NORTHERN AND MIDLAND DIVISION.

THE AUTUMN MEETING of the Division was held at Cheadle Royal, Cheshire, on Thursday, October 28, 1926, by the courtesy of Dr. J. A. C. Roy.

During the forenoon the hospital and grounds were inspected, after which Dr. Roy entertained the members to lunch.

Dr. Roy occupied the Chair at the meeting and there was a large attendance of members.

The minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Drs. Adair, E. C. Mould and Bedford Pierce were re-elected members of the Divisional Committee.

The following candidates were balloted for and duly elected Ordinary Members of the Association:

JOSEPH BRAITHWAITE, M.B., Ch.B.Edin., Assistant Medical Officer, City Mental Hospital, Gosforth, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Proposed by Drs. H. D. MacPhail, C. Gray and J. Gilmour.

GWENVRON MARY GRIFFITHS, M.D., M.R.C.P.Lond., Assistant Medical Officer, County Mental Hospital, Cheddleton, Staffs.
Proposed by Drs. W. F. Menzies, W. D. Wilkins and J. Gilmour.

PHYLLIS MARY HORTON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.Lond., Assistant Medical Officer, Wye House, Buxton.
Proposed by Drs. W. W. Horton, A. H. Boyle and J. Gilmour.

Dr. K. K. DRURY read a paper entitled "Ultra-Violet Therapy in Mental Hospital Practice." This led to an interesting discussion.

Dr. L. C. F. CHEVENS gave "Some Impressions of Psychiatry in the U.S.A."

The tendency in the Eastern States is to stress the importance of the *prevention* of insanity. In Massachusetts a problem child can be cared for by means of habit clinics for children of pre-school age, supported by the State, and by child guidance clinics, notably the Judge Baker Foundation in Boston, until it reaches adult life. Adults can be sent for observation and treatment, before certification, to the Boston Psychopathic Hospital, and similar institutions in other States. Often commitment to State hospitals, of which our county mental hospitals are the prototypes, is thus rendered unnecessary. Much useful work is done by the out-patient departments of psychopathic hospitals.

This preventive work is rendered possible by highly organized social service agencies. Social service attracts an extremely well-educated type of worker. Education of the family of a patient in the right method of dealing with him, interviewing employers to induce a sympathetic attitude, collection of salient facts about a case from all sources for the use of the psychiatrist, arranging for suitable living quarters for a patient, keeping him "up to scratch" in the matter of attendance at hospital and similar activities testify to the usefulness of social workers. The hospital or clinic is enabled, through them, to make its influence felt in the daily life of the patient.

Child guidance clinics deal principally with delinquent children, many of whom are sent by juvenile courts. The delinquency is a mere incident. The important factor, in their view, is the state of mind of the child brought about by the interaction of its personality with the environment. Often the environment has to be changed, and the utility of the work of the clinic in the life of the community is rendered possible by the number of agencies, including, in Massachusetts, the State Placing Board, whose function is to place the child in a suitable foster home. Thus many children, who would otherwise be sent to industrial schools or reformatories, develop (in healthy surroundings) into useful citizens. The establishment of these clinics has probably been hastened by realization of the extent of the problem of the juvenile delinquent, brought about by the mixture of races and the large number of Southern Europeans of poor stock found in the eastern cities.

The actual State hospitals were somewhat disappointing, but that may be because too much was expected after what may be termed the "show-places" had been seen. A good point appeared to be the extensive use made of prolonged baths. Routine vaccination and inoculation against typhoid of each patient, and, in many institutions where young patients are admitted, routine use of the Schick test, indicate the attention paid to general health. Stenographic assistance

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for the assistant medical officers and the case folder system of note-keeping seemed of value.

The complete separation of administrative from clinical duties seen in several institutions was of interest.

The great use made of the services of psychiatrists and psychologists in varied spheres of the life of the community point to the realization in America of the necessity for mental hygiene.

Dr. G. G. PARKIN read a paper on "Some Observations on the Study of Blood-pressure in the Insane."

Altogether 1,338 observations were made on 115 male and 114 female patients, and for purposes of comparison included 174 on 27 attendants and 31 nurses.

Examples of most of the recognized forms of mental disorder were represented.

The main feature of the results was that whatever the form of mental disorder, there was an immediate but usually transient rise in the systolic pressure in response to excitement or agitation.

Long-continued excitement or agitation tended to cause the systolic pressure to fall lower than it was in the quiet states.

Among other points of interest it was found—

That in cases of melancholia (where neither the history nor observation when in the hospital indicated any period of excitement) there was a higher systolic pressure as compared with cases in the depressed stage of manic-depressive insanity.

In two cases of melancholia with stupor the high systolic pressure readings of melancholia were raised still higher.

In all groups the diastolic pressure varied within much narrower limits than the systolic pressure.

The observations furnished no evidence of any necessary connection between blood-pressure and insanity, or that insanity caused a change in blood-pressure.

Both papers led to a very interesting discussion, in which several members took part.

A very cordial vote of thanks to Dr. Roy for his hospitality and for a most interesting day's programme was unanimously carried.

This concluded the meeting.

SCOTTISH DIVISION.

THE AUTUMN MEETING of the Scottish Division was held at Gartloch Mental Hospital, Gartcosh, on Friday, November 19, 1926.

There were 34 members present.

Dr. Hamilton C. Marr, the President-Elect, was called to the Chair.

The minutes of last Divisional Meeting were read and approved, and signed by the Chairman.

The SECRETARY submitted letters from Dr. Kate Fraser and Lady Mott, thanking the Division for its kind letters of sympathy.

A letter was submitted from Dr. J. Keay regretting his inability to accept the additional office of Divisional Chairman. Dr. R. D. Hotchkis was unanimously elected Chairman of the Division for the remainder of the year, and at this point took the Chair.

The Business Committee was appointed, consisting of the nominated member of Council, the two representative members of Council, the Chairman of the Division, Dr. Crichlow and the Divisional Secretary.

Dr. R. B. Campbell and Dr. Neil T. Kerr were nominated representative members of Council, and Dr. Wm. M. Buchanan Divisional Secretary.

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

THOMAS TENNENT, M.B., Ch.B.Glasg., D.P.H., Assistant Medical Officer, Renfrew District Asylum, Dykebar, Paisley.
Proposed by Drs. R. D. Hotchkis, N. T. Kerr and W. M. Buchanan.

ALEXANDER REID MARTIN, M.B., B.Ch.Belf., D.P.M., Assistant Medical Officer, Gartloch Mental Hospital, Gartcosh.
Proposed by Drs. A. M. Dryden, M. Brown and W. M. Buchanan.

GORDON JOHN SMITH, M.B., Ch.B.Aberd., Assistant Physician, Royal Hospital, Morningside, Edinburgh.
Proposed by Prof. G. M. Robertson, Drs. W. M. McAlister and T. M. Davie.

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