completed Solarium and Occupational Therapy Workshops, and the Operating Theatre.

Members were kindly entertained to lunch at the Hospital, after which Mr. Robt. P. Duff, chairman of the Govan Board of Control, welcomed the Division to Hawkhead. Dr. CAMPBELL cordially thanked the Board and Dr. MacDonald and his staff for their kind hospitality, and for the arrangements made in connection with the meeting.

On the meeting re-assembling, Dr. J. H. MACDONALD and Dr. ANDREW ALLAN BELL gave an account of an investigation into an outbreak of enteric fever at Hawkhead during the years 1922–1927, which resulted in the segregation of twelve carriers. The paper was discussed by Drs. R. B. CAMPBELL, HOTCHKIS, EASTERBROOK, MCRAE and BUCHANAN and by Dr. DITTMAR, of the Department of Health in Edinburgh, who was present as a guest, and who had given valuable advice and assistance in stamping out the epidemic.

Dr. ERIC DOW read a paper on "**The Treatment of General Paralysis by Specific and Non-specific Therapy,**" which was discussed by Drs. J. H. MACDONALD, W. MCWILLIAM, D. K. HENDERSON, W. MCALISTER and DOUGLAS MCRAE.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the business of the meeting.

EXCRETION OF PHENOLS IN MENTAL PATIENTS.

(*vide p.* 277.)

ADDENDUM.

Omitted from text: "I wish to express my thanks to my colleagues at Severalls Mental Hospital for specimens and notes in regard to some of the cases recorded above, and to Messrs. W. F. Gifford and C. H. Taylor for their assistance in the laboratories of Cheddleton and Severalls Hospitals respectively."

EDUCATIONAL NOTES.

The Tavistock Square Clinic for Functional Nervous Disorders, 51, Tavistock Square, W.C. 1.—A Course of Twenty-four Lectures on Psychological Types and Mechanisms will be given at the Clinic on Wednesdays, beginning October 1, 1930, by H. Crichton-Miller, M.A., M.D., and E. Graham Howe, M.B., D.P.M.

These lectures are open to the medical profession only.

Fee for either series, £1 11*s.* 6*d.* Fee for both series, £2 2*s.* Tickets for the course to be obtained in advance from the Hon. Lecture Secretary at the Clinic.

A NEW BARD IN THE WEST.

We have not felt it within our province to review a book of poems, and if we did essay the task, it is doubtful whether any real value would be attached to our opinion. Notwithstanding this we feel it will be a matter of interest to know that one who has long been a member of our Association, and who used to attend regularly and frequently speak at its meetings until grievous physical disabilities, the outcome of wounds sustained on active service during the war, rendered this largely impossible, has found a new interest as a poet, which has done much to console him for the restricted part he has now necessarily to play in the pursuit of his profession as a psychiatrist.

The coming to light of this faculty to rhyme was a remarkable fact. Hitherto a possession quite unsuspected, it made itself felt with a rush so astonishing as to be alarming, and at a time when the future looked black and hopeless, which was toward the end of a long period of intense physical suffering, the outcome of pericardial and spinal injuries, the surgical relief of which had hitherto been deemed too dangerous to be undertaken. The cultivation and exercise of this

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new faculty has proved a great blessing to him, and helped much to his return to a life worth living.

Dr. J. L. Baskin's poems, chiefly descriptive of current incidents of general interest, began to be accepted by the Irish and Western newspapers. He is now a regular contributor to the latter. His first book of poems* has been sympathetically received by the medical and lay press, and he has been the recipient of many letters of appreciation and congratulation from those whose opinions command respect. The author feels that this book may be of service to the mentally afflicted by inducing an atmosphere of peace and contentment. He holds that the rhythm of verse is of real value in inviting sleep, and we venture to think that if this be true, no one will complain of any lack of rhythm for this purpose in Dr. Baskin's poems. He has therefore arranged with his publishers for his book of poems to be supplied to all mental hospital libraries on special terms.

Dr. Baskin went out to France with the 3rd London Regiment and was severely wounded more than once and was able to return to duty, but it was at the Battle of Messines in July, 1917, that he sustained almost fatal injuries.

J. R. L.

* *Poems by J. L. Baskin.* London: Arthur H. Stockwell, Ltd., 29, Ludgate Hill, E.C. 4. Price 1*s*.

JOINT BOARD OF RESEARCH FOR MENTAL DISEASES.

City and University of Birmingham.

Annual Report of the Laboratory for the Year Ending March 14, 1930.

(*Abstract.*)

General.—Research work has been directed towards the investigation of the ætiology and primary changes in chronic disease, especially in the neighbourhood of the brain. Starting with the view that defect of function of brain-tissue means disordered mental function, and with the findings of chronic disease of the sphenoid sinus and pituitary gland in cases of mental disorder, an effort has been made to investigate and correlate these pathological changes. In addition much biochemical and bacteriological work has been done on other pathological conditions found in association with cases of mental disorder.

Bacteriological.—3,750 specimens have been examined in the laboratory, including 643 of fæces and urine, 38 of which showed *B. dysentery Flexner Y.* (some of these being repeat specimens of the same cases); non-agglutinating paratyphoid was found in 17 specimens; *Bacillus Friedländer* in 127; *B. fluorescens* and *pyocyaneus* 25; streptococci in 60; other organisms were found in addition to *B. coli* in 87 specimens. An organism agglutinating *B. typhosus* "O" was recovered in one case. Of 871 Wassermann tests, 151 were positive, = 19·4%. Of 1,014 Widal agglutination tests, 542 were positive (several repeats included in this figure). 18 of 205 throat swabs were positive for Klebs-Lœffler bacillus, and one of 6 films for gonococci was reported positive.

As in previous years a large proportion of new admissions gave positive serological agglutination to the paratyphoid and dysenteric group of organisms. A considerable amount of time has been spent in the study of these, and in carrying out animal experiments to elucidate the various problems which have arisen. 262 specimens from 33 cases of nasal sinus wash-outs have been examined, 50 of these anaërobically, with a positive result in only 4 cases; *Micrococcus catarrhalis anaërogenes* has been recovered twice, and also 3 times from tonsils removed at operations. The Pfeiffer influenza bacillus has been isolated from only 2 cases of sinus wash-outs, but it probably occurs in about 10% of the cases, since minute colonies are often obtained which cannot be subcultured. One case of brain culture *post-mortem* gave a culture of Pfeiffer influenza bacillus. 23 brain cultures have been made, 6 brains uniformly containing organisms. Gram-negative organisms isolated from fæces and other sources have been examined for reduction of nitrates and sulphates as well as for their starch-fermenting and spreading properties (the latter being evidence of very active motility). Improvements have been made in some laboratory implements; important cultures and specimens are

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