NORTHERN AND MIDLAND DIVISION.

THE SPRING MEETING of the Division was held at the Gateshead Mental Hospital, Stannington, Northumberland, on Thursday, April 29, 1926, by the courtesy of Dr. J. B. Tighe, who entertained the members to lunch.

Dr. J. B. Tighe occupied the Chair.

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

The following candidate was balloted for as an ordinary member of the Association, and was duly elected:

REGINALD ERNEST ILLINGWORTH, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.Edin., Deputy Medical Superintendent, Northumberland County Mental Hospital, Morpeth.

Proposed by Drs. MacPhail, Gray and Gilmour.

Dr. J. R. Gilmour was re-elected Secretary to the Division.

Drs. H. Dove Cormac, J. B. Tighe and Neil Macleod were elected as Representative Members of Council.

Dr. M. A. ARCHDALE read a paper entitled "Some Remarks on Mental Treatment in Mental Hospitals." He said he had not used psycho-analysis much except in a superficial way, sufficient to afford information for suggestion and persuasion treatment.

He thought psycho-analysis had special value for prophylaxis after recovering from a psychotic attack.

Under the title of "Individual Suggestion" he discussed the merits of (1) hypnotism, (2) suggestion in the waking state, (3) methods of inducing relaxation of mind and body, (4) persuasion, and (5) auto-suggestion.

He said he had gradually come to combine heterosuggestion, persuasion and auto-suggestion, and he showed two printed lists of sentences containing suitable suggestions for certain mental states. Sentences from one list were repeated by a nurse to the patient according to direction, and those from the other list were repeated aloud by the patient under the supervision of the nurse.

Under the title of "General Suggestion" he discussed a number of details in mental hospital management, arranging his remarks under (1) the hospital atmosphere, (2) tone of the nurses, (3) points about the admission wards, (4) applied psychology for ward sisters and charge nurses, (5) discharge of patients, (6) attitude of whole staff, (7) occupation therapy.

Under the last heading he described the token payment and canteen system at Ryhope, and showed samples of the token, with suggestions printed in favour of the benefits of work, etc.

Dr. J. B. TIGHE then read "Notes on a Case of Epileptiform Seizures associated with Symptoms of Disease of the Pituitary Body."

The patient was a colliery driver, æt. 17, who was admitted to the hospital in May, 1925. There was no evidence of mental instability in the family history and nothing of note in the personal history. The lad was noisy, exalted and impulsive on his admission. There were signs of pituitary shortage. He developed a series of fits, associated with a low diastolic blood-pressure of 50 mm. Under treatment by whole pituitary gland, 6 grains *per diem*, there was steady improvement, and for a time cessation of fits.

The subsequent history of the patient showed a return of the epilepsy. The case led to an interesting discussion.

There was an informal discussion on the Board of Control's Circular 677.

IRISH DIVISION.

THE SPRING MEETING of the Division was held, by the invitation of Dr. Richard R. Leeper, at St. Patrick's Hospital, Dublin, on Thursday, April 22, 1926.

There were 19 members present.

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

Correspondence was read from the Hon. Treasurer and the Hon. Secretary of the Association *re* the new Charter and suggested amendment of the Bye-Laws of the Association. It was decided that in the event of a grant of arms being given to the Association, a suitable representation of Ireland be embodied by

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the Herald Office, and that Sir Neville Wilkinson, Ulster King-at-Arms, be consulted on the matter by the Herald Office if necessary

The meeting next considered the lack of representation of its members upon the General Nursing Council of the Irish Free State, and it was resolved that the present Advisory Committee, composed of Dr. D. L. Kelly, Dr. J. O'C. Donelan and Dr. Leeper be appointed as a deputation of the Association to wait upon the Local Government Minister to lay the case before him and to solicit his attention to this matter.

The meeting then continued the discussion inaugurated at the last meeting (*vide* vol. lxxi, 1925, p. 625) by Dr. NORMAN GRAHAM on the malarial treatment of general paralysis. Dr. Graham kindly produced a typewritten synopsis of his valuable work and a very interesting discussion followed.

Dr. DUNNE, who had worked on similar lines, read a synopsis of his work, with the results of his treatment of general paralytic patients in the Grangegorman Mental Hospital (*vide* p. 343).

Dr. J. O'C. DONELAN, Dr. M. J. NOLAN, Dr. L. GAVIN and Dr. T. A. GREENE took part in this discussion, and a hearty vote of thanks was tendered to Drs. Graham and Dunne for their valuable communications, and expressions of satisfaction were general that such promising results had been obtained. The results which they recorded were keenly appreciated, and it was the unanimous feeling of the meeting that a valuable remedy for general paralysis had been found in many cases. It was felt that in regard to this treatment the pessimists of 1925 were now optimists in 1926. And Dr. J. O'C. Donelan confessed to his now being convinced of the great value of this treatment, the advantages of which both he and many other members were more than doubtful of a year ago. How the treatment effected the good results was still a mystery. The question of post-mercurial treatment was raised by Dr. NOLAN, and Dr. GRAHAM stated that he used no post-antisyphilitic treatment. Men treated by Dr. Graham had been able to resume work as masons and plumbers, and without disclosing their previous history of general paralysis had passed the authorities as most capable and healthy men.

The CHAIRMAN moved a vote of thanks to Dr. Leeper for his hospitality, to which Dr. LEEPER replied.

PARLIAMENTARY NEWS.

ASYLUMS OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION (AMENDMENT) BILL.

IN the House of Commons on Tuesday, March 23, Mr. A. Taylor, M.P. (Lincoln), in moving: "That leave be given to introduce a Bill to amend the Asylums Officers' Superannuation Act, 1909," said that the need for the amendment of this Act was recognized by the House of Commons as far back as 1911, when it appointed a Committee to consider a Bill introduced by the noble Lord who is now Assistant Postmaster-General. (Hon. Members: "Agreed!")

Question put and agreed to.

The Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. Taylor, Mr. Thomas Williams, Mr. Paling, Mr. Riley, Mr. Thomas Kennedy and Mr. Robert Richardson.

Asylums Officers' Superannuation (Amendment) Bill, "to amend the Asylums Officers' Superannuation Act, 1909," was presented accordingly, and read the first time.

On Wednesday, March 31, Mr. Taylor moved the second reading of the Bill, but as several hon. Members objected, it was automatically defeated.

The Asylums Officers' Superannuation (Amendment) Bill, therefore, is dead for the moment and cannot be re-introduced until the next session of the House.

THE MENTAL AFTER-CARE ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1925.

FEW who are familiar with the work of this Association can be in any doubt as to its value to the community, and the evidence of good and conscientious work is to be found in every page of this report, while evidence of its good management and administration was produced at the Annual Meeting by Sir Maurice Craig, the Treasurer, who drew attention to the fact that the expenses of administration

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