and Dr. Goodall would be, he was sure, delighted to assist in every way he possibly could.

Dr. DEAS remarked that Dr. Goodall did not propose that a committee should be appointed to consider the desirability of carrying on anthropometrical observations.

The CHAIRMAN said he thought Dr. Goodall rather proposed that the subject should be taken up individually by anyone having leisure. It struck him that the matter of obtaining the standard would be a very difficult one.

Dr. MACDONALD said they all very much regretted that Dr. Goodall was not present. He especially regretted it because at Moscow he had the pleasure of talking to him a lot about this subject, and he promised to show them on that occasion certain diagrams to illustrate his paper. Dr. Goodall had become an absolute enthusiast in this matter; in fact, he was perfectly mad over it. (Laughter.) One, however, must, he thought, pause for a moment to consider whether a man of Dr. Goodall's great ability would needlessly and wastefully give up his time to a subject of such an intricate and difficult nature unless he firmly believed there was something in it. (Hear, hear.) Therefore, although it might seem rather difficult for any of them to promise adherence to it, or say they would follow in his footsteps and try to move on the same lines, yet at the same time he did feel strongly that anything that might tend to elucidate many of the difficult problems in connection with that large element of asylum population, the mentally defective, would, he was sure, one day bear good fruit. (Hear, hear.) He believed that in the recent number of their journal there was a contribution by Dr. Goodall, and it only proved, as had been proved over and over again, that it was the busy man, the hard-working man, perhaps the overworked man, who did the good solid work. (Hear, hear.) It was not the man with most leisure who did the most work.

SCOTTISH DIVISION.

A meeting of the Scottish Division was held in the Hall of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow, on 10th March. 1898.

Dr. T. W. McDowall, President of the Association, occupied the chair, and there were also present Drs. Carswell, Hotchkis, Ireland, Carlyle Johnstone, Hamilton Marr, Mitchell, Richard, Alexander Robertson, Turnbull (Secretary), Urquhart, Watson, and Yellowlees, with Mr. James R. Motion, Inspector of Barony Parish, as a guest.

NEW MEMBERS.

The following candidates were elected ordinary members:—William Arnott Parker, M.B., C.M.Glasg., Assistant Physician, Gartloch Asylum, Gartcosh, proposed by Drs. Oswald, Yellowlees, and Hotchkis; Stanley L. Dobie, Surgeon-Lieut.-Col. I.M.S., retired, L.R.C.P.Edin., M.R.C.S.Eng., L.S.A.Lond., Dunain Park, near Inverness, proposed by Drs. Keay, Urquhart, and Turnbull; Charles Percivale Bligh Wall, M.B., Ch.B.Edin., Assistant Medical Officer, District Asylum, Inverness, proposed by Drs. Keay, Middlemass, and Bruce.

Dr. Carswell read a paper on the Relation of Imbecile Children to Pauper Lunacy, which, with the relative discussion, will appear in the next number of the JOURNAL.

NOMINATION OF DIVISIONAL SECRETARY.

DR. YELLOWLEES moved that Dr. Turnbull be nominated for the Divisional Secretaryship, and that the name of Dr. Carlyle Johnstone be suggested for election to the Council in room of the Scottish member who falls to retire at next annual meeting. This was unanimously agreed to.

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EXPENSES OF GENERAL AND DIVISIONAL SECRETARIES.

Dr. CARLYLE JOHNSTONE said that he rose to move the motion relative to this subject in the absence of Dr. Campbell Clark. He thought the general principle would appeal to them all, and he did not require to say much in favour of it; but apparently they would require to modify the terms of the motion, and if the meeting would agree to that, he thought, in the first place, that instead of saying the Divisional Secretaries, they should say "the General and Divisional Secretaries." In the second place, it would be better to guard against any undue extravagance by limiting the expenses a little more strictly. He hoped that the motion would be carried unanimously, and would only say in favour of the motion that at present the Secretaries gave up a great deal of their time and expended a great deal of energy and trouble, and they got no return for it except their thanks. The hardship was that they were penalised for sacrificing themselves for the members of the Association; and to have to pay all their expenses themselves was not right, especially as the Association was perfectly able to pay these expenses. He understood that it was a flourishing Association, and if this could not be afforded, other expenses might be cut down. This was a debt of honour which the Association should pay in the first instance. He therefore begged to move the motion as altered:—"This meeting resolves that it be a recommendation to the Council of the Association that the General and Divisional Secretaries have their travelling expenses paid in officially attending the annual meeting of the Association and the meetings of their division."

Dr. YELLOWLEES seconded the motion with pleasure. He thought that it was on the lines of other societies, that this was a just debt, and that they ought to pay it.

Dr. URQUHART said he would suggest a slight amendment, the motion to conclude with the words, "meetings within their divisions." At present they had divisional meetings in the various districts into which the country had been mapped out. The general meetings had formerly been convened principally in London, but of late years they had been drawn out of London into the various districts, to the benefit of the Association and the manifest convenience of the whole body of members. He thought that it was necessary that the Secretaries should attend these general meetings so far as possible. At the next general meeting (for instance) most important business relative to the conduct of the association would be dealt with. They expected that Dr. Carlyle Johnstone would attend the general meetings. If not, he would be inevitably knocked off the Council, and it would be a hardship if he had to go all the way to London on every occasion, while London men had only to go next door. It was a still greater hardship for their local Secretaries, who were more permanently connected with the Council. It was as much the business of the Divisional Secretary to attend the general meetings when these were within his own division as any other meeting in that division. He had formerly proposed that the Secretaries should have their travelling expenses paid as soon as the funds of the Association permitted, but was met with a *non-possumus*.

Dr. CARLYLE JOHNSTONE and Dr. YELLOWLEES having agreed to the alteration proposed by Dr. Urquhart, Dr. TURNBULL said that he did not think it was so hard on the Divisional Secretary to pay his expenses in his own division, because he ought to do that as a loyal ordinary member of the Association, but it was of great importance that he should attend the Council meetings which were held at the same time and place as the general meetings of the Association. He believed that it really would be of more use if one put it this way; that the Divisional Secretaries should have their expenses paid in attending those general meetings of the Association at which Council meetings were also held, because it was in that way they could more efficiently help in carrying on the business of the Association. He would give up the claim for expenses at divisional meetings. There were three general meetings in the year, and at

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these a great deal of administrative work was done; and sometimes it was very necessary that the Scottish Secretary, for instance, should appear at a Council meeting for the transaction of Scottish business. If he went up to a general meeting to do that he must pay all his expenses himself unless they made a rule to cover such cases.

Dr. CARLYLE JOHNSTONE agreed fully with Dr. Turnbull's view, and only moved the amended motion because Dr. Yellowlees had so advised.

Dr. TURNBULL said that if the Secretary's expenses to the annual and divisional meetings were paid, the division could more reasonably expect him to attend Council meetings when necessary, even though his expenses there were not refunded.

Dr. YELLOWLEES said that they had a representative member of Council, who was expected to attend the general meetings on their behalf.

Dr. IRELAND said he liked the original motion of Dr. Carlyle Johnstone a great deal better than the amended motion. Gentlemen laid stress upon Scotland being represented. What the exact value of that was he did not know, but he supposed it would be very difficult to say at what particular meeting it would require to be represented. It might be required at any meeting. He did not think that the limitation looked very well, although it might save a few shillings. He would propose the original motion on the billet.

No seconder was found to Dr. Ireland's motion.

Dr. CARLYLE JOHNSTONE then moved his motion as amended:—"That this meeting resolves that it be a recommendation to the Council of the Association that the travelling expenses of the General Secretary in officially attending the meetings of the Association other than divisional meetings be paid by the Association, and that the expenses of the Divisional Secretaries be paid when attending the annual meeting and the meetings of the Association held within their respective divisions."

Dr. YELLOWLEES seconded; and on the motion being put to the meeting it was unanimously agreed to.

FATAL ACCIDENTS INQUIRY (SCOTLAND) ACT.

Dr. MITCHELL stated that he had just had a case at Rosslynlee of an inquiry before a Sheriff and jury, under the Fatal Accidents (Scotland) Act, a bank of earth having fallen on a patient, and he wished to know whether that Act was applicable to asylums. Those present at the time of the accident had to go into the witness-box and give information about the occurrence; and the jury returned a verdict in accordance with the evidence.

Dr. TURNBULL thought it would be desirable to know whether all accidents in asylums came under this Act, or whether the Act applied at all to any accidents in asylums, and if so to what class of accidents. A fatal accident might occur in the ward, and he did not know whether it came under the Fatal Accident (Scotland) Act.

Dr. YELLOWLEES said it was a very important question. He had no idea that asylums should come under that Act, and he thought they should resist it as far as possible. He did not think any accident was a thing to be inquired into unless where a man was arrested and dealt with in the ordinary course of law. When a fatal accident occurred between one patient and another, it did not seem to him that the matter should be one of public investigation.

Dr. URQUHART said it was their duty, in the first place, to intimate every fatal accident to the Procurator Fiscal, and if the Procurator Fiscal decided that he would hold an inquiry before the Sheriff, it would be rather difficult for them to avoid it. They should know where they stood, and have opinion of counsel on the subject. They could not vote money at that meeting, however. The Act was generally held to have been unnecessary and futile.

The PRESIDENT asked if it would not be better to have a small committee to see whether this came within the Act.

Dr. YELLOWLEES said that the Procurator Fiscal was practically omnipotent

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as to the course he chose to take, and it was quite right that the responsibility should rest upon him; but he did not think that official would have any further duty than to report the case and its accidental character to the Crown authorities, and he would expect in reply the order "No further inquiry necessary." He did not think that such a case would be regarded as coming under the Fatal Accident (Scotland) Act, which it seemed to him had its scope only as between employer and employed. He did not think that they should have interference, or rather publicity of that kind if it could be possibly avoided.

Dr. CARLYLE JOHNSTONE said that he understood that Dr. Keay of Inverness had a case of the very same kind quite recently, and that he had persuaded the Procurator Fiscal with difficulty not to adopt the procedure of this new Act. Dr. Mitchell's case was advertised in the newspapers, and a public inquiry was held before the Sheriff in the ordinary way.

Dr. HAMILTON MARR suggested that it might be desirable to write to the Lord Advocate asking about this matter. The conditions were not changed in asylums. The Act applied between employer and employed.

The PRESIDENT thought they should consult some competent legal person as to the terms of the Act, because it was very unlikely that the Crown officers would do anything for which they would be found in fault, and if they had the right to hold an inquiry nothing further could be said.

Dr. TURNBULL suggested that this matter might be put on the agenda paper of the next meeting for further consideration, and this was agreed to.

AMENDED REGULATIONS FOR NURSING CERTIFICATE.

The PRESIDENT said that the next business was the adjourned consideration of the Report by the Educational Committee on the amended regulations for the Nursing Certificate.

Dr. TURNBULL said there only remained one difficult point. The last discussion stopped short at that part of the report which dealt with the constitution of the examining body, about which there was a great difference of opinion. The recommendation of the Educational Committee was that the written answers should be examined by two examiners in nursing appointed by the Council for that purpose, and he believed that it was intended to have only two examiners for the whole country. He had a letter from Dr. M'Pherson, who intended to move the following motion:—"That a board of examiners be appointed in each division to examine all the written papers, and to examine each candidate *vivâ voce*." He (Dr. M'Pherson) would be willing to modify that motion to some extent if necessary, but he positively could not agree to the proposal of the Educational Committee.

Dr. WATSON thought that there was also a proposal made that there should be two for each division of the country—Scotland, England, and Ireland.

Dr. YELLOWLEES said that he was clearly of opinion that they ought to have a larger examining board than two for setting questions and examining papers. He proposed that the Board should contain representatives from each division of the Association, that they should set the questions for the whole country, and that they should examine and adjudicate upon the written answers. He did not see how they could alter the local examinations. He thought that the *vivâ voce* examination must be conducted, for practical reasons, as it was conducted now. If strangers could be got to do it, it would be better. The visitor was called the assessor in the old regulations, but properly it was he who should examine the candidates in the practical or *vivâ voce* part while the superintendent was present but did not taking any active part. As for the written examinations, he thought they certainly ought to be examined by the man who set the questions, he not knowing the names of the people who were being examined. He did not propose that every member of the Board should examine all the papers, but that they could divide the papers among them. Each division could nominate two members of the examining board, and they could examine the papers from another division than their own. He thought there should be no possibility of favouritism, and that

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the examiners should not even know from what asylum the papers came. There were three divisions in England, one in Scotland. and one in Ireland, and that could give them an examining board or council of ten. He did not think it was fair so to burden two men. If there were a council of ten they would keep the arrangements right.

Dr. TURNBULL said he seconded that with great pleasure, more especially as he had himself suggested it in conversation with another member. The only point he would refer to in Dr. Yellowlees' remarks was that he thought that the examiners should examine the papers from their own division, beeause if there was any difficulty in any case they could more easily get at the candidate.

Dr. YELLOWLEES was strongly of opinion that they should *not* get at the person, that the examination of the papers should be independent of the person who wrote them. The only doubt he had about it was whether ten was not too large a number.

The PRESIDENT said it was moved that there should be two representatives from each division of the Association for the inspection of the written papers and the setting of the questions—the practical part to be taken as before, the assessor examining in the Superintendent's presence.

Dr. YELLOWLEES did not see how, in the face of the multitude of people, they could improve on that. They could not expect the members of the Board to go round the country to all the different asylums. The fees should also be increased, so that those who examined the papers should get some remuneration for their services.

Dr. TURNBULL said that that came on a little later, and he had no doubt that they would agree with the Educational Committee, who thought that the additional fee was necessary.

The motion, on being put to the meeting, was unanimously agreed to

A vote of thanks to the President for his conduct in the Chair terminated the proceedings.

RECENT MEDICO-LEGAL CASES.

REPORTED BY DR. MERCIER.

[The Editors request that members will oblige by sending full newspaper reports of all cases of interest as published by the local press at the time of the assizes.]

Reg. v. Prince.

The *cause célèbre* of this quarter was the trial of Richard Arthur Prince, an actor, for the murder of the popular actor known as William Terriss. The case attracted a great deal of attention in consequence of the circumstances of the crime, but is of no great medical or legal interest. The prisoner waited for Mr. Terriss at the door of the Adelphi Theatre, and as the latter was stooping down to insert the key in the lock the prisoner stabbed him twice in the back. The deceased turned round, and the prisoner stabbed him to the heart. It was proved that the prisoner was extremely poor: that he had many times applied for, and received, assistance from the Actors' Benevolent Fund, and that he had received this money on the recommendation of the deceased. The managers of the fund at length refused to assist him further, and the prisoner appears to have attributed this refusal to the influence of the deceased. It was proved that for many years the prisoner had suffered from delusions of persecution, and that he had very often accused different persons of "blackmailing" him; that he had complained that a Mr. Arthur, manager of a theatre, had been "blackmailing" him for ten years, that he had complained that actors generally had "blackmailed" him; that the men where he worked had been sent by Mr. Arthur to blackmail him; that he had complained that his tea was poisoned. After his arrest for the murder the prisoner repeatedly stated that the deceased had blackmailed him for ten years.

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