Committee then met, and at 3 p.m. the general meeting was held. There were present:—Drs. H. G. Hill, E. Daunt, C. Caldecott, E. W. White (Hon. Sec.), A. E. Patterson, J. P. Richards, R. P. Smith, F. R. P. Taylor, J. F. Briscoe, R. Worth, D. Bower, D. G. Thomson, J. Chambers, J. G. Havelock, A. S. Newington, F. Beach, P. E. Campbell, A. N. Boycott, H. Kidd, C. H. Bond, T. B. Hyslop. Visitors: Rev. O. Hewitt, Dr. P. Bayley, Mr. C. Fitch, and Mr. Stikeman.

Dr. Beach (President Elect) was voted to the chair.

Dr. WHITE read a telegram from the President regretting his inability to attend.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Dr. BEACH expressed his regret that Dr. White was resigning the secretaryship after three years of office.

Dr. WHITE proposed that Dr. Boycott be asked to take the secretaryship. This was seconded by Dr. Percy Smith.

Dr. WHITE stated the time had come for him to resign; that Dr. Boycott, of the New Hertford Asylum, was fully qualified for the post, and had a great claim in view of his being a superintendent, and recently a medical officer, therefore in touch with both sections.

Dr. Boycott was duly elected.

Drs. Bower, Moody, and Thomson, three members of the Divisional Committee, retired by rotation, and Drs. Alexander, Alexander Newington, and Ernest W. White were elected to fill the vacancies. Dr. Gardiner Hill and Dr. Bond were nominated for the probable vacancies on the Council. The former was proposed by Dr. White and seconded by Dr. Thomson; the latter was proposed by Dr. Taylor and seconded by Dr. Bower.

The CHAIRMAN then proposed a vote of thanks to Dr. White for his services as Secretary for the past three years. He said the successful state of this division showed that their action in selecting Dr. White to be the first Secretary was right. There were now 170 members, which was entirely due to the energy displayed by Dr. White. He had practically worked up the Division from its initiation, and should be accorded a very hearty vote of thanks.

Dr. BOWER also added his word of thanks, and expressed appreciation of Dr. White's services, marked as they were throughout by tact and energy.

The vote was carried by acclamation.

Dr. WHITE, in reply, thanked the meeting most heartily for the kind way in which this vote had been passed.

In the consideration of the Lunacy Bill, 1900, and the Pensions question, the Chairman was of opinion that, as the matter was in the hands of the Parliamentary section, nothing could be done at this meeting. The members were, however, urged to oppose the Bill if the Pensions clause was not inserted.

Dr. Newington's invitation to hold the next meeting at Ticehurst in October was accepted.

Dr. WHITE then read a paper on "The Remodelling of an Old Asylum." (See page 457.)

After the discussion on Dr. White's paper, Dr. PATTERSON read a paper on "An Analysis of 1000 Consecutive Admissions at the City of London Asylum since 1892." (See page 473.)

The CHAIRMAN expressed regret that time would not permit a discussion of the paper, and this was accordingly adjourned till the next meeting.

Dr. BOYCOTT regretted that he was not present when elected to the secretaryship. He thanked them for the honour. He would accept the office with pleasure, and would discharge the duties to the best of his ability.

Votes of thanks were passed in conclusion to the Visiting Committee of the City of London Asylum, Dr. White, and the Chairman of the meeting, and in the evening the members and visitors dined together at the Café Monico, Piccadilly Circus, London, W.

IRISH DIVISION.

A meeting of the Irish Division of the Association was held on Tuesday, April 10th, 1900, at the College of Physicians, Kildare Street, Dublin.

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The following members were present:—Dr. Conolly Norman, Dr. Mercier, Dr. Rambaut, Dr. Cullinan, Dr. Donelan, Dr. Nolan, Dr. O'Mara (Limerick), Dr. Dawson, Dr. Lawless, and Dr. Finegan (Secretary).

On the motion of Dr. NOLAN, seconded by Dr. FINEGAN, the chair was taken by Dr. Conolly Norman.

The SECRETARY read the minutes of the previous meeting, which were confirmed and signed. He then read a number of letters of apology for non-attendance from members of the Association, including Dr. J. Beveridge Spence (President), Dr. Hetherington, Dr. Harvey (who was to have read a paper), Dr. Woods (Cork), Dr. West, Dr. Oakshott, Dr. Petit, Dr. O'Neill, and Dr. O'Mara (Carlow).

On the suggestion of the Secretary, it was, after some discussion, unanimously resolved that the next meeting should be held at the new Portrane Asylum on Thursday, June 28th.

The following were elected ordinary members of the Association:—Patrick Coffey, L.R.C.P.I., Assistant Medical Officer, District Asylum, Limerick; and Thomas Francis White, L.R.C.P.I., Assistant Medical Officer, District Asylum, Waterford.

Dr. W. R. DAWSON, Farnham House, Finglas, read a paper on "The Best Method of Dealing with the Pathological Work of the Irish Asylums." (See page 487.)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (IRELAND).

Dr. FINEGAN, the Secretary, opened a discussion on the operation of the Local Government Act (Ireland), which has increased the work and responsibilities of medical superintendents of asylums, and proposed a resolution with a view to the best mode of securing proportionate compensation for these officers. He said: Before this Local Government Act was introduced, we were governed by, or at least we took as our standard the Privy Council Rules. These rules had no specific orders, as far as I know, beyond that of general superintendence, whereas under the Local Government Act there has been issued a General Order and also an Asylum Accounts Order. This Asylum Accounts Order involves thirty-five new books to be opened in every asylum. The General Order gives a new title to the superintendent, and calls him an accounting officer. The duties devolved on this accounting officer are that the superintendent must periodically examine the clerk's and storekeeper's books, and be responsible for them being properly written up. The General Order further directs superintendents to prepare the stock list twice in each year, and submit this stock list, with a report, to their committees of management. It further commands that all paying orders and orders for payment should be signed by the resident medical superintendent, and all orders passing out of the asylum under all circumstances whatever must be signed by the medical superintendent. In addition to these there is another account to be introduced, called the Subsidiary Account, which practically means that the superintendent has to keep a record of every penny piece in the matter of petty cash and open an account in the bank in his own name, for which he is responsible. That subsidiary account in itself means a considerable amount of work. Again the superintendent is ordered by Article 9 of the Orders to prepare an abstract of the entire accounts of the asylum twice in each year, to be submitted to the auditor, and to do a number of other of the clerk's duties, for which he is made responsible, such as publishing the audit on the asylum gates. Under the old arrangement these were not the duties of the superintendent. I think superintendents are entitled to a certain remuneration, and the question for us to decide is this—what is the best way to approach our committees? Under the circumstances I have drafted a resolution which, if adopted by the Association, I would propose be sent to each superintendent in Ireland, and let him bring it before his committee, and make what use he can of it to his own advantage. The resolution is as follows:—"The duties and responsibilities of Resident Medical Superintendents of Irish District Asylums having been greatly increased by the operation of the Local Government Act of 1898, and Section 115, Subsection 18, having provided that adequate remuneration can be fixed for extra duties performed under the Act, or under orders arising thereon, we are of opinion that the resident medical superintendents should bring this matter under the

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notice of their committees, with a view to a fair and reasonable readjustment of their salaries, in view of the increased duties and responsibilities referred to."

Dr. LAWLESS.—Do you suggest what remuneration would be adequate?

Dr. FINEGAN.—No; I think it would be a matter for each individual.

CHAIRMAN.—There is a provision in the Local Government Act that the salaries of employees under that Act may be considered and augmented in case of augmented duties, and it occurs to me very great care is required in drawing up any resolution to show precisely how our duties have been augmented.

Dr. NOLAN.—There is one thing which the Secretary has overlooked. This new Act abolishes the Board of Control, and that puts a good deal of extra work upon superintendents who have any building operations going on, or where land is being purchased, and owing to the letters and correspondence which have to be attended to, a considerable amount of real responsibility and work has been put upon superintendents. In my opinion in any resolution adopted an approximate percentage for the increased work should be stated; then it would be for every superintendent to make his own arrangements, because everything would depend upon the locality in a case like that.

After some further discussion, in which Dr. Lawless and Dr. O'Mara joined, Dr. O'MARA seconded the resolution, which was adopted unanimously.

NURSING IN IRISH WORKHOUSES.

The SECRETARY stated that at the last meeting a resolution on this subject was passed unanimously, and ordered to be sent to the Irish Local Government Board. He had done that, and the replies received from the Local Government Board went to show that something was done, and that considerable advance was made with this nursing question. He read the resolution and the subsequent correspondence. The resolution, which has already appeared, affirmed the opinion of the Association that as long as the insane are retained in Irish workhouses attendants should be properly qualified and certificated persons. To this the Irish Local Government Board replied that they are willing to establish a register for asylum-trained and certificated mental nurses. Subsequently, as a number of letters showed, the Local Government Board had insisted at various workhouses on the appointment of properly trained persons to look after the insane, and had in others suggested that such salary should be given as would induce asylum attendants to look for the post.

Dr. FINEGAN, continuing, said similar communications have gone practically to every union in Ireland. The certificate of the Psychological Association is recognised by the Local Government Board, and there will be a very large number of appointments open in the Irish Poor Law Service for those holding the certificate of the Psychological Association, so that the resolution has done a considerable amount of benefit to holders of the certificate, because the Local Government will not sanction any appointment over the insane for workhouses without it. The result from this would be that the Guardians, when they find they have to pay adequate salaries for attendants on the insane, will either send them back to the asylum or make proper provision for them.

The CHAIRMAN.—The correspondence shows the action, which at Dr. Finegan's suggestion we took, has produced some effect.

The Secretary was directed to prepare the abstract of the correspondence for publication.

Papers by Dr. CONOLLY NORMAN, "Notes to serve for the Study of Fractures of the Ribs in the Insane;" and by Dr. BAGNALL HARVEY, "Notes on an Interesting Case of Foreign Bodies in Stomach and Intestines" were by consent held over till next meeting.

Dr. RAMBAUT read a paper entitled, "Notes on Gangrene of the Lung in the Insane."

The CHAIRMAN.—I have to make the confession that I drew the attention of Dr. Rambaut and his colleagues to the method of feeding described by Dr. Newth, in the October, 1899, number of the *Journal of Mental Science*, and I now regret having done so. I see this description copied into some German journals, and it is quite possible it may do a great deal of mischief. We ought to be obliged to Dr. Rambaut for bringing the matter forward.

Dr. MERCIER.—He appears to have an unusual experience of gangrene of the

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lungs too, more than I have had. I think the dangers of feeding with the tube are greatly exaggerated; I don't think there is the slightest suspicion of harm in feeding with the tube if carried out with care and intelligence. If carelessly or coarsely it may have caused harm, but if used with ordinary care I never saw any harm.

Dr. DONELAN.—Everything is in favour of the tube. It is the readiest and the easiest way.

Dr. LAWLESS said he used the tube in a great many cases, both nasally and through the mouth, and never had an experience of any symptoms of unpleasantness from it.

Dr. RAMBAUT also read a paper entitled "Post-mortem Appearance in a case of Alcoholic Neuritis," which was accompanied by a demonstration of the histology of the various viscera and nerves. Dr. Rambaut added that there were still some parts of the case to be examined,—

Dr. MERCIER remarked that the condition of the heart was most extraordinary, and it was very difficult to understand how it carried on its functions. He asked Dr. Rambaut if he had ever seen such an appearance before?

Dr. RAMBAUT.—No.

Dr. DAWSON asked if any examination was made of the nerves of the heart, either intrinsic or extrinsic, as he did not quite gather whether there was or not, or whether it proves the condition of the heart was due to the effect on the nerves of the heart or to the direct action of alcohol on the heart-muscle?

Dr. RAMBAUT having briefly replied, the proceedings then concluded.

SCOTTISH DIVISION.

A special meeting of the Scottish Division was held in the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, on Saturday, June 2nd.

Present: Sir John Sibbald (in the chair), Drs. Clouston, Havelock, Campbell Clark, Watson, Carlyle Johnstone, Robertson, R. B. Mitchell, Keay, Urquhart, Ronaldson, and Turnbull (Secretary).

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

The Secretary reported that he had ascertained the feeling of members resident in Scotland relative to the most suitable day of the week for holding the Divisional Meetings. There was a large majority in favour of a change from Thursday, as at present, to Friday. Having regard to the General Meetings he moved that the Scottish Division should, in future, hold meetings on the fourth Fridays of March and November. This was seconded by Dr. Havelock, and carried unanimously.

Dr. Carlyle Johnstone referred to the nomination of Examiners for the certificate of proficiency in Mental Nursing, and asked the Division for an expression of opinion as to representation on that Board. He held that Scotland should be represented by Dr. Campbell Clark, who had taken a leading part in instituting these examinations. After some discussion Dr. Clark intimated that he would be willing to accept office, Dr. Clouston expressing the mind of the meeting in saying that they were most deeply indebted to him.

Dr. CARLYLE JOHNSTONE moved that Dr. Campbell Clark should be nominated as one of the Examiners in Nursing, under the new regulations. This was unanimously approved.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ASYLUM NURSING AND ADMINISTRATION.

This report was discussed at great length, and adjusted in detail. On the motion of Dr. Urquhart, it was then received and entered on the minutes. Various suggestions were made and discussed. These were referred to the Committee for adjustment, on the understanding that they would submit a series of recommendations or resolutions to the next meeting of the Division.

Dr. CLOUSTON moved a vote of thanks to the Committee, and especially to the Convener, Dr. Campbell Clark, who had done so much work in regard to this matter, and especially in presenting a full synopsis of the replies to the questions placed before the Scottish superintendents.

Sir John Sibbald was accorded a hearty vote of thanks, on the motion of Dr. Watson, for his conduct in the chair.

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