Communications.

Dr. Conolly Norman contributed a communication entitled "Notes on Hallucinations" (see page 272).

Dr. Dawson read a paper entitled "A Case of Hebephrenia" (see page 303).

Dinner.

Some of the members dined together at the Jammet Hotel, Dublin, in the evening.

PARLIAMENTARY NOTES.

The King's Speech in opening Parliament this year contained no mention of lunacy legislation.

Thursday, February 26th.

Lunacy in Ireland.

Mr. Clancy asked the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the increase in lunatic asylum charges in Ireland in recent years, he would consider the expediency of appointing a select committee to inquire into the cause or causes of the growth of local expenditure on lunatic asylums in that country, and to consider whether any means could be found of limiting or reducing the burden on Irish ratepayers which was involved.

Mr. Wyndham replied: The statistics of insanity do most unfortunately show an increase in the numbers of the registered insane. This increase is not confined to Ireland. There has necessarily been a corresponding expansion in the contributions from local rates and from Parliamentary grants for the provision of accommodation for the insane and for their maintenance. The proposal in the question has already been dealt with in the Reports of the Royal Commission on Local Taxation, and I see no reason for further investigation.

Tuesday, March 3rd.

Mental Derangement.

Dr. Farquharson asked the Attorney-General whether the Government would consider proposals to legalise in England a system similar to that which was in operation in Scotland for the private care of persons showing symptoms of incipient mental derangement who could not be certified as insane.

Sir Robert Finlay replied: The Government has already assented to the principle of such legislation, and a clause dealing with the subject was contained in the Lunacy Bill of 1900. That Bill was introduced by the Lord Chancellor into the House of Lords at the beginning of the session and was passed; it came down to the House of Commons on March 8th, 1900, but had to be withdrawn on July 16th.

Thursday, March 5th.

Treatment of Harmless Lunatics.

Mr. Hammond asked the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, having regard to the restrictions placed upon boards of guardians in Ireland in the treatment of harmless lunatics, if he would favour the proposal for the assimilation of the law in Ireland to that in Scotland, under which it is practicable to have these persons boarded and cared for in the homes of the peasantry.

Mr. Wyndham replied: The question of making better provision for the treatment of harmless lunatics in Ireland is receiving consideration.

ABERDEEN ROYAL ASYLUM. DR. ALEXANDER ASSAULTED.

At a Sheriff and Jury Court lately, a patient in the Royal Asylum appeared on a charge of having assaulted J. T—, at the farm of Knaven, New Deer, on August

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15th, by compressing his throat, and throwing him to the ground, and also of having assaulted John Mitchell. Prisoner was further charged with having assaulted Dr. H. De Main Alexander after he had been placed in the asylum, and further with having assaulted William Morrice, head attendant, and lacerated his face. Mr. S. D. Fowler, solicitor, who appeared for accused, examined Dr. Alexander; Dr. Reid, Superintendent, Aberdeen Royal Asylum; and Dr. Angus, of the Royal Infirmary; and their evidence showed accused was of unsound mind and dangerous. The Sheriff ordered him to be detained during His Majesty's pleasure.—*Dundee Advertiser.*

Criminals may be refused by Royal Asylums under Lunacy Acts, and this seems to have been the best way of dealing with a highly dangerous patient.

AMERICAN MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

The American Medico-Psychological Association having become affiliated with the Congress of American Physicians and Surgeons, it is obligatory under the constitution and bye-laws of the Congress that the Association hold its meeting in 1903 and every third year in Washington. The Council has therefore instructed the Secretary to issue this notice, changing the place of meeting from Providence to Washington, and fixing the dates, May 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th of this year.

SOCIÉTÉ MÉDICO-PSYCHOLOGIQUE DE PARIS.

We observe that Dr. Paul Tollin and Dr. René Semelaigne have retired from the joint secretaryship in favour of Drs. Blin and Dupaix, of the Vancluse Asylum.

OBITUARY.

Dr. T. Giné y Partagás, the *doyen* of Catalonian alienists, ended on February 27th last his long and active career. Born in Barcelona in 1836, he completed his studies at the Faculty of the same town about 1858, retiring afterwards to Calva, a hamlet in the vicinity of Tarragona, where he practised physic for three years. Assisting in the practical classes of the Faculty in 1863, he obtained the Chair of Anatomy in Santiago and Galicia. At last he won the Chair of Clinical Surgery in his native city, later on directing his attention to mental science. With this object he founded the *Phrenopathic Review* (1880), and established the *New Belem Lunatic Asylum.* It was at this time that he made himself known as a mental pathologist. He strove for the improvement in Spanish law regarding moral insanity, and in several *causes célèbre* gave proofs of his great ability. To these labours were united those of teaching psychiatry in his asylum, and writing no inconsiderable works on his speciality. Only the infirmities of age and the progress of a cruel disease could extinguish his vigour of mind. Spanish mental science is now in mourning for this great and irreparable loss.

We mention a few of his more important works relating to psychiatry:

Theoretical and Practical Treatise of Phrenopathy, 1876; *Phrenopathic Letters about Moral Insanity,* 1882; *On the Necessity of Popularising Psychology,* 1883; *Phreniatric Aphorisms,* 1884; *Clinical Hypnotism,* 1888; *A Journey to Cerebropolis* (a scientific novel), 1889; *Mysteries of Insanity* (another scientific and literary work), translated into Italian, 1890; and numerous articles and observations in the *Phrenopathic Review, Medical Independence,* and other scientific reviews and publications.

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