quotes it to illustrate the ease with which syphilis can be overlooked even when sought for.

Dr. Mott makes a report of the pathological work carried on in the laboratory at Claybury, from which it is evident that he has many and capable fellow-workers. He adverts to the invasion of colitis, the facts about which are still under discussion. Syphilis, tubercle, and alcohol are subjects of close study in relation to insanity.

The information given by the asylums' engineer, Mr. Clifford Smith, in his separate reports on each asylum is most interesting and will well repay perusal.

Some Scottish District Asylums.

Fife and Kinross.—Dr. Turnbull writes that the hospital section has well fulfilled its purpose, but is now too small by reason of largely increased admissions and accumulation of special cases. He states that great benefit to the patients has arisen from the adoption of an extended and more efficient system of night supervision. After two years' trial he finds it more economical to provide milk on the premises rather than to buy it by contract, and from a shorter trial he finds the same result from killing his own meat.

Glasgow, Gartloch.—In forty cases examined post-mortem Dr. Oswald found active or quiescent tubercle in no less than twenty-six. The acute cases are isolated as far as possible in the infectious blocks.

A new nurses' home and a shifting of male attendants has set free a certain amount of accommodation; yet Dr. Oswald is advising his committee to set about building soon.

Just seventy-five *per cent.* of the patients are registered as daily engaged in useful occupation. Twelve female patients and two nurses are regularly employed in the garden. Eighty patients out of an average residence of 470 have parole.

We note that general paralysis is assigned as a cause of insanity, and we find that Dr. Campbell Clark follows the same practice, but while the latter applies it to all his five cases of that disease admitted, Dr. Oswald returns only ten out of his twelve as thus caused. It would be interesting to know what are the grounds for this differentiation, and we may express a doubt whether this disease itself is not such a recognised entity as to forbid its physical elements being thus dissociated from the mental. It seems to us that, as in this report 211 causes are given for 211 admitted cases, the causation of the general paralysis cases must be excluded.

Another class of cause also seems to us to be not free from doubt—exacerbation of existing attack. This may be a cause of admission, but hardly a cause of the mental condition necessitating such admission.

Glasgow, Kirklands.—Dr. Skeen gives a curious and amusing case of a girl who was out on probation, and, not returning in time, had to be discharged as an escape. She left her friends, procured male attire, and hired herself out as a baker's lad, and worked well as such. When her sex was discovered she moved on to a baker's near the

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asylum, where her sex was again discovered, and she was taken into private care by philanthropists. She was doing well.

We are glad to see that Dr. Skeen keeps up the Association's statistical tables in strict form on the whole. His table of causation is, however, not very clear and useful.

Inverness.—Dr. Keay reports that influenza does not decrease in severity. It year by year takes a more prominent place in his tables, both as a cause of insanity and of death. In 150 admissions it was assigned as a cause in 13 cases. He speaks sorrowfully of tubercle. During five years—1895 to 1900—195 deaths occurred, and 184 post-mortem examinations were made—a most creditable proportion. In 36 per cent. of the deaths tubercle was found, and in 31 *per cent.* there was advanced pulmonary consumption. He very rightly gives his Board full and valuable advice on the prevention of tubercle, with which we fully agree. His remedy is a fat diet, elbow room, and fresh air to encourage resistance and prompt isolation when signs of infection are found. He asks for isolation wards accommodating twenty of each sex.

We note that he discharged one female general paralytic as recovered. Only one case was admitted out of a total of 150. Over 30 *per cent.* of the latter had had previous attacks. Intemperance was assigned in less than 10 *per cent.*, while entrance into sexual life, departure from it, and senility claimed 10, 5, and 7 *per cent.* respectively.

We feel that we ought to congratulate Dr. Keay on the good use of the time he has spent in remodelling the Institution. Dr. Frazer reports, "very pleasant recollections were left by the visit, both as to the general management of the asylum, and the great improvements which have been effected in recent years."

Lanark, Hartwood.—Dr. Campbell Clark also deplores the severe inroads of influenza in a virulent form; the lungs of those attacked suffering more seriously and more frequently. At one time seven nurses were down with it.

The Commissioners' report contains the following:

> The family grouping of the men and women at the tables has now, evidently, become an organised system in this Asylum, and it certainly appeared to be not only free from objection, but visibly to detract from the stiffness and monotony of the ordinary method of rigidly separating the sexes in asylum dining halls. A patient of superior intelligence, generally a female, presided at each table, and manifested a certain appearance of solicitous supervision over the welfare of her companions during the meal.

Midlothian and Peebles.—This is the only asylum, we believe, that issues a report with no statistical tables at all; the only information of the kind being a few figures in the medical superintendent's report.

> Suicidal tendencies were present in eleven cases, and of these seven had attempted suicide. One of the male would-be suicides—an Irish labourer of low type—had heard a "voice" (an auditory hallucination) in one of his ears ordering him to cut out his testicles. Another "voice" in the opposite ear countermanded the first "voice," but nevertheless he obeyed the former, and cut out both his testicles in the same way that he had seen the operation performed on sheep or pigs. He was found lying in a collapsed and helpless condition, and was first removed to the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. After a few days he was brought here. The wounds ultimately healed well, and the man's physical condition has improved very much. This patient confesses to have been a confirmed drunkard, and his father and brothers seem also to have been drunkards.

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Stirling, Larbert.—Dr. Robertson speaks highly, and we feel rightly, of the beneficial influence of women nurses in the male wards. Twelve females are now on day and night duty with suitable male patients. He rightly points out that conditions have changed of late years, and what was formerly impossible is now not only possible but desirable. It is idle to expect insanity to improve itself, it can only be improved by imported influences, and such are the ministrations of females. Dr. Robertson, though in this matter only following out well-established principles evolved by himself and others, has gone further than anyone in appointing a matron as head of the male department, with an experienced attendant as assistant. He points out that a woman can do more than a man in looking after the furnishing and brightening of the wards, and in supervision of nursing and in ensurance of economy. But we are not quite satisfied that the average under-attendant can be efficiently controlled by female force. However, if Dr. Robertson proves after a year or two of experience that he can be, so much more credit to him.

Notes and News.

MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

General Meeting.

A General Meeting was held at the Rooms of the Association, London, on Thursday, May 23rd, 1901.

Present: Drs. Fletcher Beach (President), Robert Jones, C. Mercier, A. Miller, H. T. S. Aveline, R. D. Hotchkis, C. H. Bond, A. W. Campbell, J. Carlyle Johnstone, T. S. Sheldon, H. Benham, T. D. Greenlees, P. W. Macdonald, R. Percy Smith, Crochley Clapham, A. N. Boycott, J. B. Spence, J. Chambers, G. S. Elliot, G. A. Watson, J. B. Cooke, J. G. Soutar, H. J. Macevoy, W. Kingdon, J. W. Evans, Evan Powell, W. Beattie Smith, D. Fleck, J. S. Bolton, H. E. Haynes, F. Edridge-Green, C. S. Morrison, T. B. Hyslop, E. W. White, W. C. Sullivan, W. H. Kesteven, J. C. Gayton, R. Legge, C. K. Hitchcock, H. H. Newington, W. Douglas, D. Bower, D. Nicolson, J. M. Ahern, H. Smalley, R. J. Stilwell, R. N. Paton, J. Scott, F. St. John Bullen, J. E. M. Finch, A. J. Alliott, W. D. Moore, H. Stilwell, J. Sutcliffe, S. A. Gill, J. Baker, L. A. Weatherly, M. J. Nolan, E. S. Pasmore, H. C. MacBryan, G. H. Johnston, G. H. Savage, H. Kershaw, E. France, M. Craig, J. P. Richards, T. Outterson Wood.

Visitors: Rev. R. D. Swallow, Sir Herbert Stephen, Bart., Messrs. Montague H. Crackanthorpe, K.C., S. G. Lushington, Shadworth H. Hodgson and T. R. Bridgwater, Dr. H. B. Donkin.

The President read the acknowledgment from the Home Secretary of the address to the King. It was agreed that this should be framed and kept in the Rooms of the Association.

The President directed attention to the microscopic slides showing the condition of nerve-cells and association fibres in cases of idiocy and juvenile general paralysis, exhibited by Dr. Watson. To himself, personally, the exhibition was highly interesting, and he was glad to have this evidence of the scientific work which was being carried on by the younger members of the Association.

The following candidates were balloted for and elected members of the Associa-

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