The PRESIDENT moved that a letter of condolence be sent to the relatives of the late Dr. Sidney Crowther, expressing the Association's sorrow at the sad event.
Approved.

THE LATE DR. HAROLD SHAW.

Dr. PERCY SMITH said the Association would be sorry to learn of the death, after a short illness, of Dr. Harold Shaw, of the Isle of Wight Asylum.
The PRESIDENT moved that a letter of condolence be sent to the relatives of Dr. Harold Shaw.
Approved.

THE FATE OF THE BELGIAN ASYLUMS.

The PRESIDENT said he had been asked by several lay people in his neighbourhood whether he could tell them what had happened to the Belgian asylums during the terrible devastation which had accompanied this war. He was unable to answer the question, and he wondered whether any of his colleagues could give any information on the subject. Gheel, the celebrated colony asylum, was somewhat to the north of the track of invasion, and hence it had possibly not suffered much. But he thought there must be several asylums in the centre and the south of Belgium which had suffered. One of the daily papers contained a story of one, but it was very incomplete.
No members present, however, were able to supply any information, and the matter dropped.
The meeting then terminated.

REVISION OF BYE-LAWS.

A SPECIAL Meeting was held at 11, Chandos Street, London, on Tuesday, September 22nd, 1914.
Present: Drs. Fletcher Beach, Bower, Cole, Elgee, Hart, Lord, Ogilvy, Stansfield, Stilwell, Stoddart, Soutar, and M. A. Collins (Hon. Gen. Secretary).
In the absence of the President and ex-President, who both sent letters of apology, Dr. J. G. Soutar was elected to the chair.
The Chairman explained that the Companies Act required a second special meeting to confirm the resolution passed at the special meeting held on August 24th last.
Dr. Fletcher Beach proposed and Dr. Stansfield seconded the confirmation of the resolution (see p. 694, vol. lx). Carried.
The meeting then terminated.

NORTHERN AND MIDLAND DIVISION.

THE AUTUMN MEETING of the Northern and Midland Division was held by the kind invitation of Dr. Graeme Dickson at Wye House, Buxton, on Thursday, October 22nd, 1914. Dr. Dickson presided.
Members present.—Drs. G. Dickson, E. S. H. Gill, R. W. D. Hewson, G. R. Jeffrey, R. Legge, S. R. Macphail, J. M. Mathieson, J. Middlemass, R. C. Stewart, W. Vincent, and T. S. Adair (*Hon. Divisional Secretary*).
Regrets of inability to attend were received from the President (Dr. Thomson), Drs. Douglas, Pierce, and Johnson (Harrogate).
The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
Richard R. Kirwan, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., R.U.I., Assistant Medical Officer, W. R. Asylum, Menston, Leeds—*proposed by* Drs. Edgerley, Walker, and Adair—was unanimously elected an ordinary member of Association.
On the proposal of Dr. Macphail, seconded by Dr. Vincent, Drs. McDowall, Pierce, and Street were unanimously re-elected to form the Divisional Committee for the next twelve months.
Dr. R. C. STEWART then read a short paper on "Restraint in Mental Disease," with the object of opening up a discussion on this subject. He dealt with restraint

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.61.252.157-a Published online by Cambridge University Press

in its widest sense, and considered briefly mechanical restraint, the use of single rooms, the question of locked doors in asylums, treatment by sedatives, etc. He was of opinion that everything that took away the feeling of restraint tended to benefit the patient.

The paper was followed by an interesting discussion, in which every member present took part, and various opinions were expressed on the numerous points raised.

One speaker held very strong opinions about mechanical restraint, and thought it never ought to be used, or only in very rare cases. He considered it had a bad moral effect on the nursing staff. Seclusion appeared to him only a lesser evil, and he did not like using drugs. It had always been a difficult problem with him to decide what was the best treatment for perverse old chronic patients.

A distinction was drawn between acute and chronic cases, and it was generally agreed that the difficulty of finding a suitable means of restraint lay in the case of the latter.

The use of verandahs, and sleeping out of doors, for noisy patients were considered beneficial.

The various forms of sedatives in use were referred to, and special reference was made to the use of bromides.

The limitation of airing courts by unclimbable fencing, and the old question of the locked asylum door were to some extent dealt with.

It was suggested that too many single rooms were provided in many asylums, and that they might be better used as "privilege" rooms than for the isolation of noisy patients.

Dr. Stewart replied, after which a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Dr. Dickson for his kind hospitality, also to the Manager of the Buxton Baths, the Secretary of the Devonshire Hospital, and the Buxton Gardens Committee, for the kind facilities extended by them to the members. The Secretary was instructed to convey to them the thanks of the meeting.

SOUTH-EASTERN DIVISION.

THE AUTUMN MEETING of the South-Eastern Division was held, by the courtesy of Dr. Rawes and the Governors, at St. Luke's Hospital, on Thursday, October 8th, 1914.

Among those present were: The President (Dr. D. G. Thomson), Drs. W. H. Bailey, F. Beach, D. Bower, A. H. Boyle, R. Brown, P. E. Campbell, J. Chambers, M. A. Collins, A. R. Douglas, F. H. Edwards, C. F. Fothergill, R. W. Gilmour, J. L. Gordon, D. Green, W. J. H. Haslett, H. E. Haynes, F. P. Hughes, G. W. B. James, R. Armstrong-Jones, G. E. Miles, Sir James Moody, N. Navarro, H. H. Newington, H. J. Norman, N. H. Oliver, G. E. Peachell, W. Rawes, Sir George Savage, J. Scott, G. E. Shuttleworth, R. Percy Smith, R. H. Steen, H. F. Stilwell, R. J. Stilwell, J. Turner, F. Watson, W. R. Watson, S. A. K. Wilson, and J. Noel Sergeant (Hon. Divisional Secretary).

Expressions of regret at inability to be present were received from several members.

At half-past one, the members were entertained to luncheon, at the conclusion of which Dr. Thomson proposed the health of the host—Dr. Rawes—which was drunk with acclamation.

The Meeting of the Divisional Committee was held at 2.15 p.m.

Parts of the Hospital were inspected by the members.

The General Meeting was held at 3.30 p.m., Dr. Thomson in the Chair.

The minutes of the last meeting, having been printed in the Journal, were taken as read and confirmed.

Dr. T. E. K. Stansfield was elected a Representative Member of the Council for the remainder of the year 1914–15.

The following gentlemen were elected Ordinary Members of the Association:

Victor Lindley Connolly, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., Assistant Medical Officer, Colney Hatch Asylum, New Southgate, N. (Proposed by Drs. F. J. Gilfillan, Samuel Elgee, and John Macarthur.)

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.61.252.157-a Published online by Cambridge University Press