PART IV.—NOTES AND NEWS.

MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

A General Meeting of the Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain and Ireland was held on November 15th, at the Rooms of the Association, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, under the presidency of Dr. Conolly Norman, F.R.C.S.I.

The minutes of the last General Meeting were read and confirmed.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

Dr. MERCIER said one of the candidates for admission as ordinary members was described as "Emil Wilhelm Lindell, M.D., Univ. Upsala, Assistant Physician, Royal Asylum, Gothenburg, Sweden." As a point of order he wished to call attention to the fact that by their Rules the only persons eligible for the membership of the Association were "registered medical practitioners." He wished to know, before proceeding to the election, whether Dr. Lindell was a "registered medical practitioner."

Dr. HACK TUKE said he was only a registered medical practitioner abroad.

Dr. MERCIER submitted that "registered" meant on the English register.

The PRESIDENT said he was afraid he must rule that "registered" meant on the Register of the United Kingdom. He (the President) explained that the only exception was in the case of honorary and corresponding members. These could be elected only at Annual Meetings. Dr. Hack Tuke undertook to convey to Dr. Lindell that it was proposed to put his name forward for election as a corresponding member at the next Annual Meeting.

The ballot was then taken for the election of Henry Edmund Blandford, M.A., M.D., B.Ch., Univ. Dubl., Portland House, Bedford Park, Croydon, and Edward H. O. Sankey, M.A., M.B., B.C., Cantab., Resident Medical Licensee, Boreatton Park Licensed House, Boreatton Park, Baschurch, Salop.

The PRESIDENT declared that these gentlemen were elected members.

PRESENTATION TO LIBRARY.

Dr. HACK TUKE said Dr. Sankey, of the Oxford County Asylum, had presented to the Association Library, which was now being formed, an entire set of the Journal. Members would be aware that in regard to the first volume it was impossible to procure it, and the second and third were extremely rare. Dr. Sankey had the whole set, and when he (Dr. Tuke) visited the asylum in the autumn he was good enough to say that he would present the whole of them to the Association. That had been done, and therefore he proposed that the best thanks of the Association be presented to Dr. Sankey for his valuable donation. To other members, and especially those who had published works of their own, he would venture to say, "Go thou and do likewise."

Mr WHITCOMBE, in seconding, said it was most important that they should acknowledge a gift of that kind. He was sure they would at any future time be just as grateful if other members would give volumes to the library.

The resolution was carried by acclamation.

COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY.

Dr. MERCIER, in the absence of Dr. Orange, President of the Committee, reported that the Committee, which was appointed at Bristol, was in communication with the Parliamentary Bills Committee of the British Medical Association, which was set in motion at the same time. Without entering into details, he might say matters were progressing very satisfactorily, and there was every prospect of the two Committees acting in harmony with one another in bringing about a change in the law.

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INTERCURRENT DISEASES AND INSANITY.

Dr. GOODALL read a paper by himself and Dr. Bullen on this subject.

[This will appear, along with the discussion, in a future number of the Journal.]

A paper was then read by Dr. Campbell, of Rainhill, on "The Breaking Strain of the Ribs in the Insane."

[This paper, a demonstration on the subject by Dr. Mercier, and the discussion which followed, will appear in a subsequent number of the Journal.]

MEETING OF THE SCOTCH DIVISION.

A meeting of the Scotch Division of the Association was held in the hall of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, on Thursday, 8th November.

Dr. Batty Tuke, senior, and afterwards Dr. J. A. Campbell, occupied the chair. The others present were Drs. Bruce, J. Cameron, Campbell Clark, Clouston, Fox, Havelock, Hay, Keay, Ireland, Carlyle Johnstone, T. W. McDowall, Middlemass, Mitchell, Oswald, G. M. Robertson, Skae, Urquhart, Watson, and Turnbull (Secretary). After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and approved,

Dr. URQUHART, on behalf of the committee appointed to consider the question of provision for aged and infirm officials, reported "that there is necessity for further information than they at present possess, and the committee suggest that they should be empowered to obtain skilled actuarial opinion." As the proposed expenditure is not within the powers of a Divisional Meeting, it was, after discussion, resolved, on the motion of Dr. Urquhart, seconded by Dr. Campbell Clark, to direct the Secretary to forward the report to the Council for consideration, with a recommendation from the Scotch Division in favour of it.

Dr. W. R. Dawson, Assistant Medical Superintendent, Farnham House Asylum, Finglas, Dublin, was duly elected to the membership of the Association.

HÆMATOPORPHYRINURIA FOLLOWING ADMINISTRATION OF SULPHONAL.

Dr. OSWALD read notes of a case of hæmatoporphyrinuria following the administration of sulphonal. The full text will be found in the December number of the "Glasgow Medical Journal." The patient was a woman in whose urine hæmatoporphyrin appeared after about 2,200 grains of sulphonal had been given in three months. The clinical symptoms were similar to those that have been described by other reporters. The urine was of a deep claret colour and gave the characteristic spectrum of hæmatoporphyrin. The case ran to a fatal termination in about ten days, but before death there ensued a progressive paralysis of the voluntary muscles. A post-mortem examination was made, and the liver and kidneys were found to be fatty. Dr. Oswald referred to the *modus operandi* by which sulphonal acted as a hypnotic, and advanced a theory that the fatal result in cases of hæmatoporphyrinuria might be due to accumulative action of the sulphonal affecting the adrenals and leading to such a destruction of blood and to such an accumulation of the decomposition products of hæmoglobin as to give rise to serious effects on the nervous system and to death. He ventured to dissent from the excessive praises with which asylum physicians were loading sulphonal, and believed it to be by no means a harmless drug. Its use had been much advocated in cases of *folie circulaire*, but while undoubtedly lessening the excitement and perhaps shortening its duration it had seemed to him to leave the patient less bright and clear intellectually during the period of well being. He referred to other reported cases, and especially to the excellent paper by Dr. Priestly in recent numbers of the "Medical Chronicle."

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