DOWN COUNTY MENTAL HOSPITAL, DOWNPATRICK.

THE Down County Mental Hospital on February 8, 1927, was visited by Viscount Craigavon, Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, accompanied by Sir Dawson Bates, the Minister of Home Affairs. They were received by Senator J. Hill Dickson (Chairman), Viscount Bangor (Vice-Chairman), and other members of the Committee of Management, and Dr. M. J. Nolan, the Medical Superintendent.

Senator Hill Dickson expressed the great gratification the Committee felt at the honour of the visit. Mental institutions, he said, had recently been put on trial before a Royal Commission on Lunacy in England. It was a source of the deepest satisfaction to them that many of the chief recommendations of that Commission had been long since anticipated at Downpatrick, so that they might pride themselves as being among the pioneers in progress. The Committee had an executive officer whose capacity had won for him the blue ribbon of his fellow-workers in this special branch of medicine—he had recently been the honoured President of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association. Moreover, his link with general medicine was so strong and so much appreciated that he this year occupied the presidential chair of the Ulster Medical Society.

The Prime Minister, having thanked the Committee for their resolution of congratulation, said it was unnecessary for him to remind them of the very distinguished services that Dr. Nolan had given in these institutions for many years, and he (the Prime Minister), along with all other Ulstermen, was very proud that Dr. Nolan had risen to the high position he holds.

ROYAL MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY.

The current number of any of the following journals will be loaned, as they appear, to any member:

American Journal of Insanity.
Journal of Neurology and Psycho-Pathology.
L'Encéphale.
International Journal of Psycho-Analysis.
Journal of Abnormal Psychology.
Mental Hygiene.
Journal of Nervous and Mental Diseases (New York).
Revue Neurologique.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editors of the JOURNAL OF MENTAL SCIENCE.

Re DIAGNOSIS OF GENERAL PARALYSIS.

SIRS,—In the Journal for January, 1927, there appeared a note on the Wassermann reaction in the blood-serum in a series of male admissions to a mental hospital. In this it was stated that "a positive Wassermann reaction of both serum and cerebro-spinal fluid is confirmation of the diagnosis of general paralysis."

To a physician with any knowledge of neuro-syphilis the error of this statement is obvious, and we feel that its publication in the Journal should not be allowed to pass unchallenged. The acceptance of such a dictum would certainly lead to grave errors in diagnosis and to the institution of a serious form of treatment, which might not in any way be justified in cases of meningo-vascular syphilis.

We are, Sirs,

Yours faithfully,

A. G. DUNCAN, A.M.O.
F. KIDDLE, A.M.O.

SEVERALLS MENTAL HOSPITAL,
COLCHESTER;
March 26, 1927.

[The author of the article to which this letter refers suggests that his idea would be accurately stated had "strong" been inserted before "confirmation."—EDS.]

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