SCOTTISH DIVISION.

A MEETING of the Scottish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association was held in the Hall of the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, on Friday, March 17th, 1911.

Present: Drs. Bruce, Carswell, Easterbrook, Fraser, Havelock, Hotchkis, Carlyle Johnstone, Kerr, Martin, Marshall, Muirhead, John Macpherson, T. C. Mackenzie, Macdonald, McRae, Ivy Mackenzie, Neill, Oswald, Shaw, Steele, Sturrock, Taylor, Urquhart, Watson, Yellowlees, and R. B. Campbell (Divisional Secretary).

There were also present as guests: Dr. A. K. Chalmers, Medical Officer of Health, Glasgow; Dr. Roberts, Medical Officer, School Board; and Dr. W. G. Dunn.

Dr. John Macpherson, President of the Association, occupied the chair.

The minutes of last meeting were read and approved, and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

Apologies for absence were intimated from Drs. Clouston, Keay, Marr, and G. M. Robertson.

Drs. Hotchkis and G. M. Robertson were unanimously elected Representative Members of Council, and Dr. R. B. Campbell was elected Divisional Secretary.

Dr. C. C. Easterbrook was nominated as Examiner for the Certificate in Psychological Medicine.

The following candidates, after ballot, were admitted to membership of the Association:

Anna Lilian Muncaster, M.B., Ch.B.Edin., Third Assistant Medical Officer and Pathologist, Edinburgh District Asylum, Bangour Village. Proposed by Drs. Keay, Steele, and K. D. C. Macrae.

William Thomson Munro, M.B., Ch.B.Edin., Assistant Medical Officer, Argyll and Bute District Asylum, Lochgilphead. Proposed by Drs. Shaw, T. C. Mackenzie, and Campbell.

John C. Simpson, M.B., Ch.B.Edin., Assistant Medical Officer, District Asylum, Inverness. Proposed by Drs. T. C. Mackenzie, Shaw, and Campbell.

Henry Howard Roberts, M.D., 1, Wemyss Place, Haddington. Proposed by Drs. Campbell, G. M. Robertson, and Keay.

Dr. URQUHART directed the attention of the Division to a recent decision in the Court of Session regarding the authority to be obtained in order to hold a *post-mortem* examination, and pointed out the difficulties which might arise in an asylum in consequence of this decision. He proposed that this important matter should be remitted to the Business Committee, with full powers to take the opinion of counsel as to the proper legal authority to be obtained in order to hold a *post-mortem* examination, and to report to the next Divisional Meeting. This was seconded by Dr. Watson, and unanimously agreed to.

Dr. CARSWELL read a paper on "Insanity and Physical Deterioration: a Discussion of Some Aspects of the Occurrence of Insanity in a Large Industrial Community," which led to a most interesting discussion, which was taken part in by Drs. MACPHERSON, URQUHART, CHALMERS, CARLYLE, JOHNSTONE, ROBERTS, and DUNN.

Dr. CHISLETT was prevented from being present at the meeting, and his paper on "Syphilis and Congenital Mental Deficiency" was read by Dr. Ivy Mackenzie, and was afterwards discussed by Drs. MACPHERSON, HAVELOCK, MUIRHEAD, MACDONALD, BRUCE, EASTERBROOK, and T. C. MACKENZIE.

A vote of thanks to the President for his conduct in the Chair concluded the business of the meeting.

The members afterwards dined together in the Central Station Hotel.

IRISH DIVISION.

THE SPRING MEETING of the Irish Division took place at the Richmond Asylum, Dublin, by the kind invitation of Dr. Donelan, on Thursday, April 27th, 1911, at 4 p.m.

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Previous to the meeting the members were conducted over the new hospital and the new buildings specially designed for the harmless class of patients, which met with general approval, and they were then entertained at luncheon by Dr. Donelan.

Before the formal proceedings commenced, the retiring Divisional Secretary, Dr. Dawson, received a handsome presentation in the form of a silver salver and a large silver-mounted ivory paper-knife. The former bore the inscription: "Presented to W. R. Dawson, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.P.I., by the Members of the Irish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain and Ireland, in recognition of his valuable services as Divisional Honorary Secretary, 1902–11," and around the inscription were engraved the autograph signatures of over forty members of the Division. The presentation was made in appreciative terms by Dr. T. Drapes, President-Elect of the Association, and Dr. Dawson returned thanks for the gift and the kind feeling which prompted it.

The meeting proper followed, Dr. Drapes being voted to the chair, and there were also present—Drs. C. E. Hetherington, J. A. Oakshott, M. J. Nolan, J. O'C. Donelan, A. D. O'C. Finegan, J. M. Redington, T. A. Greene, R. R. Leeper, H. M. Cullinan, J. Patrick, James J. Fitzgerald, F. C. Ellison, E. L. Fleury, H. M. Eustace, W. N. Eustace, and W. R. Dawson (Hon. Sec.). Apologies were received from Drs. T. P. Conlon, F. O'Mara, J. C. Martin, A. A. Burrell, G. Revington, J. Mills, F. E. Rainsford, W. Graham, E. D. O'Neill, and P. J. Dwyer.

The Minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting of the Division, and those of the Special Meeting on February 9th, 1911, were read, confirmed and signed, and the Secretary reported on matters arising therefrom.

A letter from the Inspectors of Lunatics was read, explaining that they have no legal powers to lay down any uniform scheme fixing the leave of attendants in District Asylums.

A letter from the Divisional Hon. Secretary was read, resigning, in addition to his Secretaryship, membership of a number of Divisional Committees, whereupon the following resolution was passed unanimously:

"Resolved: That we, the Members of the Irish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain and Ireland, while deeply regretting Dr. Dawson's official severance from this Branch, hereby desire to express our great appreciation of the splendid services rendered by him for the last nine years as Divisional Secretary, and, at the same time, to convey to him our congratulations on his elevation to one of the highest positions in the Irish Lunacy Service."

Dr. Dawson briefly expressed his thanks.

The following was ballotted for and declared unanimously elected an ordinary member of the Association: John Vincent O'Hagan, L.R.C.P.I., L.M., L.R.C.S.I., Second Assistant Medical Officer, Down District Asylum, Downpatrick. (Proposed by Drs. M. J. Nolan, J. Cotter, and W. R. Dawson.)

Dr. R. R. Leeper was unanimously elected Divisional Hon. Secretary, and Drs. T. Drapes and M. J. Nolan Representative Members of Council for the ensuing session, and it was decided to recommend Dr. J. O'C. Donelan for the post of Examiner.

The following dates were fixed for the meetings of the Division during the ensuing Session, *viz.*, Thursday, November 2nd, 1911; Thursday, April 18th, 1912; and Thursday, July 4th, 1912.

The desirability of some mark of appreciation of Dr. Courtenay and his work as Inspector of Lunatics was then brought before the meeting, and eventually it was unanimously resolved that it should take the form of a presentation. The following were appointed to form a committee to give effect to this resolution, *viz.*, Drs. Drapes, Ellison, James J. Fitzgerald, W. Graham, Leeper, Oakshott, and O'Neill, with Drs. Hetherington and Nolan as Secretaries, and Dr. Donelan as Treasurer; and Dr. Hetherington undertook to consult Dr. Courtenay as to the form of the presentation. Meanwhile it was unanimously decided that a resolution of appreciation and regret be sent to Dr. Courtenay:

"The Members of the Irish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association, in meeting assembled, desire to place on record their sense of the great value of Dr. Courtenay's services during his tenure of the office of Inspector of Lunatics, and of his unceasing efforts to improve the condition of the insane in Ireland.

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They deplore the loss sustained by the lunacy Administration in his retirement, and would assure him of their warmest good wishes for his welfare."

A Reception Committee, consisting of the Dublin members present, *viz.*, Drs. Donelan, H. M. Eustace, Cullinan, and Redington, with the Divisional Secretary, was appointed to assist the President-Elect in arranging for the Annual Meeting.

Dr. NOLAN then introduced a discussion on the Asylums Officers Employment, Pensions and Superannuation Bill, presented by Lord Wolmer, which he thought removed all flaws in the recent Act. The sixty hours' per week limit of work would, however, involve a large addition of staff, and a seventy hours' week, with payment for overtime, had been accepted by the attendants themselves at a recent Convention, which had resulted in the formation of an Irish Division of the Asylum Workers' Association. As his action had been misrepresented he asked that a letter written by him to the Convention be read. This was done, and after some general discussion it was unanimously decided that copies of the letter be sent to all the Resident Medical Superintendents of Irish Asylums, in the hope that this might lead to the formation of local branches of the A. W. A. where not already in existence.

Owing to the lateness of the hour and the absence of Dr. Dwyer it was agreed to postpone his paper, and the meeting terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Donelan.

In the evening the members were entertained by Dr. Dawson at a farewell dinner at the Shelbourne Hotel.

PROVISION FOR PERSONS OF UNSOUND MIND IN THE COUNTY OF LEICESTER.

By ROTHSAY C. STEWART, M.R.C.S.

A BRIEF history of the provision made for the care of the poorer insane in the county of Leicester may be of some interest; my remarks will chiefly refer to the class termed, officially, "Private," and whose means were limited.

Early in 1700 a Dr. Arnold kept a private asylum in West Bond Street, Leicester, where there was an underground passage across the narrow street by which patients could reach a walled garden opposite for exercise. Another one existed in Belgrave Gate under the care of Dr. Hill, and a third is said to have existed in Humberstone Road, on the east of the town.

The Infirmary was opened in 1771, and in 1781, on receipt of legacies of £1,000 from Mrs. Topps and £200 from Mrs. Ann Wigley, a south-west wing was added for the reception of patients who could not afford to pay the fees of a private asylum.

This was, I believe, the origin of what is called "The Charity." It was supported by voluntary contributions, benefactions from various noblemen and gentlemen in the county, and was managed by a committee elected annually by the subscribers from their own body. For many years the poorer class of the insane was provided for in this way, and it was not till 1837 that a public asylum was erected.

The building was designed to accommodate 104 patients at a cost of £17,948 19*s.* 1*d.*, and the funds were helped by the aid of bazaars and balls. The ball seems to have been an annual function, for in the report of 1849 occurs this sentence: "The decease of Her late Majesty, the lamented Queen Adelaide, prevented the holding of the Annual Ball." By arrangement between the justices and the subscribers, the Charity was removed from the infirmary and attached to the county asylum, the necessary expenses upon buildings, repairs and maintenance to be defrayed in equal proportions. In 1839 the Charity formed a nucleus of the capital fund by investing £1,665 1*s.* in new 3½ *per cent.* Consolidated Bank Annuities.

There were four classes of patients, the county, out-county, Charity and independent, which latter paid a much larger sum than any of the others.

As the number of pauper and criminal lunatics increased, a modification of the terms of the agreement was made in 1846, when the county of Leicester was

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