Votes of Thanks.

Dr. A. E. Evans expressed appreciation of the work of Dr. Ford Robertson and his committee in arranging such an excellent discussion.

The President (Dr. Gilmour) proposed a vote of thanks to the Ilkley Urban District Council, to the Ilkley Chairman and members, and to the Ilkley doctors for their hospitality, also to the Harrogate Corporation. They also desired to thank Mr. Elsworth for the help he had given them. The organising of the scientific sessions had been entirely the work of Dr. Ford Robertson, and they congratulated him most cordially.

Dr. Douglas Turner, in seconding, said all the members would wish to include in their thanks Dr. and Mrs. Gilmour.

The vote of thanks was heartily carried, and the meeting terminated.

THE ANNUAL DINNER.

The Annual Dinner of the Association took place at the Wells House Hotel, Ilkley, on Wednesday, July 6, 1938, with the President, Dr. J. R. Gilmour, in the Chair.

Official Guests: Sir Bernard Lomas-Walker, *K.B.E.*, The Venerable Canon Lowe, Archdeacon of Bradford, Sir James Baillie (Vice-Chancellor of Leeds University), Dr. F. J. O. Coddington (Stipendiary Magistrate of Bradford) and Mrs. Coddington, Sir Laurence Brock, *C.B.*, Dr. J. H. Pameijer, Dr. R. Gjessing, Dr. Noel Péron and Mme. Péron, Dr. Sakel, Dr. T. B. Hearder, Dr. J. Stirling Crawford, Dr. A. V. Garscadden, Dr. M. Dobson, Dr. J. Sinclair Millar, Mr. Robert Thornton, L.D.S., Mr. C. J. F. Atkinson, Mr. H. S. Chorley, F.R.I.B.A., Mr. Joe Benn, Mr. Reginald C. Jones, Mr. Basil Hughes, *D.S.O.*, F.R.C.S., Mr. Peter MacEwan, F.R.C.S., Miss J. B. Gilmour, Mr. Ernest Waddilove, The Rev. E. N. Pedley, M.A., Mr. Donald Watson, Mr. Edgar Atkinson.

Expressions of regret at inability to attend were received from the Princess Royal and the Earl of Harewood, *K.G.*, the Rt. Hon. Walter Elliot (Minister of Health), Lady Lomas-Walker, The Right Rev. Bishop Mounsey, Sir Charles McGrath (Clerk to the West Riding C.C.), Victor Waddilove, Esq. (Chairman of Scalebor Park Committee), A. C. Voigt, Esq. (Chairman, Ilkley District Council), Miss E. M. Gilmour.

The toast of "The King" was given by the President and duly honoured.

Dr. W. Rees Thomas, in proposing "The West Riding of Yorkshire", said that Yorkshire members were gratified by the choice of the Association of a President who worked in the West Riding. They all appreciated the President's pioneer work at the private hospital at Scalebor Park. The history of the West Riding included pioneers in other directions, for example, William Ellis, who, in 1817, began to experiment in occupational therapy. Within ten years this was so popular that they tried it in Scotland. Another figure of high distinction was Dr. Keeton, the Medical Superintendent at Wakefield, who had "the doubtful distinction of having side whiskers and becoming ultimately a Commissioner in Lunacy". The name of Sir James Crichton-Browne was still highly reverenced among them; it was he who established the first laboratory in any mental hospital, and among the men he collected around him was David Ferrier, who did pioneer work on the localization of cerebral function, and made the operation for removal of cerebral tumour possible. Then there was the work of Bevan Lewis, who made it possible to carry out certain forms of staining of brain tissue; and if he might be permitted to make a reference to a living person, they would never forget the distinguished work of Dr. Shaw Bolton. Other superintendents of mental hospitals in the West Riding had begged him to make no reference to them. He also referred to the committees of mental hospitals in the West Riding. These were people who, after all, controlled their destinies as professional men, shaped their policies and made their rules, and had the energy to see that the rules were carried out. He was perfectly certain that no rule made by a Yorkshire Committee would ever become a dead letter.

Sir Bernard Lomas Walker (Chairman of the West Riding County Council), in responding, congratulated the President upon the high honour done him in electing him to the Presidency of the Association. He was present to pay a tribute to the President for his long and distinguished services to the people of the West Riding. He had worked very quietly, but with great efficiency, and whatever his colleagues might think of him in that Association he would always

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be still more greatly honoured in the county which had been the scene of his lifework. Dr. Rees Thomas had mentioned the names of some distinguished mental physicians, but so far as he could gather from their names, none of them were Yorkshiremen; they all came either from Scotland or from the dependency to which he imagined Dr. Rees Thomas himself was attached.

How any man could be expected after dinner to reply for the West Riding passed his comprehension, because the West Riding was an extremely large area, filled with a very peculiar set of people, and as for his County Council, if its critics who, of course, were ratepayers, were listened to, all the members of the Council ought to be patients in the mental hospitals themselves. But the West Riding was really the backbone of the country and of the Empire. He could not imagine that the Association had ever met amid more beautiful scenery than that which the West Riding could offer. Pointing to a marvellous sunset over Ilkley Moor which was visible through the window in front of which he stood, Sir Bernard ended his speech by saying that it was time he set also.

Dr. E. J. C. HEWITT, in proposing the toast of "THE GUESTS", referred in the first place to the distinguished foreign guests who were present, Dr. Gjessing, Dr. Pameijer, Dr. Péron and Dr. Sakel. It was a great tribute to the Association that four such distinguished psychiatrists from abroad should have spared their time to come over to England and be with them on that occasion, and two of them to read papers. He next referred to the guests from the West Riding, including Sir Bernard Lomas Walker, Sir James Baillie and other local celebrities. He coupled with the toast the names of Dr. F. J. Coddington, Stipendiary Magistrate of Bradford, and Dr. J. H. Pameijer, of the Netherlands.

Dr. F. J. O. CODDINGTON, M.A., LL.D., in his response, referred to the association between himself as a magistrate and members of the medical profession. Magistrates were accustomed to have before them people who were called criminals, and who were obviously misfits in society, people who did not harmonize and co-operate with the society in which they lived. It was the proper duty of the modern criminal court to take such measures as would persuade or compel the criminal to become a suitable co-operating member of society. But that duty was also the duty of the psychiatrist. There were many people whose intellect was ill, many of unstable intelligence, and there was certainly a very big overlapping borderline between their two functions. He gladly paid testimony to the valuable and entirely unpaid co-operation and help which he received from members of the Association who lived in this district. They often assisted him greatly in treating some of the delinquents who came before him. Many of those present came from parts of England where the local criminal court did not take advantage of their assistance, very largely because they did not know it was available; moreover, some medical officers, by the terms of their appointment, were not entitled to assist the local courts. But such assistance in his own experience had proved very valuable whenever it could be obtained.

Dr. J. H. PAMEIJER, also in response, said how much he felt at home in this country. This was because, in contact with his British colleagues, he had observed a considerable similarity in ideas and outlook as between them and Dutch psychiatrists. This arose from similar origins and traditions. It could not be denied that there was some difference between British and Dutch mentality, but in his opinion there were still more points of resemblance. Both the British and the Dutch stood for independence and liberty in thinking and acting. While the people of both nations were ready to acquaint themselves with new ideas, systems and methods, they introduced them only after careful and thorough examination. The Dutch Association had therefore appreciated very highly the request of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association year by year to send representatives to this annual gathering. Every such meeting he had himself attended had enlarged his outlook. Members of the Association might rest assured that their Dutch colleagues were ever anxious to render any assistance that was within their power, and he thought they knew that his own personal help as Inspector of Mental Hospitals in Holland was always at the disposal of members visiting that country. He closed by wishing the Association a continued usefulness in psychiatry under conditions of international peace.

Sir JAMES BAILLIE, *O.B.E.*, Vice-Chancellor of Leeds University, said: It is a great pleasure to propose the toast of "THE ROYAL MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION", and to wish it all prosperity. We in the West Riding honour it for a long record of admirable service, extending back for nearly a hundred years, which its members have rendered to those who suffer from the most grievous type of affliction. It is a singular and pathetic fact that it is only in the case of the highest creature on this planet that the sweetly chiming bells of noble and sovereign reason can be jangled out of tune by a neural catastrophe which shatters the mansion house of the human spirit. Two characteristics seem to me quite peculiar in your great branch of the profession. One is the unique complexity of the problem which you have to face. Its investigation surely constitutes the most difficult branch of work in the whole medical profession, making demands both upon your humanity and your scientific knowledge. Another striking characteristic is,

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partly because of the nature of the phenomena with which you deal, that for the success of your work in any respect at all, there is required a co-operation between patient and practitioner of the most intimate kind such as is not found in any other branch of the profession. In consequence, there are placed upon the medical practitioner in mental diseases heavy demands calling for strength of mind, power of sympathy, and an intimate knowledge of human nature in all its aspects.

Your problem is not diminished with the increase of civilization. On the contrary, it seems that the standard of mental efficiency demanded by civilization is steadily increasing, and in consequence the strain of living up to the demand increases also. I observe from statistics that, if not the relative number, at any rate the actual number of those who fall by the way has steadily increased in this country during the last ten years. The increase is not so high on this side of the Scottish border as it is on the other. Perhaps that is explained as an Aberdonian explained it on a certain occasion. This Aberdonian was describing to an Englishman what an extraordinary people the Aberdonians are, that they are not merely the governors of the Empire, but a race of scholars, the most intelligent people not only in Scotland, but anywhere else in the Empire, and he suggested that everywhere an Aberdonian would be found at the head of every reasonable department. " That sounds all right," said the Englishman, " but if your story is true, how does it happen that there is a bigger percentage of lunacy in Aberdeen than in any other part of the British Isles ? " That was a staggering blow, and the Aberdonian, not being a medical man or a statistician, was inclined to accept the statement at its face value, but after a moment's consideration he replied, " It's this way. The folk that be thought daft in Aberdeen, would be considered gey wise anywhere else ".

The great advances that have taken place in your work during the long history of this Association have depended on the progress of physiology on the one hand, and the progress of psychology on the other. I want to suggest that, inseparable as those two things are for the proper execution of your most difficult task, it is very seldom that you find a physiologist who is a trained psychologist, and rarer still that you come across a psychologist who is a competent physiologist.

In that connection may I make one observation ? In laying down the conditions under which you grant certificates of competence in your profession, you do not lay stress on the importance of a training in psychology. I would suggest that you should demand as large a knowledge of psychology in the medical student as you demand of physiology. I have some acquaintance with one medical school ; indeed, I have had something to do with that school for the last fourteen years. I think I am right in saying that 90% of the medical students proceeding into the profession have not had any proper or systematic training in general psychology at all. It is not enough to give a certain training in what is called medical psychology. Just as, without a competent knowledge of normal physiology, it is impossible for the student to proceed to the study of the pathology of the nervous system or anything else, so it is necessary to the competent doctor to have a proper appreciation of normal psychology before he can adequately study the abnormal mentality. You cannot acquire a knowledge of psychology by the light of nature or by uninstructed common sense.

There is no more difficult subject in this world to study than psychology. It is the most difficult of all sciences, if it is a science. Some people have suggested, with a certain amount of truth, that physiology is barely in its adolescence. If that is true, then psychology is hardly within the stage of its infancy. But even so, and just on that account, the medical student should make himself acquainted with the vast and extensive and, I may add, most dubious literature that goes by the name of psychology at the present day. He ought to do that if only to preserve other people who have neither the right, the justification, or the competence to deal with the subject at all, from being misled in the meanderings of mental science. And he should do so in his own interest because, after all, for the purpose of your profession, it is essential you should understand the mind of your patients, and how can you do that if you have no systematic acquaintance with the ordinary conscious process of the emotions, the thought and the will ?

That is particularly important at the present day when it is being recognized as never before that it is of the utmost value to attack this problem of mental abnormality at its earliest stages. I look forward to the time when every general hospital—at least every hospital attached to a medical school—will have amongst its posts one dealing with mental aberration in its earliest stages. We have talked of that in Leeds for some time, and I trust that at no distant date we shall be able to secure such a post. It is surely obvious that much misery and mental trouble would be obviated if it was possible to take charge of the affected individual at the earliest stages of his mental development. Under the strain and stress of modern life that problem of what I might call incipient mental aberration is becoming more and more important to recognize. So many people are falling by the way and are found mentally unfit in these days for the struggle for existence. We, as laymen, are grateful for the admirable way in which you as a profession have substituted the beneficent methods of psychological analysis for the older, crude, cruel and uncomprehending methods of earlier days.

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May I conclude with one observation? I suggest to you that your business is not merely to cure those who have gone astray, but to help by your guidance, your wisdom, your knowledge of human nature, to keep people healthy-minded, and to understand the conditions under which healthy-mindedness can be secured and maintained. It is not enough to study the effect of the ductless glands on the metabolism of the nervous system ; it is for you to lay emphasis on those ideals which make society sweet, steady, sane and reasonable. That is one of the privileges of the great section of the medical profession to which you belong. But I did not come to tell you things that are familiar to all of you. I came to commend to those who like myself are laymen the toast of the prosperity of this Association, and to wish that its most beneficent work for the welfare of humanity may steadily increase in the days to come. With this toast I couple the name of your President, who is greatly honoured by us in Yorkshire. We feel sure that the impression Dr. Gilmour has left on Yorkshire as a result of his generation of work in our midst—on Yorkshire, this most difficult of all counties, inhabited by the most interesting of all peoples—will endure, and make his name memorable for years to come.

The toast having been drunk with acclamation, the PRESIDENT made a brief response, thanking Sir James Baillie for the kind way in which he had proposed the health of the Association. Sir James was shortly leaving Leeds, where he had done a great amount of work of the highest public value, and he would carry with him their best wishes in his new sphere.

IRISH DIVISION.

SPRING QUARTERLY MEETING.

THE SPRING QUARTERLY MEETING of the Irish Division was held in St. Patrick's Hospital, Dublin, by kind invitation of Dr. R. R. Leeper, on Thursday, April 7, 1938.

In the forenoon the members were shown over the Hospital, and had an opportunity of seeing many interesting relics of its famous founder, Dean Swift. Later the members and guests were hospitably entertained to lunch by Dr. Leeper.

The following members were present :

Dr. T. A. Greene (in the Chair), and Drs. Dora E. Allman, F. Aird, S. Blake, P. J. Cassen, W. J. Coyne, F. J. Deane, Kathleen Dillon, J. O'C. Donelan, Annie J. Dunleavy, H. J. Eustace, Nora M. Fitzgerald, John Fitzgerald, T. L. Foley, P. Grace, Herbert, D. Hegarty, V. Kelly, R. R. Leeper, D. B. Lothian, C. Moloney, D. O'Sullivan, H. StG. Smith, R. Taylor, R. Thompson, and Dr. P. Moran (Hon. Sec.).

Dr. M. Abdy Collins, a Past President of the Association, was also present.

Apologies for unavoidable absence were received from Drs. B. Honan and J. C. Martin.

Dr. GRACE proposed, and Dr. DILLON seconded, that the sympathy of the Division be extended to Dr. F. Aird on the death of his mother.

Dr. T. GREENE proposed, and Dr. DONELAN seconded, that the sympathy of the Division be extended to Mrs. Rambaut on her recent bereavement.

Both motions were passed in silence, all members standing. The Secretary was directed to convey the sympathy of the meeting to the relatives.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed by the Chairman.

The SECRETARY read a letter from Dr. Eustace thanking the Division for their kind message of sympathy on the death of his wife, and from Mrs. Rambaut thanking the Division for the wreath sent for Dr. Rambaut's funeral.

A letter from the General Secretary, enclosing a copy of Counsel's opinion regarding responsibilities of medical officers, was considered. It was decided to send a copy to the Local Government Department, and to ask the General Secretary to send a copy to all members of the Irish Division, and advise all medical officers to insure with one of the medical protection societies.

Replies to circular letters sent to training hospitals *re* the training of nurses were read.

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