceedings then terminated.

Autumn Meeting.

The autumn meeting of the Division was, by the kind invitation of Dr. Leeper, held at St. Patrick's Hospital, James's Street, Dublin, on Friday, November 13th, 1903.

Before the meeting the members, some of whom had previously inspected the institution, were entertained at luncheon by Dr. Leeper.

There were present Dr. Leeper, who occupied the chair, and also Drs. G. R. Lawless, W. Kelley-Patterson, M. J. Nolan, J. Mills, C. Norman, T. Drapes, J. A. Oakshott, and W. R. Dawson (Hon. Sec.). A letter regretting inability to attend was notified from Dr. Oscar Woods, and a telegram from Dr. J. J. Fitzgerald.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, confirmed, and signed.

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.50.208.195 Published online by Cambridge University Press

Correspondence concerning Youghal Asylum.

As matter arising out of the minutes, the Secretary reported that, in accordance with the instructions given at the last meeting, he had written two letters to the Inspectors, which had been acknowledged. The Cork Committee had reaffirmed their decision, but the Lord Lieutenant was still considering the matter. The letters were read, and were directed to be entered on the minutes.

It was proposed by Dr. Norman, seconded by Dr. Lawless, and carried unanimously—"That the Secretary be empowered to call a special meeting of the Division in case any matter he deems of sufficient importance arises, before our next regular meeting, in connection with the Youghal Asylum scheme."

Election of Ordinary Members.

The following candidates were elected ordinary members of the Association:

Patrick Heffernan, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., R.U.I., Assistant Medical Officer, District Asylum, Clonmel (proposed by Drs. Bagenal C. Harvey, H. T. Bewley, and W. R. Dawson).

Alexis Fitzgerald, L.R.C.P.I., L.R.C.S.I., L.M., Assistant Medical Officer, District Asylum, Waterford (proposed by Drs. J. A. Oakshott, Oscar Woods, and W. R. Dawson).

Date and Place of Next Meeting.

The date and place of the next Divisional Meeting were discussed, and it was decided to hold it in Dublin about next Easter.

Revised Articles of Association and Bye-laws.

The Secretary said that the draft revised bye-laws, a copy of which had been received by each member since the notices of the meeting had been sent out, provided for the nomination of the Divisional Secretaries and representative members of Council, so that further consideration of this matter was unnecessary at present. He wished, however, to call attention to the provision in draft Bye-laws XXVII and LXXXVII, that the dates of the divisional meetings should be fixed at the Annual General Meeting, and that no alteration could be made within two months preceding each meeting. He thought this unworkable.

After a short discussion it was proposed by Dr. Norman, seconded by Dr. Nolan, and carried unanimously—"That in the opinion of this meeting it would be highly inconvenient to fix the dates of the divisional meetings at the Annual Meeting, and that therefore the clauses dealing with this point in the proposed bye-laws should be omitted."

Reports of Meetings.

Dr. Nolan said that he thought that it would be desirable for the reports of the meetings, more especially the general meetings, of the Association to be available earlier than was allowed by the date of their publication in the Journal. The Secretary undertook to send a report of the divisional meetings to the *British Medical Journal*, and to inquire regarding the general meetings.

Communications.

1. Dr. Leeper read the following short paper, entitled "Notes on St. Patrick's Hospital."

My first duty to-day is to welcome you to this old hospital, and to hope that your visit may be repeated as often as the Irish Division of the Association may desire. The work and history of this parent of Irish asylums is too familiar to you, and needs little of detailed and tedious description from me to-day.

Our work has been gradually growing, and I am pleased to think our curative ability has been yearly increasing. Our annual recovery rate has been to me satisfactory. It is, I feel, the best that can be got out of the material sent to us, and is in a direct proportion to the amount that can possibly be done with the

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present known means of favourably influencing the course of mental disease. I can gather that the more experienced amongst us regard with suspicion an unduly high recovery rate in an asylum, seeing that this varies so considerably in different institutions, and sometimes seems to admit of somewhat startling statistical oscillations, which may not always be justified by the after conduct of its component units, who have helped to swell the ever to be desired number of annual recoveries. I can assure you, however, that much good and useful work is yearly accomplished here, and, but for the generally felt curse of the frequent hereditary causation of insanity, is as satisfactory as one could desire from the most modernly constructed of mental hospitals.

The desire of the great dean who founded this hospital was to have it so constructed as to allow of its extension as occasion might require, and by means of the comparatively recent acquisition of the Manor of St. Edmundsbury at Lucan, we are now provided with a more effective and economically curative machinery. We are enabled by means of our farm and gardens to supply ourselves entirely with milk, meat, and vegetables, which come in daily to us from Lucan, and our institution is now almost entirely self-fed.

For some years past nearly the whole of our entire income has been expended upon structural alterations and improvements, and although those of you who have visited the wards to-day may have found things not as modern and as up-to-date as you are accustomed to, yet it is well to remind you that we are of so old a foundation that the same interest which has brought you here to-day, an interest in the betterment of the lot of the insane, brought the great philanthropist John Howard, who died in 1790, here a century and a half ago, and that you have trod to-day in the footsteps of him who visited us animated by the same sympathetic interest in our work.

Our hospital is still carrying on its work, and though grown old in years, it has been rendered with great expense and difficulty ever fit for its humane purpose.

I can but briefly touch upon the early history of this place, and shall say nothing of the many great men who have been from time to time connected with its work and development. There can be no doubt that it was built upon the model of Bethlem Hospital, and that Swift was well acquainted with the hospital in Moorfields, either from personal inspection or from the pictures of Hogarth. It may not be uninteresting to draw your attention to the minute knowledge which Swift possessed of the behaviour and conduct of insane persons as shown by his writings. In that witheringly sarcastic poem "The Legion Club," wherein he likens the then corrupted obnoxious members of the Irish Parliament to so many lunatics in an asylum, he shows how minute had been his knowledge of the construction of asylums, and of the peculiarities and degraded habits of the insane persons of his time. In this poem he describes the section of the Members of Parliament as so many lunatics in a madhouse, and reviews them as one making an inspection of the patients of an asylum.

"Yet should Swift endow the schools
For his lunatics and fools
With a rood or two of land,
I allow the pile may stand.
You perhaps will ask me why so?
But it is with this proviso:
Since the house is like to last,
Let a Royal grant be passed,
That the "club" have right to dwell
Each within his proper cell,
With a passage left to creep in,
And a hole above for peeping.
Let them, when they once get in,
Sell the nation for a pin;
While they sit a-picking straws
Let them rave of making laws;
While they never hold their tongue
Let them dabble in their dung.
Let them form a grand committee,
How to plague and starve the city.

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How I want thee, humorous Hogarth!
Thou, I hear, a pleasant rogue art;
Were but you and I acquainted
Every monster would be painted.
Draw the beasts as I describe them
From their features, whilst I gibe them;
Draw them like, for I assure you
You will need no caricatura;
Draw them so that we can trace
All the soul in every face."

What a wholesome terror to evil-doing politicians would an attack of this description be! Can we imagine the feelings of a public man living under the dread of the biting lash of Swift's sarcasm, combined with the fear of being sent down to ages by the pencil of Hogarth, those scathing satirists of the vices and follies of the days in which they both lived, and the evils which they by different means so mercilessly and savagely scarified?

This hospital was designed, as I have said, so that it could always be added to, and, as Swift predicted, if it extended from where you sit to the Phœnix Park, there would always be more applicants than there would be room for. I shall, in conclusion, show you the minutes of the first meeting of an Irish Asylum Board held in 1746, and the record of work done in the public service before Ireland could boast of a criminal asylum, together with some old curiosities connected with the bygone treatment of insanity.

2. Dr. NOLAN exhibited a number of interesting naked-eye and microscopic specimens, and gave particulars of the cases from which they were taken (see page 69).

Dr. DAWSON was inclined to think, from the single microscopic specimen which he had examined, that the tumour in the second case was not really a fibroma, but what the Germans called an endothelioma.

3. Dr. CONOLLY NORMAN made a communication entitled "Gossip about Gheel" (see page 53).

4. Dr. LEEPER read the following note on "A New Method of fixing the Brain and Cord for Examination:"

The method I have to bring before your notice is one which I recently saw employed by the eminent neurologist, Dr. Marie, of Paris. Six months ago I examined, by a modification of the Nissl method I commonly use, the brain of a sane man who was accidentally killed by a fall. The examination of this normal brain was of much interest to me, as it showed fine chromatolytic changes such as have been described as occurring in the brains of the acutely insane. These changes occurring in a normal brain were undoubtedly due to failure in fixation and post-mortem change, and had they been observed in the brain of an acute case of mania or melancholia would undoubtedly be described as pathological. Dr. Marie kindly demonstrated to me this method of fixation, which is so simple, ingenious, and effective, that I think it worthy to bring before your notice. His method is as follows:—As speedily as possible after death a hollow needle is passed beneath the eyeball through the "foramen lacerum anterius" into the cranial cavity. It is necessary to see that the needle is not hitched against the bone, but is free and long enough to penetrate the subdural space. To this needle is attached a piece of rubber tube (a small-sized nasal feeding-tube I find very handy), and a solution of formalin (200 grammes of a 10 *per cent.* solution) is allowed to flow into the cranial cavity. If the head is slightly raised the solution flows down very quickly, and fixes and partially hardens the brain and cord in a wonderfully rapid and satisfactory manner. Here we have a way of fixing tissue of great use, and by it we are able to eliminate cadaveric artefacts, which would otherwise appear to be impossible. The brain is subsequently, of course, removed as speedily as possible, when Müller or other hardening fluid may be used to fix the tissue for sectioning, just as if the fixation by means of formalin had not been previously done. I exhibit a brain and cord which have been treated in this way and also three slides. No. 1 is the normal brain, which was fixed in the usual way. It shows slight cadaveric changes which have occurred as the result of want of rapid fixation.

No. 2 is a section of grey matter in frontal region in an old lady who was fifty

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.50.208.195 Published online by Cambridge University Press

years an inmate of the hospital. There are extensive chromatolytic changes seen, but we can see that the outlines of nerve-cells are wonderfully preserved, and that almost all the cells existing have been stained well and present a rather respectable appearance considering three years of wear and tear.

No. 3 is a section of the brain of an aged paranoiac who died from apoplexy. In this section extensive degenerative change is of course seen, and can be contrasted with No. 2. Nos. 2 and 3, being from similar brains, in which one would expect to find similar pathological degenerative changes, have been fixed—the one by the new and the other by the old method.

Dr. DAWSON thought the method would prove a very valuable one, as the great difficulty in brain work was to get the specimens sufficiently fresh. He wished to know whether the internal structures were satisfactorily fixed by the method, or whether it was mainly useful for the cortex.

Dr. LEEPER replied that the deeper parts were not very satisfactorily fixed by it. It facilitated the removal of the brain and cord without laceration.

The proceedings then terminated.

SCOTTISH DIVISION.

A meeting of the Scottish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association was held within the Hall of the Royal College of Physicians, Queen Street, Edinburgh, on Friday, November 27th, 1903.

The following members were present:—Drs. Bond, Campbell, Carlyle Johnstone, Easterbrook, Ford Robertson, Havelock, Hayes Newington, Hyslop, Keay, Kerr, Marr, Macdonald, Oswald, Parker, Ronaldson, G. M. Robertson, Turnbull, Thomson, Urquhart, Yellowlees, L. C. Bruce, Divisional Secretary, Mr. Scott, of Synton, and others.

Letters of apology were intimated from Drs. Ernest White, Clouston, Ireland, and Watson. Dr. Hayes Newington was called to the chair. The minutes of the last meeting were read, approved of, and signed.

The SECRETARY read the report of the Retiring Allowances Committee as follows:—The Retiring Allowances Committee beg to report that fifty-seven members of Parliament for Scotland out of seventy-two have been approached on the subject of pensions for workers in the district and parochial asylums of Scotland. Thirty-nine of these members have replied, promising support or expressing sympathy.

The following question was put and answered in Parliament on July 13th, 1903:—Sir James Fergusson,—To ask the Lord Advocate, considering that no statutory provision exists in Scotland for the grant of superannuation allowances to officers and servants of district and parochial lunatic asylums, while such provision has been made in respect of county and borough asylums in England, of district asylums in Ireland, and of chartered asylums in Scotland, as well as in other departments of the public service, and that the General Board of Commissioners in Lunacy in Scotland have repeatedly in their reports pointed out that the absence of such provision is prejudicial to the interests of patients in the asylums, the Secretary of Scotland will consider the propriety of introducing a measure to place Scottish public asylum officials on a footing similar to those in English, Irish, and chartered Scottish asylums.

Answered by Mr. Graham Murray.—The point will be considered, in the event of its being found possible and expedient, to propose legislation for the amendment of the Lunacy (Scotland) Acts, but the Secretary for Scotland is unable to come under any definite obligation on the subject at present.

Sir James Fergusson has also kindly offered to take charge of a bill in the House of Commons for the amendment of the Scottish Lunacy Acts in respect to the granting of superannuation allowances to the officers and servants in Scottish district and parochial asylums. Excluding the Royal Asylum officials, we find that the officials in Scottish district and parochial asylums number over 1400, and that the householders number over 318.

It has been decided by the Sheriff Principal of Perthshire at Dunkeld that an

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