NORTHERN AND MIDLAND DIVISION.

A meeting of this Division was held at the County Asylum, Whittingham, near Preston, on April 18th, 1900.

Members present.—Drs. Stanley Gill, Wilcox, G. E. Mould, C. Mabel Blackwood, Holmes, G. W. Mould, Hitchcock, Edgerley, Perceval, A. W. Campbell, Shoyer, Adair, Eades, Blair, and Crochley Clapham.

Visitors.—Drs. Simpson, Orr, Bresland, and Clark.

Dr. Perceval having been voted to the chair, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Dr. Crochley Clapham was nominated for the post of Hon. Secretary, and Drs. Miller, of Warwick, and Hearder, of Wakefield, to fill vacancies on the Council of the Association.

The date of the autumn meeting was fixed for the first Wednesday in October, and its place left in the hands of the Hon. Secretary.

The Lunacy Bill.

Dr. Mould (Cheadle) opened a discussion on the new Lunacy Bill, which was joined in by Drs. Perceval, Gill, Holmes, Hitchcock, and others.

Dr. Mould said he considered this subject was of the greatest importance, and proceeded to criticise the Bill in detail. He regarded the existing Urgency Order as a valuable provision. He thought there should be great facilities afforded for permitting certified patients in registered hospitals to have a change of residence on leave of absence for health. With regard to the boarding out of pauper patients, Dr. Mould thought it should be possible for as many as twenty to reside together in a suitable house. He considered that Section 14, which deals with "special inquiries as to lunatics," required amending. As to voluntary boarders, he was of opinion the provision for their reception met a decided want, and he said he had in practice given a liberal interpretation to it. When referring to Section 16, which deals with the number of patients to be received into existing registered hospitals, Dr. Mould said he could not understand why there was such a distinction made between county asylums and the hospitals. He criticised adversely the proposed change in the management of hospitals, and he did not consider it would be practicable to have "branch establishments" registered. He concurred as to the desirability of providing for cases of injury to the staff; but he thought the Workmen's Compensation Act would best meet such cases. He did not approve of the proposed method of dealing with incipient insanity. Finally, he expressed the hope that, as the latest attempt to amend the Lunacy Acts had itself so many imperfections, the whole matter should be thoroughly investigated with a view to obtaining decided alterations in the Bill.

Dr. Gill expressed approval of the existing Urgency Order. He was of opinion that any house in which insane patients are received should be registered.

Dr. Holmes considered the proposed treatment of incipient insanity might prove beneficial.

After some further discussion by Dr. Crochley Clapham and Dr. Hitchcock regarding the admission of voluntary boarders into existing institutions, Dr. Mould said he hoped to see established separate hospitals or reception houses for boarders.

Dr. Catherine M. Blackwood, of Wadsley, then read a paper on "A Glioma of the Corpus Callosum," and a paper contributed by Dr. F. O. Simpson, of Rainhill, on "Foreign Bodies in both Bronchi," was read by his colleague Dr. A. W. Campbell. (See pages 512, 515.)

Previous to the business meeting the members were entertained at luncheon and shown round the asylum by Dr. Perceval, to whom a vote of thanks was given for both attentions. Members dined together in the evening at the Park Hotel, Preston.

SOUTH-EASTERN DIVISION.

The Spring Meeting was held at the City of London Asylum, near Dartford, Kent, on Wednesday, April 25th. From 11.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. the members inspected the asylum and grounds. From 1 p.m. to 2.30 p.m. luncheon was served. The Divisional

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Committee then met, and at 3 p.m. the general meeting was held. There were present:—Drs. H. G. Hill, E. Daunt, C. Caldecott, E. W. White (Hon. Sec.), A. E. Patterson, J. P. Richards, R. P. Smith, F. R. P. Taylor, J. F. Briscoe, R. Worth, D. Bower, D. G. Thomson, J. Chambers, J. G. Havelock, A. S. Newington, F. Beach, P. E. Campbell, A. N. Boycott, H. Kidd, C. H. Bond, T. B. Hyslop. Visitors: Rev. O. Hewitt, Dr. P. Bayley, Mr. C. Fitch, and Mr. Stikeman.

Dr. Beach (President Elect) was voted to the chair.

Dr. WHITE read a telegram from the President regretting his inability to attend.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Dr. BEACH expressed his regret that Dr. White was resigning the secretaryship after three years of office.

Dr. WHITE proposed that Dr. Boycott be asked to take the secretaryship. This was seconded by Dr. Percy Smith.

Dr. WHITE stated the time had come for him to resign; that Dr. Boycott, of the New Hertford Asylum, was fully qualified for the post, and had a great claim in view of his being a superintendent, and recently a medical officer, therefore in touch with both sections.

Dr. Boycott was duly elected.

Drs. Bower, Moody, and Thomson, three members of the Divisional Committee, retired by rotation, and Drs. Alexander, Alexander Newington, and Ernest W. White were elected to fill the vacancies. Dr. Gardiner Hill and Dr. Bond were nominated for the probable vacancies on the Council. The former was proposed by Dr. White and seconded by Dr. Thomson; the latter was proposed by Dr. Taylor and seconded by Dr. Bower.

The CHAIRMAN then proposed a vote of thanks to Dr. White for his services as Secretary for the past three years. He said the successful state of this division showed that their action in selecting Dr. White to be the first Secretary was right. There were now 170 members, which was entirely due to the energy displayed by Dr. White. He had practically worked up the Division from its initiation, and should be accorded a very hearty vote of thanks.

Dr. BOWER also added his word of thanks, and expressed appreciation of Dr. White's services, marked as they were throughout by tact and energy.

The vote was carried by acclamation.

Dr. WHITE, in reply, thanked the meeting most heartily for the kind way in which this vote had been passed.

In the consideration of the Lunacy Bill, 1900, and the Pensions question, the Chairman was of opinion that, as the matter was in the hands of the Parliamentary section, nothing could be done at this meeting. The members were, however, urged to oppose the Bill if the Pensions clause was not inserted.

Dr. Newington's invitation to hold the next meeting at Ticehurst in October was accepted.

Dr. WHITE then read a paper on "The Remodelling of an Old Asylum." (See page 457.)

After the discussion on Dr. White's paper, Dr. PATTERSON read a paper on "An Analysis of 1000 Consecutive Admissions at the City of London Asylum since 1892." (See page 473.)

The CHAIRMAN expressed regret that time would not permit a discussion of the paper, and this was accordingly adjourned till the next meeting.

Dr. BOYCOTT regretted that he was not present when elected to the secretaryship. He thanked them for the honour. He would accept the office with pleasure, and would discharge the duties to the best of his ability.

Votes of thanks were passed in conclusion to the Visiting Committee of the City of London Asylum, Dr. White, and the Chairman of the meeting, and in the evening the members and visitors dined together at the Café Monico, Piccadilly Circus, London, W.

IRISH DIVISION.

A meeting of the Irish Division of the Association was held on Tuesday, April 10th, 1900, at the College of Physicians, Kildare Street, Dublin.

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