Following the reading of the minutes, Dr. MARTIN proposed that the meeting should record its sympathy with the Chairman, Dr. Gavin, on the recent death of his brother, and also with Mrs. Moore, on the death of her husband, Dr. E. E. Moore, who had been for many years a member of the Association. The motion was passed in silence, the members standing.

The following nominated candidates were, after ballot, declared unanimously elected members of the Association:

LOUIS SEYMOUR CLIFFORD, L.R.C.P.I.&L.M., L.R.C.S.I.&L.M., Assistant Medical Officer, Criminal Lunatic Asylum, Dundrum, co. Dublin.

Proposed by Drs. J. C. Martin, R. R. Leeper and D. L. Kelly.

THOMAS JOSEPH CONLON, L.R.C.P.I.&L.M., L.R.C.S.I.&L.M., Assistant Medical Officer, District Mental Hospital, Enniscorthy, co. Wexford.

Proposed by Drs. B. Lyons, R. Taylor and S. Blake.

Nominations were received for the posts of Divisional Secretary and Representative Members of Council, for election at Spring Meeting, 1935.

The Secretary then submitted to the meeting an account of the recent conference which took place between a Committee of the General Nursing Council (Irish Free State) and the Advisory Committee of the Irish Division, together with correspondence bearing on this question from the Secretary of the Educational Committee.

The General Nursing Council's proposals for the setting up of an examination in mental nursing under their auspices were considered at length. The members viewed with anxiety the apparent intention of the General Nursing Council to cease to recognize, for registration, the Certificate of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association, and decided that continued recognition of the Association's Certificate must be conditional to the furtherance, by them, of the proposals of the General Nursing Council. The Secretary (assisted by the members of the Advisory Committee) was instructed to draw up a letter embodying these views, and to forward it to the Secretary of the General Nursing Council.

The meeting accepted with pleasure Dr. Grace's invitation to hold the Spring Meeting at Portlaoighise Mental Hospital, at a date to be arranged later.

Dr. O'CONOR DONELAN then read a very interesting communication on his "Impressions of a Tour through the Dutch and British Mental Hospitals, including a visit to Gheel".

Following Dr. Donelan's paper, Dr. CASSIN, Resident Medical Superintendent, District Mental Hospital, Kilkenny, read a paper on a recent tour of some British Mental Hospitals, in which he had taken part.

Both these papers gave very interesting descriptions of modern trends in psychiatry, especially in the direction of occupational therapy, and also included many features of great interest with regard to mental hospital construction and administration. A lengthy discussion followed, in which the majority of the members took part. The Chairman and many of the members thanked the authors for their stimulating papers, and for the trouble they had obviously taken to give the meeting the benefit of their experiences.

MIDLAND MENTAL PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

AT the first meeting, held on October 31, of the Midland Mental Pathological Society 42 members were present, and in addition several others have intimated their intention of joining the Society. The meeting was a most enthusiastic and successful one. An address by the President, Sir Gilbert Barling, Bart., *C.B.*, *C.B.E.*, F.R.C.S., was warmly received. The institution of the Society was then

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.81.332.265 Published online by Cambridge University Press

proposed and discussed by Drs. B. H. Shaw, H. F. Fenton, A. M. McCutcheon, H. Frieze Stephens and W. A. Potts, the motion being carried nem. con. The rules and regulations of the Society, which had been drawn up at preliminary meetings, were accepted, and the officers and members then formally elected. Votes of thanks were passed to the Birmingham University and to the Dean of the Medical Faculty.

Prof. R. D. LOCKHART, M.D., Ch.M., then gave a lantern demonstration of " Naked-eye Blunt Dissections of the Brain ", showing with remarkable clearness the various important nerve tracts of the mid-brain and brain stem, including his own discovery of the commissures connecting the optic lobes of the cerebrum. He also showed sections of the whole brain made with the Hamilton's microtome, and demonstrated the instrument.

The Society fulfils a much-needed association between those engaged in the study of mental disease and general medicine ; and promises enthusiastic and lively discussion at future meetings. Membership (apart from honorary members) is restricted to those connected with medical or mental institutions of the midlands, to whom the secretary will be pleased to send any information desired.

F. A. PICKWORTH, *Hon. Sec.*

P.S.—The proposal for the formation of the above Society was made at the Joint Board Demonstration, November, 1933 ; see *Journal of Mental Science*, 1934, p. 173.

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR MENTAL HYGIENE.

PSYCHIATRIC SOCIAL SERVICE.

The following memorandum has been issued by the National Council of Mental Hygiene with reference to Psychiatric Social Service in Great Britain, Northern Ireland and the Irish Free State.

Since the war the co-operation of trained psychiatric social service workers with the medical staff in American mental hospitals has developed rapidly. The superintendents of British hospitals have used voluntary help, specially that provided by the branches of the Mental After-Care Association and the Central Association for Mental Welfare, for some time. Carefully organized work in these islands with full-time workers is a recent development, and a questionnaire circulated by the No. 1 Sub-Committee of the N.C.M.H. to all the mental hospitals containing more than 100 beds in Great Britain and Ireland has revealed the following results :

Two hundred and twenty-one questionnaires were sent out, and from the replies received it is seen that 33 mental hospitals employ a social worker or use one of the above-mentioned agencies for their social work. Several physicians use psychiatric social workers in the out-patient clinics attached to teaching hospitals.

The replies from ten hospitals show that though they have no social worker at present they are interested and, in some cases, are taking steps to obtain the services of a social worker.

At seventy-six mental hospitals no social worker is employed.

TRAINING.

As regards the training of the social workers already employed in the thirty-three mental hospitals, the following information has been obtained :

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