mention had been made of the desirability of conducting research into the problems of mental disease. He suggested that the Sub-Committee appointed to deal with this question should make a further effort to have the claims of research into the problems of mental disease recognized, and that the Sub-Committee might also consider the wider problems of the organization and equipment of mental hospitals. After some discussion Dr. Moran's suggestions were agreed to, and the Sub-Committee was requested to report progress to the next meeting of the Division. Dr. Clifford was appointed an additional member of this Sub-Committee.

The meeting then accepted, with pleasure, Dr. Green's invitation to hold the Summer Meeting at Carlow Mental Hospital on Saturday, July 18, 1936.

Dr. C. J. McCarthy, Assistant Medical Officer, Grangegorman Mental Hospital, then read a very interesting communication on **"Criminal Responsibility in the Insane"**. Dr. McCarthy stressed the many anomalies which exist in the application and interpretation of the Criminal Law with regard to the insane, and he made a number of suggestions which, in his opinion, would tend to decrease these anomalies.

Following Dr. McCarthy's paper, Dr. Scroope read an interesting commentary on Dr. McCarthy's suggestions and on present-day tendencies in medico-legal work. Both these papers were very fully discussed by the members present, many of whom expressed the obligation the Division was under to the authors for bringing this important subject before the meeting.

The Chairman then proposed a cordial vote of thanks to Dr. and Mrs. Scroope for their kind hospitality. This was carried unanimously. Subsequently the members were kindly entertained to tea by Mrs. Scroope.

MIDLAND MENTAL PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

The fourth meeting of the Midland Mental Pathological Society was held in the Birmingham University Anatomical Department on Thursday, March 26. Dr. John Beattie addressed the Society on the functional activity of the hypothalamus, laying stress on its dual nature, the anterior being related to the parasympathetic and the posterior portion related to the true sympathetic. He did not favour a precise localization of specific reactivity, but described the results which stimulation produced in the heart, stomach, bladder, body temperature and blood sugar. Twenty-eight members were present. Sir Gilbert Barling (President) congratulated the lecturer, and contributed, with others, to an interesting discussion and appreciation of the lecture.

BRITISH NATIONAL HUMAN HEREDITY COMMITTEE.

The British National Human Heredity Committee was formed in 1932 for the collection of data and the investigation of human pedigrees, as a branch of the International Human Heredity Committee working with the International Federation of Eugenic Organizations. It has now been enlarged as a Council and has secured accommodation at 115, Gower Street, London, W.C. 1; and in collaboration with the Galton Laboratory, aims at setting up a clearing-house for material on human genetics. The Council consists of a number of geneticists and leading medical men, with Prof. Ruggles Gates as Chairman, Sir Laurence Halsey as Treasurer, Dr. Fraser Roberts as Honorary Scientific Secretary, and Mrs. C. B. S. Hodson as Honorary General Secretary. The direction of the work is to be in the hands of a small Executive Committee.

The Council would be grateful to receive all available material from institutions

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