each year added another. But the serum was a very good one, and most cases had recovered. The number of cases had been gradually diminished. The great trouble was with the "carriers" and the chronic cases—those which showed no signs except two small semi-loose motions a day. There was no real diarrhœa, nor did the patients pass blood and mucus, nor show a rise in temperature. *Post-mortem* there was chronic thickening, or wide-spread congestion of the gut, but none of the alterations seen in acute cases. At Chedleton the investigation was in the hands of Major Stewart, who, after seventeen years' experience in India, was disgusted to find the Shiga in asylum dysentery. At his institution these patients were now vaccinated with a stock vaccine, and the result had been wonderful. Dr. Petrie had exposed the subject in a marvellous manner.

Dr. BERNARD SHAW said he had had some experience of the disease in India, but he had no data at the moment. What struck him was the extraordinary rarity of dysentery in Indian asylums; he did not remember an epidemic of the disease in an asylum there during the last nineteen years. In the last year, in his own asylum at Baroda, there were two deaths from slight dysentery. *Post-mortem* there was found thickening of the gut. They had little laboratory assistance there, except for the Brigade laboratories.

PAPER.

"The Ranchi European Mental Hospital, India." By Major OWEN BERKELEY-HILL. (Read by the President in the unavoidable absence of the author.)

The PRESIDENT said he suggested to Major Berkeley-Hill that he should try the effect of malaria in patients suffering from general paralysis, but he replied that he had very few cases of general paralysis.

VOTES OF THANKS.

The PRESIDENT said he was much obliged to members for their attendance, especially on these hot and trying days.

He proposed a cordial vote of thanks to the Royal Society of Medicine for having kindly allowed the Association the use of the Barnes Hall on the opening day.

Carried.

He next proposed a vote of thanks to the Governors of Bethlem Royal Hospital, and its President, Sir Charles Wakefield, for their very gracious and sumptuous hospitality when they entertained the members to a garden party on the 11th instant. In that he wished to include Dr. Porter Phillips, who made the arrangements.

Carried.

Finally, he proposed a vote of thanks to the London County Council for allowing the members to inspect the Maudsley Hospital, and to Dr. and Mrs. Mapother for their kind hospitality.

Carried.

Dr. J. CHAMBERS, on behalf of the Association, wished the President a happy year of office, and the PRESIDENT replied.

This concluded the meeting.

IRISH DIVISION.

THE SUMMER MEETING of the Irish Division was held, by the kind invitation of Dr. Gavin, at Mullingar Mental Hospital, on Tuesday, July 3, 1923, Dr. Gavin in the Chair.

Letters were received from Mrs. Colles, Mrs. Rainsford and Dr. T. A. Greene acknowledging resolutions of sympathy passed by the Division at its last meeting and ordered to be forwarded to them.

The Meeting proceeded to elect an ordinary member. Dr. Mary C. O'Brien, L.R.C.P.&S.I., L.M., Assistant Medical Officer of Ballinasloe Mental Hospital, having been proposed by Dr. Mills and seconded by Drs. H. R. C. Rutherford and R. R. Leeper, was, on a ballot being taken, declared by the Chairman to be elected.

The meeting then considered the proposed amendments to the Asylums Officers' Superannuation Act and also the National Asylum Workers' Union's propositions, and, taking the amendments clause by clause and comparing them with the propositions set forth by the National Asylum Workers' Union, it was decided that, as the Division understood that a Bill is shortly to be introduced into the Dail

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.69.287.580 Published online by Cambridge University Press

affecting Southern Ireland, Dr. J. O'C. Donelan and Dr. O'Doherty be asked to kindly forward to the Hon. Secretary a statement on the matter for submission to the Government.

It was regrettable that a copy of the proposed Bill was not before the meeting, but, whilst generally approving of the proposed amendments to the Bill before the British Parliament, the meeting was of opinion that Clause 5 (Forfeiture for Fraud) should stand as in the original Bill and that Clause 19 should be deleted.

A hearty vote of thanks, proposed by Dr. M. J. NOLAN and seconded by Dr. J. O'C. DONELAN, expressing the best thanks of the members for the kind hospitality of Dr. Gavin and for the pleasant day they had spent owing to his kindness and forethought, brought the proceedings to a termination.

PARLIAMENTARY NEWS.

June 23, 1923: *Mental Deficiency Administration.*—Mr. FRANK GRAY asked the Minister of Health whether he was aware that many complaints had been made in several localities of the exercise of the wide powers conferred by the Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913 to 1919, over individuals; and whether he would cause inquiry to be made into the exercise of these powers and the foundation for the complaints made.—Lord E. PERCY replied: As far as I am aware, the powers referred to are exercised with care and discretion. If the hon. Member has any specific cases in mind and will give me particulars I will ask the Board of Control to investigate them.

July 11, 1923: *Discharge of Private Lunacy Patients.*—Mr. HAYDAY asked the Minister of Health by what authority the London County Council, through their asylum regulations, had interfered with the right guaranteed to a petitioner by Section 72 of the Lunacy Act, 1890, to direct the discharge or transfer of a private patient from a pauper asylum by exacting four weeks' payment if the patient was taken away, whereas in institutions for rich patients the provisions of Section 72 were punctiliously carried out and the patient was allowed to leave at once on the legal direction given by his petitioners; and would he see that this practice was stopped.—Mr. NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN replied: Inquiry is being made by the Board of Control and I will communicate the result to the hon. Member.

July 12, 1923: *Sect.* 79, *Lunacy Act.*—Mr. F. HALL asked the Minister of Health whether, in view of the fact that the provisions of Section 79 of the Lunacy Act, in regard to the right of friends as distinct from relatives, to apply for the discharge of patients, are rendered nugatory by concealment of that right, he will see that the recommendation of the Cobbe Committee as to the posting up of that section in the waiting-rooms of asylums is carried out, and that similarly the provisions of Section 22 of the Lunacy Act shall be posted up in infirmaries in such a way as to acquaint friends and relatives with their rights under the said section?—Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: As regards Section 79, I would refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Pontypool (Mr. Griffiths) on March 12 last. As regards Section 22, I doubt if any advantage would be secured by such action as is suggested.

July 12, 1923: *Sect.* 8, *Lunacy Act.*—In answer to Mr. T. GRIFFITHS, Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said the result of the inquiry made by the Board of Control showed that in only a very few institutions had the requirement of Section 8 of the Lunacy Act not been fully adhered to. The reference was as to informing patients in private asylums as to their rights of appeal. The Minister added that the Board had warned the authorities concerned and had received assurances that the Statute requirements would be fully observed.

July 19, 1923: *Insane Prisoners.*—Sir ROBERT NEWMAN asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he could state how many persons during the last four years had become insane and been certified as such while undergoing terms of imprisonment; whether any of them had died in that condition before being released from custody; and how many convicted persons during the last four years had committed suicide while serving a sentence of imprisonment.—Mr. BRIDGEMAN replied: The number of convicted, debtor, and surety prisoners certified insane in prison during the last four years is 432. None of these persons died while still in prison and before removal to an asylum. I have no information as to how many of these persons died before they were discharged from asylums. During the same four years 28 prisoners committed suicide in prison.

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