IRISH DIVISION.

THE AUTUMN QUARTERLY MEETING of the Irish Division was held in the Royal College of Physicians, Kildare Street, Dublin, by kind permission of the President and Fellows, on Saturday, November 2, 1935.

Dr. J. C. Martin was in the Chair (in the absence of the Divisional Chairman, Dr. Mills).

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, approved and signed by the Chairman.

Following the reading of the minutes the CHAIRMAN drew the attention of the meeting to the sad loss the Division had sustained since its previous meeting in the death of Dr. Lawrence Gavin. He paid a striking tribute to the life-work and character of the late Dr. Gavin, and proposed that the deep sympathy of the Division be conveyed to his relations. The motion was seconded by Dr. MORAN, spoken to by Dr. KELLY, Dr. LEEPER, Dr. F. J. DEANE and Dr. THOMPSON, and passed in silence, the members standing.

Nominations were received for the posts of Divisional Secretary and Representative Members of Council, for election at Spring Meeting, 1936.

It was unanimously agreed to ask Dr. Kathleen Dillon to undertake the work of Area Examination Secretary *vice* Dr. Gavin, deceased.

Dr. J. FITZGERALD, Hon. Sec. of the Sub-Committee for the Study of Problems connected with Mental Deficiency and the " Sane Epileptic ", then placed before the meeting a report of a recent interview granted the Sub-Committee by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health. Dr. Fitzgerald emphasized the need—which was pointed out by the Minister—of educating public opinion in the proper provision for Mental Defectives and Sane Epileptics, and he referred to the Minister's statement that, however desirable such an object might be, sympathetic public opinion would have to precede legislation. Dr. Fitzgerald's report was fully discussed by the members present, and it was finally decided that the Secretary, assisted by Dr. Fitzgerald, should circularize the Medical Superintendents and Chairmen of Committees of Management of all the Free State District Mental Hospitals, to enlist their co-operation in the educating of public opinion on this question.

The meeting then considered a Resolution passed by the Committee of Sligo Mental Hospital *re* the Regulations of the General Nursing Council. After some discussion it was agreed that this resolution should be marked, " Read and noted ".

The meeting accepted with pleasure an invitation from Dr. Scroope to hold the Spring Meeting at Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum on Saturday, April 4, 1936.

Dr. NOLAN then brought to the notice of the meeting an important letter, recently in the *Manchester Guardian*, which pointed out the need for Research Fellowships in Mental Disease, the failure of the authorities to make proper use of the Mental Treatment Act, and the present very unsatisfactory recovery-rate in mental hospitals, etc. It was agreed that, as far as this latter was applicable to the Irish Free State, schemes for research into the problems of mental disease were at present being actively furthered and had the sympathetic approval of the authorities.

PAPER.

Dr. COYNE, Resident Physician, Mountjoy Civil Prison, then read a very interesting communication on **" Adolescent Instability ".** Dr. Coyne differentiated the various forms of instability occurring during the period of adolescence, and outlined the medical and social problems to which these states give rise, and the treatment which, in his opinion, these conditions required.

Dr. Coyne's paper gave rise to a lengthy discussion, in which many of the members took part. The CHAIRMAN thanked Dr. Coyne for his thoughtful and stimulating paper, which had been so much appreciated.

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Before the conclusion of the meeting the CHAIRMAN proposed that the best wishes of the meeting be sent to Dr. Mills for his speedy recovery.

MIDLAND MENTAL PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

THE third meeting of the Midland Mental Pathological Society was held at the Birmingham University on Thursday, October 24, 1935. W. E. Le Gros Clark, D.Sc., F.R.C.S., F.Z.S., Professor of Anatomy in the University of Oxford, gave a lecture on "Functional Localization in the Thalamus and Hypothalamus", profusely illustrated by some excellent lantern-slides, showing the localization of thalamic and hypothalamic nuclei and their relations to the cerebral cortex, cerebellum, pituitary and retina. He also replied to several questions put by members. A vote of thanks was proposed by Sir GILBERT BARLING and seconded by Prof. LOCKHART, and the keen interest in, and appreciation of, the lecture was shown by the enthusiasm with which the vote of thanks was carried. Thirty-eight members and 49 visitors were present. [It is proposed to publish this paper in our next issue.—EDS.]

OBITUARY.

LAWRENCE GAVIN.

Dr. Lawrence Gavin died at the Mental Hospital, Mullingar, on October 15, 1935. He was born in 1875 at West House, Rochfortbridge, co. Westmeath. He received his early education at the local school and at Castleknock College, and graduated in medicine at Edinburgh University. His whole professional life was spent in the mental service. He was Senior Assistant at Inverness Mental Hospital, and afterwards worked at Horton L.C.C. Mental Hospital. In 1912 he returned to Ireland as Medical Superintendent of Mullingar Mental Hospital.

All who had the privilege of knowing Dr. Gavin mourn the loss of a singularly striking and lovable personality. His high sense of honour, his breadth of vision, his wide culture, his real kindness of heart, his unostentatious simplicity of manner, his fine abilities and his great love of his native land mark Dr. Gavin as outstanding among his fellow men. In truth we may quote Thomas Moore, and say that there was in him "a union of all the affections and powers by which life is exalted, embellished and refined". He had a keen appreciation of nature in all its aspects, and he revelled in every phase of country life. His love of nature and his absorbing interest in life enabled him to derive singular pleasure and profit from his holidays spent in walking expeditions. He knew and loved his native county, and it was a pleasure to hear him unfold its charms. He travelled extensively; Scotland—which he loved since his student days in Edinburgh—Switzerland and Brittany were his favourite resorts, and he was rich in the lore of the countrysides through which he walked.

Since he entered the Irish Mental Service he had been one of the most prominent and energetic members of the Irish Division, and he took a most lively interest in all its activities, particularly those connected with the reform and improvement of public mental hospitals. He was Chairman of the Irish Division from 1933 to 1935, and served for several years on the Education Committee. He was the first Examination Area Secretary for the area comprising the Irish Division, and his tact and consideration enabled him to ensure the smooth working of the new regulations from the beginning.

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