SCOTTISH DIVISION.

THE AUTUMN MEETING of the Scottish Division was held in the Royal College of Physicians, Queen Street, Edinburgh, on Friday, November 16, 1923.

The CHAIRMAN (Prof. G. M. Robertson) referred to the death of Mr. T. W. L. Spence, Secretary from 1888 to 1911 of the General Board of Lunacy in Scotland. Though Mr. Spence was not a member of the Association, he had for many years played such an important part in the care and management of the insane that all would mourn his loss. His official duties had brought him into close contact with members of the Division, who learned to admire his unfailing courtesy and kindliness, his accuracy, and his knowledge of the laws, which was unsurpassed. It was unanimously resolved that it be recorded in the minutes that the Members of the Scottish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association desire to express their deep sense of the loss sustained by the death of Mr. Spence, and their sympathy with the members of his family in their bereavement, and the Secretary was instructed to transmit an excerpt of the minute to the relatives.

The CHAIRMAN then feelingly referred to the great loss which the Association and the specialty of psychiatry had sustained by the untimely death of Dr. William Ford Robertson, Pathologist, since its inception twenty-six years ago, of the Scottish Asylums' Research Laboratory. Dr. Ford Robertson had devoted his life to the investigation of the pathology of mental disease, especially in relation to bacterial and other infections, and to the treatment of disease by vaccines. He had also made important contributions to the ætiology of cancer. He had an active and original mind, wide vision, indefatigable industry, unbounded enthusiasm, and a courage and optimism that no difficulties could overwhelm. It was unanimously resolved that it be recorded in the minutes that the Members of the Scottish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association desire to express their deep sense of the loss sustained by the death of Dr. Ford Robertson, and their sympathy with the members of his family in their bereavement, and the Secretary was instructed to send an excerpt of the minute to Mrs. Ford Robertson.

The SECRETARY submitted a letter of acknowledgment from Mrs. D. G. Thomson and family, thanking the Members of the Division for their kind letter of sympathy.

The Business Committee was appointed, consisting of the nominated member of Council, the two Representative Members of Council, along with Dr. R. B. Campbell, Dr. W. McAllister, and the Divisional Secretary.

Dr. W. D. Chambers and Dr. C. J. Shaw were nominated by the Division for the position of Representative Members of Council, and Dr. Wm. M. Buchanan was nominated for the position of Divisional Secretary.

The following candidate, after ballot, was admitted an ordinary member of the Association:

CRAIGIE, JAMES, M.B., Ch.B.St.And., Assistant Medical Officer, James Murray's Royal Asylum, Perth.

Proposed by Drs. Chambers, Kerr and Buchanan.

With regard to the Division's amendments to the Asylums Officers' Superannuation Act, the SECRETARY reported that a conference of representatives of interested organizations was at present sitting in London, considering in what direction amendments can be made to that Act. The Medico-Psychological Association was fully represented at this conference. The conference had not yet completed its labours, but when its draft amendments were prepared, it was proposed to submit these to the respective organizations.

Dr. D. K. HENDERSON moved "That in future the Divisional Meetings of the Scottish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association be held in mental hospitals in varying parts of the country, and that these meetings be of a whole day nature, so that adequate time is provided for the discussion of both business and scientific subjects." Speaking in support of this motion Dr. Henderson offered the opinion that the present afternoon Divisonal meetings held twice a year, and usually in a hall in Edinburgh or Glasgow, were very largely occupied with questions of business, and that sufficient time could not be devoted to the scientific and clinical aspects of our work. He did not wish to belittle the importance of the business side of our meetings, but argued that were these meetings of a whole-day character, ample time would be given for both sides. He felt, too, it was a little unfair to members resident in the north and south that they should always be asked to travel to Edinburgh or Glasgow. In illustration of his remarks,

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he spoke of the method of inter-hospital conferences in the United States, pointing out the medical administrative, and social advantages of such a system. Dr. J. H. MacDonald seconded the motion, and after Dr. T. C. Mackenzie, Dr. Donald Ross, Sir H. Arthur Rose, Dr. R. Mary Barclay, and Prof. Robertson had spoken in support, the motion was unanimously agreed to, and the Secretary was instructed to arrange in future accordingly.

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

IRISH DIVISION.

The Autumn Meeting of the Irish Division was held at the Royal College of Physicians, Kildare Street, Dublin, on Thursday, November 1, 1923, Dr. M. J. Nolan in the Chair.

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

Letters in connection with the registration of mental nurses were read, and telegrams received from Dr. J. O'C. Donelan and others were considered by the meeting.

The correspondence regarding the Asylums Officers' Superannuation Act was read, and the report of Dr. J. O'C. Donelan and Dr. P. O'Doherty, appointed at the last meeting of the Division to deal with this important matter, was read and considered.

It was decided that no further action should be taken at present, pending the introduction of the amending Bill in the Parliament of Southern Ireland.

On a ballot being taken the following were elected ordinary members:

McCarthy, Dr. Owen Felix, Resident Medical Superintendent of Cork District Mental Hospital.

Proposed by Drs. M. J. Nolan, O'Conor Donelan and R. R. Leeper.

Fitzgerald, Dr. John J., Assistant Medical Officer, Cork District Mental Hospital.

Proposed by Drs. M. J. Nolan, O'Conor Donelan and H. R. C. Rutherford.

The meeting next considered the present position as regards the registration of mental nurses by the General Nursing Council in respect of Ireland, particularly in respect of those nurses who, although uncertificated by the Association, were eligible for registration, having been for three years in active practice as mental nurses before the specified date fixed by the General Nursing Council.

The meeting considered that it was in the proper discretion of the Medical Superintendents to give a certificate to these nurses who were really engaged in the treatment of insane cases during the specified period, so as to enable them to go upon the Register.

The meeting next discussed the desirability of assistant medical officers in Ireland obtaining a special qualification in mental disease, and it was unanimously decided that the Certificate of the Association was eminently suitable as a qualification, being a certificate granted by examination by experienced physicians and superintendents of mental hospitals; and candidates for the certificate must always be physicians engaged for a specific period in the active treatment of mental disease before they are permitted to sit for the examination.

The Hon. Secretary was directed by the meeting to have printed and issued a circular to medical men practising as physicians in Irish mental hospitals, calling their attention to the desirability of their joining the Medico-Psychological Association, and thereby contributing by their clinical, pathological and therapeutical knowledge and experience to the advancement of psychological medicine in this country.

This terminated the proceedings.

EDUCATIONAL NOTES.

London County Council.—The Maudsley Hospital, Denmark Hill, S.E. 5.—We understand that Sir Frederick Mott will continue to direct the course of lectures and practical instruction for the Diploma in Psychological Medicine at the Maudsley Hospital. The seventh course will commence on Monday, January 21, 1924.

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