SCOTTISH ASYLUMS PATHOLOGICAL SCHEME.

Thirty-first Annual Report for the Year 1927.

[Abridged.]

During the year valuable work, both in routine examinations and in research, has continued to be performed in the Laboratory, and the Board again express their appreciations of Dr. Reynolds's services.

From the accounts it appears that the revenue for the year amounted to £1,865 14*s.* 1*d.* and the expenditure to £1,176 4*s.* 7*d.*, leaving a credit balance of £689 9*s.* 6*d.*, or a surplus of £38 18*s.* 9*d.* on the year's working. The Medical Research Council renewed their annual grant of £200 to defray the expenses of the Pathologist's special research work.

At the Annual Meeting Dr. C. J. Shaw was unanimously elected Chairman for the ensuing two years in place of Dr. Douglas McRae, whose term of office had expired, and the Executive Committee was appointed, consisting of Dr. Shaw, *Chairman*, Dr. R. B. Campbell, *Honorary Secretary and Treasurer*, Profs. G. M. Robertson and J. Lorrain Smith, Drs. W. D. Chambers, W. M. Buchanan, Douglas McRae, and Ex-Provost Stark.

Dr. Reynolds has continued to conduct his course on neuropathology at Edinburgh University. He hopes in the coming year not only to extend the scope of the course, but to bring it into closer touch with the clinical teaching of neurology and psychiatry than has been possible hitherto.

The routine work of the Laboratory has increased, and the number of specimens reported on was 204. Dr. Reynolds visited a number of the contributing mental hospitals, and the Board emphasizes the value of these visits in keeping up an active relationship between the hospitals and the Laboratory.

The researches carried out by Dr. Reynolds and Dr. Logan Turner on "Paths of Infection of the Central Nervous System" have been concluded. Three further individual studies have been published (*Journ. of Laryngol. and Otol.*, xlii, Nos. 3 and 8, and xliii, No. 1), and a monograph is in course of preparation.

Dr. James K. Slater and Dr. Reynolds have published a paper on "The Structure and Functions of the Interstitial Tissues of the Central Nervous System" (*Edin. Med. Journ.*, February, 1928). This was a preliminary study to experimental work on the healing of lesions of the central nervous system. They have begun the latter work, and the progressive changes in the neuroglia so far demonstrated have satisfied them that the research will be of great value in elucidating the method of healing of lesions.

Several individual cases of disease of the nervous system have been investigated, and some of these will be published in due course.

MEDICAL WOMEN'S FEDERATION.

Memorandum on the Work of Medical Women in Mental Hospitals.

The Medical Women's Federation desires to draw the attention of the public, especially the Committees of Local Authorities, governing mental hospitals, to the great need for the appointment of more medical women on the staffs of mental hospitals.

These hospitals in England and Wales now treat 60,824 male and 77,469 female patients, the medical officers being in the proportion of 503 male to 42 female doctors; in Scotland, 7,998 male and 7,753 female patients, with 78 men and 5 women doctors.

Difficulties with regard to the appointment of women have been raised, but it has been found that these have resolved themselves when the authorities of the hospital have been convinced that for the sake of the patients medical women are needed.

Medical women hold posts in the mental hospital service, public and private, not only in Great Britain and Ireland, but also in America, Austria, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, South Africa and Switzerland.

In advancing this memorandum the Medical Women's Federation wishes to make it clear that they suggest that the appointments of women should be on an equal basis with those of medical men, with equality of pay and opportunities of

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.75.309.351-a Published online by Cambridge University Press

promotion and interchangeable duties. The advantage to be gained from such appointments is primarily that medical attendants of either sex should be available for patients.

THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON MENTAL HYGIENE.

THE first International Congress on Mental Hygiene, of which Mr. Clifford W. Beers has been elected Secretary-General, will be held in Washington, May 5–10, 1930. The offices of the Congress are situated at 370, Seventh Avenue, New York City.

The Congress is being arranged by a representative committee of psychiatrists, sociologists and educationists from South Africa, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Luxemburg, New Zealand, Norway, Porto Rico, Russia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

The Chairman of the Committee on Organization of the Congress is Dr. Arthur H. Ruggles, of Providence, R.I., President of the American Foundation for Mental Hygiene and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the National Committee for Mental Hygiene. The Vice-Chairmen are Dr. Samuel T. Orton, of New York City, President of the American Psychiatric Association, and Dr. George E. McPherson, of Belchertown, Mass., President of the American Association for the Study of the Feeble-Minded.

The programme for the Congress will be in charge of Dr. Frankwood E. Williams, Medical Director of the (United States) National Committee for Mental Hygiene, and an Executive Committee. Mr. John R. Shillady has been appointed Administrative Secretary of the Congress.

Leaders in mental hygiene work throughout the world have been anxious to meet for the study and discussion of their common problems. The lack of funds to pay the cost of the Congress has now been met through the gift of the American Foundation for Mental Hygiene.

STUDY TOURS AND POST-GRADUATE EDUCATION INFORMATION SUB-COMMITTEE.

TOUR OF THE PARIS MENTAL HOSPITALS AND CLINICS.

This Sub-Committee, assisted by Dr. Targowla, of Paris, is arranging a tour of the French Mental Hospitals and Clinics to take place from June 3 to 11 (leaving London, Victoria Station, on Sunday, June 2).

The number of official members of the party will probably be limited to about 25; but, as in the case of the recent Dutch tour, members may be accompanied by friends and relatives desirous of visiting Paris, and taking such part in the social side of the tour as may be found possible.

In allotting places in the party the Divisions of the Association will be treated proportionately.

Accommodation is being reserved at the Hotel Bohy Lafayette, at the reduced rate (for *demi-pension*) of about 75 francs a day for each person, member or visitor, which is payable direct to the Hotel.

In order that advantage may be taken of the considerably reduced travelling rates offered by the Southern Railway for a minimum party of 25 (London, *vid* Calais, to Paris 1st Class return: £4 18*s*. 2*d*.—validity 33 days), those intending to join should notify, at the earliest possible moment, the Hon. Secretary of the Sub-Commmittee (*see below*), who will purchase tickets. Under these circumstances there are possibilities of reduced fares from the provinces to London, about which he will deal with each person individually. *Should the party be fewer than 25 persons, ordinary fares to Paris will be charged.* As the size of the party must be communicated without delay to the Paris Hotel and to our French hosts, a place in the party (within the number allowed) cannot be guaranteed after May 10.

Particulars of new vaccination regulations will be sent to members of the party with the programme.

Applications to join the party, giving names of accompanying friends and relatives needing hotel accommodation, *and passports* should be sent to Dr. A. Edward Evans, 3, Rotherwick Court, Golders Green, London, N.W. 11.

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.75.309.351-a Published online by Cambridge University Press