In the smaller districts the county asylums should be capable of accommodating all classes of the insane, and it should not be urged against such an arrangement that the association of the more acute and chronic cases is objectionable because, from an administrative point of view, it is calculated to raise the death rate and lower the recovery rate. In the eye of the law all pauper lunatics are equally entitled to efficient treatment; it does not and should not take cognisance of clinical classifications and superintendents' statistics. He would therefore remind the Association, composed so largely of those engaged in public work, that the present humane system has been the result of life-long labours, that it was a hard task to level up, but that the levelling down of asylums to their former shocking condition would be much more easy. In conclusion, he begged the Association to be on the alert to combat any attempt that may be made to undermine the medical administration of the asylum service, since such attempt would tend to a return to a state of things which it was one of the proud boasts of the Victoriar era to have removed as one of the darkest social blots on the face of the country.

Dr. BOWER agreed with Dr. Thomson that senile maniacs can be properly treated only in asylums, but as regards harmless senile dements, he considers it would be a great hardship to remove them to the county asylum, which might be many miles away, and thought they might very properly be treated in their own homes, or in the workhouses in their own unions, especially if they could have the benefit of the 4*s*. grant, or the grant in aid to patients on probation.

Dr. THOMSON.—Dr. Jones has referred to the fact that numbers of senile cases reduce the recovery rate, increase the death rate, and necessitate increase of asylum accommodation. I deplore this as much as he does, but this is no argument for the exclusion of such cases from county asylums any more than it would be, as I have said in my opening remarks, for the exclusion of epileptics, general paralytics, or other forms of incurable insanity. At the same time, as I have admitted, special provision may be considered advisable in populous counties, such as London.

Members afterwards dined together at the Café Royal, Regent Street.

SCOTTISH DIVISION.

A meeting of the Scottish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association was held in the Hall of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow, on March 22nd, 1901.

Present: Drs. Bruce, Carswell, Havelock, Hotchkis, Keay, Marr, Macdonald, G. M. Robertson, James Rorie, G. A. Rorie, James Rutherford, junr., W. J. Richard, G. A. Welsh, W. R. Watson, and Yellowlees, with Dr. A. R. Turnbull (Secretary), and Dr. M'Intyre as a visitor.

On the motion of Dr. TURNBULL, Dr. Rorie was called upon to preside. After the minutes of the last meeting had been read and approved of,

The CHAIRMAN announced apologies for absence from Sir John Sibbald, Drs. Campbell Clark, Graham, Urquhart, Clouston, Alexander Robertson, and Robert Jones (General Secretay).

NEW MEMBERS.

Applications for admission as members were submitted from Dr. J. H. MacDonald, Lenzie; Dr. G. Douglas M'Rae, Edinburgh; Dr. Thomas F. H. Blake, Inverness; and Dr. William C. Anderson, Cupar-Fife; and on a ballot these gentlemen were announced as having been duly elected.

NEXT MEETING.

The CHAIRMAN submitted a letter from Dr. G. M. Robertson, inviting the members of the Division to hold their next meeting at the Stirling District Asylum, Larbert, and requesting their presence at dinner afterwards.

On the motion of Dr. TURNBULL, seconded by Dr. KEAY, the invitation was accepted with thanks, and the matter was remitted to the Divisional Secretary to make arrangements.

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OFFICIAL RECOMMENDATIONS.

On the motion of Dr. KEAY, seconded by Dr. YELLOWLEES, Dr. Turnbull was unanimously recommended as a member of the Council.

On the motion of Dr. HAVELOCK, seconded by Dr. TURNBULL, Dr. Carlyle Johnston was recommended as Examiner in Psychological Medicine, and also for the Nursing Certificate.

Dr. TURNBULL moved, and Dr. ROBERTSON seconded, that Dr. Bruce should become Secretary of the Scottish Division, and this was unanimously agreed to.

PAPERS READ.

Dr. G. A. WELSH read a paper on "The Influence of Cerebral Disease on Intercurrent Physical Disease."

INVERNESS ASYLUM.

Dr. KEAY showed and described the plans of recent additions to the Inverness District Asylum.

CRIMINAL CASES.

Dr. L. C. BRUCE read a paper on "The Differentiation of Criminal, Dangerous, and Curable Patients."

NURSING REPORT.

It was agreed to postpone consideration of this Report until next meeting.

NORTHERN AND MIDLAND DIVISION.

The Spring Meeting was held at the Leicester and Rutland Asylum, Leicester, on Wednesday, April 3rd. Dr. Fletcher Beach presided, and there were also present—Dr. Stewart, Dr. Macphail, Dr. Kay, Dr. Powell, Dr. Mould, Dr. Millar, Dr. Hitchcock, Dr. Finch, Dr. H. M. Baker, Dr. Richards, Dr. Legge, and Dr. Crochley Clapham. Visitors—Dr. Pope and Dr. Astley Clarke, of the Leicester Infirmary.

BUSINESS.

The HON. SEC. read the minutes of the previous meeting, which were confirmed.

The CHAIRMAN said the next business was to elect an Hon. Sec. in accordance with Article 28 of the Bye-laws.

Dr. CROCHLEY CLAPHAM said he was sorry to say that after holding the office since March, 1897, he felt called upon to resign, as he was leaving the northern part and was going to reside in Sussex. He thought it would be better to appoint a secretary who would be able to keep more in touch with the members of the division. He was sorry to be obliged to resign, and he expressed the hope that the division would be well served by his successor.

The CHAIRMAN said he was sure they would all agree with him in saying they were sorry to hear that their Hon. Sec., who had worked so well, was obliged to resign. Before they proceeded to elect another it would be their duty as well as pleasure to propose a very hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Crochley Clapham for the work he had done for so many years. He (the Chairman) would move that their best thanks be given to the Hon. Sec., and that the vote be entered on the minutes.

Dr. POWELL, in seconding, said they were very much indebted to Dr. Crochley Clapham for what he had done for the northern branch.

The resolution was carried with acclamation, and was briefly acknowledged by the Hon. Sec.

Dr. STEWART proposed that Dr. Hitchcock be elected Hon. Sec., remarking that he had attended most of their meetings and had taken a great interest in their proceedings.

Dr. KAY seconded, and the motion having been very heartily supported by Dr. Clapham, was carried unanimously.

Dr. HITCHCOCK thanked the meeting for the honour conferred upon him.

Dr. Stewart and Dr. Adair were nominated to fill possible vacancies on the Council.

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