Robert Jones, Henry C. MacBryan, Peter W. Macdonald, Alfred Miller, H. Hayes Newington, Henry Rayner, R. Percy Smith, J. Beveridge Spence, Rothsay C. Stewart.

The following gentlemen were elected ordinary members of the Association :— Barham, Guy Foster, M.B., B.A., B.C., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Assistant Medical Officer, London County Asylum, Claybury, Woodford Bridge, Essex (proposed by C. T. Ewart, Robert Pugh, and Robert Jones); Cross, Harold Robert, L.S.A., Assistant Medical Officer, West Riding Asylum, Wakefield (proposed by W. Bevan Lewis, W. Maule Smith, and T. Stratford Logan); Hughes, William Stanley, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Assistant Medical Officer, London County Asylum, Claybury, Woodford Bridge, Essex (proposed by C. T. Ewart, Robert Pugh, and Robert Jones); Ludovici, E. (late Medical Officer of Asylum in Australia), 117, York Street, Sydney, N.S.W. (proposed by R. Percy Smith, C. T. Ewart, and Robert Jones); Lyall, C. H. Gibson, L.R.C.P. and S.Edin., Senior Assistant Medical Officer, Cumberland and Westmoreland Asylum, Garlands, Carlisle (proposed by W. F. Farquharson, Evan Powell, and W. J. A. Erskine); Macnamara, Eric Danvers, M.B., B.Ch.Camb., Medical Registrar at the Westminster Hospital, 45, Campden House Road, London, W. (proposed by Maurice Criag, Theo. B. Hyslop, and W. H. B. Stoddart); Miller, James Webster, M.B., Ch.B.Aber., Assistant Medical Officer, Warneford Asylum, Oxford (proposed by James Neil, Thomas Saxty Good, and David Bower); Nicholl, Robert Campbell, L.R.C.P.I. and L.R.C.S.I., Assistant Medical Officer, Hatton Asylum, near Warwick (proposed by Alfred Miller, E. B. Whitcombe, and Arthur Wilson); Wood, Martin Stanley, M.B., Ch.B.Vict., Assistant Medical Officer, Royal Asylum, Cheadle, Cheshire (proposed by W. Scowcroft, John Sutcliffe, and P. G. Mould).

Dr. NEIL entertained the members to lunch at half-past-one.

Dr. ERNEST W. WHITE presided at the afternoon session.

Dr. ROBERT JONES showed microscopic specimens of the Trypanosoma of Sleeping Sickness, kindly lent for this meeting by Sir Patrick Manson, K.C.M.G., F.R.S. (see page 256).

The PRESIDENT asked Dr. Jones to convey the thanks of the members present to Sir Patrick Manson for the loan of the microscopic slides, which gave such an excellent demonstration of the Trypanosoma associated with Sleeping Sickness. He did not think that one could associate it with any definite form of mental disease.

Dr. LLOYD ANDRIEZEN read a paper entitled "The Problem of Heredity, with Special Reference to the Pre-Embryonic Life," and gave a lantern demonstration.

The PRESIDENT thanked Dr. Andriezen for his demonstration upon Embryology. He had led his audience by easy stages through the life-history of the embryo, and shown on the screen the various phases of its development, suggesting how individual peculiarities of habit, action, and character are possibly transmitted from the parents to the offspring.

Dr. ROBERT JONES read a paper entitled "The Psychology of Jane Cakebread" (see page 219).

The members dined together in the evening at the Randolph Hotel, Oxford.

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.]

In re *Annie Campbell Brabason.*

Mr. Justice Ross and a special jury had before them the question, raised in an inquisition, as to whether this lady was of unsound mind and incapable of managing her affairs. It appeared from the evidence that she is a lady of means, and of good

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education, and refined habits and manners, when sane and sober. But her family history was most unfortunate, two of her four brothers having died insane, and a third had been under restraint. She herself had been twice under care, once at the age of eighteen, and again ten years later. For years past she had been so eccentric in her habits that she was notorious in the town in which she lived, and the children followed her about the streets, attracted by her behaviour. She was violent to her servant, she smashed her furniture, and lately she had not only given way to drink and haunted public-houses, but had formed an attachment for, and got engaged to be married to, a drunken carman with whom she used to drink in public. She would have married him, but that he was a Catholic and she a Protestant, but she got over this difficulty by becoming a Roman Catholic, and it was understood by her brother that she was to be married immediately. Under these circumstances her brother had her certified as a lunatic, and placed in St. Patrick's Hospital. Under the treatment there, and deprivation of alcohol, she greatly improved; so that at the time of the inquisition, some three months afterwards, she was, to the non-expert observer, sane.—Dr. Conolly Norman deposed that the lady was of very weak mind and incapable of managing her own affairs. He had had an interview with Dr. Brabazon, her brother, before seeing the patient.—Mr. T. Healy: "Did you put to him any one of the inquiries which a doctor going to certify on an interested report of an interested person would ask?" To this extraordinary question Dr. Norman wisely refrained from replying.—Dr. Brabazon, whose petition stated that the defendant was and had been for twelve months of unsound mind, had to admit, in cross-examination, that nine months before the trial she accepted a bill for him, and subsequently he joined with her in the sale of some property.—Dr. Leeper, superintendent of St. Patrick's Hospital, described the patient's condition on admission and her subsequent improvement. She had gained fourteen pounds in weight, and was in better health, but was still of weak mind. He was severely cross-examined as to his having refused to allow her to execute the documents necessary to furnish her solicitor with funds for her defence. Had he been in this country, he might have quoted the circular of the commissioners, warning those who have the care of certified patients not to allow, and to do all they can to prevent, such patients from executing documents, or dealing with property. Dr. Leeper admitted that the respondent was not now obviously insane.—Mr. Healy: "Leave out obviously. Is she insane?"—"She is not to the ordinary observer insane."—Various witnesses deposed to the extraordinary acts of the respondent, amongst them the head constable of the police; and it indicates the peculiar considerations which influence juries in Ireland that Mr. Healy endeavoured to elicit from this witness how many of the police in Castlebar were of the Protestant religion! The judge of course disallowed the question, upon which Mr. Healy remarked, "Very well, *I will put it to the jury when I come to address them.*"—Dr. Knott deposed to various facts of the family and personal history of the patient, which had been alluded to, and said that he had honestly come to the conclusion that it would be a mercy to have her under some restraint; but in cross-examination he admitted that he had made up his mind before he saw the patient, and that the examination was to a great extent a formality.—Dr. Hatchell, who had been associated with the previous witness in signing the certificate (in Irish law one certificate signed by two medical men is required), made the same admission.—After this, the result of the case was a foregone conclusion. The respondent was examined in private by judge and jury, and from the summing up it is clear that she impressed them very favourably as to her intelligence and capability. On their return, the jury intimated that they did not wish to hear any evidence on the part of the respondent, and brought in a verdict that she was not of unsound mind, nor incapable of managing her affairs.

The verdict was the only possible one under the circumstances, but in the interest of the respondent it is undoubtedly to be regretted. It was proved that before her detention she was spending her patrimony recklessly; that she, a lady of education and refinement, was determined to marry a drunken carman; that she gave way to drink and made herself an object of scorn and contempt to the whole town in which she lived. The astonishing improvement in her condition, and the standard of intelligence and capability which she had regained, and which so impressed the judge and jury at the trial, were due solely and entirely to the fact that she had been placed under care, and was under care at the time of examination. The obvious inference,

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to an unprejudiced jury, would have been that this great and striking improvement showed how necessary to her welfare the mild restraint of the court must be. But apart from the damaging cross-examination of Drs. Brabazon, Knott, and Hatchell, which of itself was enough to carry conviction to the intelligence of the ordinary juror, counsel for the respondent did his utmost to impart a rancorous religious prejudice into the case, so that his client got with the utmost ease a verdict which will probably prove to be her destruction.

Court of Appeal.

(Before the Master of the Rolls and Lords Justices Romer and Mathew.)

This appeal arose out of an action brought by a farmer's grazier named Pope, of Draughton, Northamptonshire, against several defendants for alleged conspiracy to place and keep him in the Berrywood Asylum as a lunatic whilst he was of sound mind. The defendants were John and Sidney Philip Pope, John Goodman (relieving officer for Brixworth), Dr. Wainwright (medical practitioner), Dr. William Harding (medical superintendent at the Berrywood Asylum), and May Pope (the plaintiff's wife). Plaintiff alleged against all the defendants other than Dr. Harding that they maliciously conspired to imprison him in the asylum; and further, he alleged against them all, including Dr. Harding, that they had conspired to detain him, after getting him in the asylum, from September 8th, 1899, to November 10th, 1899. The claim asked for £10,000 damages.

The present appeals were brought—first, by Dr. Wainwright, from a decision of Mr. Justice Bucknill in chambers refusing to stay all further proceedings in the action against him; and second, by the plaintiff, from a second order of the same judge staying all proceedings as against Dr. Harding.

Mr. Lush, K.C., on the first appeal, contended for the plaintiff that a *primâ facie* case had been made out that Dr. Wainwright had not acted *bonâ fide* and with reasonable care.

Lord Justice Romer: Do you really ask us to say that Dr. Wainwright did not really think the man insane?

Mr. Lush: I say there is *primâ facie* evidence to that effect.

Lord Justice Romer: Good gracious!

After further argument, and without calling on Mr. Tindal Atkinson, K.C., to reply,

The Master of the Rolls said plaintiff was unable to point to any technical flaw in the proceedings under the Lunacy Act. The plaintiff was undoubtedly committed to the asylum by a magistrate's order. Everything seemed to be in conformity with Section 16 of the Lunacy Act. There was no shadow of case of any misconduct, or malice, or want of reasonable care against Dr. Wainwright. The appeal would, therefore, be allowed, and action stayed as against that defendant, with costs.

The lords justices concurred, and the appeal was accordingly allowed.

Mr. Lush, K.C., did not proceed with the second appeal involving Dr. Harding, and that was dismissed with costs.

THE HUMOURS OF IRISH ASYLUM COMMITTEES.

Cork and Youghal.—We had occasion to draw attention in our last number to the angry passions which seem to be excited at the meetings of the Cork Asylum Committee when the question of the auxiliary asylum at Youghal comes up. The *Cork Examiner* of February 10th gives an account of a meeting of Committee held on the previous day at which there was the usual scene. On the question of how some obvious and perfectly trivial error crept into certain documents, charges of "cooking" the minutes were repeated and charges of "evading the minutes" added. A fiery discussion, occupying almost three columns of the newspaper, ended (for the time at least) in a general retreat on the part of everybody. Apparently it was found impossible to fix any definite blame upon the medical superintendent. By as much as that gentleman is discredited, and by as much as his staff are encouraged to oppose him, by so much is the danger of his venturing to criticise the auxiliary arrangements diminished.

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