

the admissions, only thirteen cases occurring in 239 who entered ; but no case in all the latter was attributable to syphilis. A large number of male alcoholics (38 out of 143) were admitted and increased the turnover of the asylum, which is a high one, the proportion of admissions to average population being more than 50 *per cent.* The Commissioners advise the authorities to consider whether "in some cases appropriate medical treatment could not be given elsewhere than in the asylum for the short time that is often all that is required to complete recovery of these drinkers."

Notes and News.

MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

THE GENERAL MEETING was held at the Derbyshire County Asylum, Mickleover, on Thursday, February 12th, 1903. Dr. J. Wiglesworth, the President, occupied the chair.

The following members were present:—Drs. T. Stewart Adair, W. Lloyd Andriezen, Henry T. S. Aveline, Horatio Barnett, Fletcher Beach, Harry A. Benham, C. Hubert Bond, David Bower, A. N. Boycott, George Braine-Hartnell, Robert H. Cole, F. K. Dickson, Charles C. Easterbrook, Francis H. Edwards, G. Stanley Elliott, H. Gardiner Hill, Theo. B. Hyslop, Gerald H. Johnston, J. Carlyle Johnstone, Robert Jones (Hon. Sec.), W. Ernest Jones, Walter S. Kay, Richard Legge, Henry C. MacBryan, Henry J. Mackenzie, S. Rutherford Macphail, W. F. Menzies, Alfred Miller, C. S. Morrison, Gilbert E. Mould, H. Hayes Newington, Michael J. Nolan, Bedford Pierce, Evan Powell, Daniel F. Rambaut, Robert L. Rutherford, J. Beveridge Spence, Bernard Stacey, Rothsay C. Stewart, F. J. Stuart, T. Seymour Tuke, Alex. R. Urquhart, Lionel A. Weatherly, Ernest W. White, J. Wiglesworth, T. Outterson Wood, and David Yellowlees. Visitors: Colonel G. Gascoyne and Drs. E. Collier Green and E. Vaudrey.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Drs. C. Mercier, A. R. Turnbull, R. Percy Smith, P. W. Macdonald, E. B. Whitcombe, J. F. Briscoe, and H. Rayner.

In the morning the Educational and Parliamentary Committees met, and a Council Meeting was held. The following were present at the Council:—Drs. J. Wiglesworth, H. Gardiner Hill, T. Stewart Adair, Alfred Miller, Ernest W. White, C. Hubert Bond, G. Braine-Hartnell, R. L. Rutherford, David Yellowlees, H. Hayes Newington, J. Beveridge Spence, A. R. Urquhart, Theo. B. Hyslop, Lionel A. Weatherly, Rothsay C. Stewart, and Robert Jones.

At half-past one Dr. R. Legge entertained the members to lunch, at the close of which Dr. Wiglesworth proposed the health of their host, remarking upon the evident popularity of the quarterly meetings of the Association held in the provinces, as evinced by the numbers present.

Dr. LEGGE, in responding, paid a high tribute to his committee and expressed much pleasure in being able to forward the interests of the Association.

Dr. T. OUTTERSON WOOD then proposed the health of Colonel G. Gascoyne, Chairman of the Asylum Committee. This was heartily received, and Colonel Gascoyne responded in cordial terms.

Dr. Wiglesworth presided at the afternoon session. He regretted to announce that Dr. Clouston was absent through a serious and severe illness, that Dr. Macdonald was unable to be present from a similar cause, and that Dr. Mercier

was absent owing to domestic and family bereavement. The sympathy of members was cordially expressed, and it was announced that the Council had requested the Hon. Secretary to convey this to each of the members thus absent.

TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS.

The PRESIDENT said there was a resolution on the agenda in the name of Dr. F. J. Stuart, concerning the work of the Tuberculosis Committee of this Association. It would be within the recollection of all of them that that Committee presented a report, which was adopted. The accuracy of the statistics which the report contained was challenged, whereupon the Secretary of the Committee wrote to the *British Medical Journal* and accepted personal responsibility for them. He (the speaker) thought that was unfortunate, because every member of that Committee was equally responsible for what the report contained.

Dr. STUART here rose to a point of order. Could the President discuss the question before the resolution had been proposed and seconded?

The PRESIDENT stated that the question was not being discussed, but he had been desired by the Council to make the following statement:—That morning the Council had gone fully into the matter, and found that the expert who, at the request of the Council, had the report and statistics under his consideration, had arrived at certain conclusions, but had not sent in a detailed report. The revised statistics, when obtained, would be presented to the Association and considered in the fullest possible manner. That being the position of affairs at present, it would be seen that the matter was, to some extent, *sub judice*; he would therefore ask whether Dr. Stuart wished to proceed with his resolution.

Dr. STUART expressed his intention to proceed, and moved as follows:—“That a committee be appointed to reconsider and to report on the statistics obtained by the late Tuberculosis Committee of this Association.” He said that it had been suggested that whatever criticism was made on the work of this Committee should have been made in the *Journal of Mental Science*. He wished to state that he commented on those statistics in the *British Medical Journal* because that report had been sent out, amongst others, to the Chairman of the Asylum Committee of the staff of which he was a member. He referred at considerable length to the errors in the report which the Tuberculosis Committee had drawn up, and he regarded it as unsatisfactory that the Secretary had accepted full responsibility for the errors. He asserted that each member of the late Committee should be held responsible for the report, and he claimed that a new committee should be appointed to deal with the matter.

Mr. W. ERNEST JONES seconded the resolution.

The PRESIDENT stated he was a member of that Committee, but was only able to attend one meeting. He accepted his share of the responsibility.

Dr. HAYES NEWINGTON moved, as an amendment, that the matter be, for the present, left in the hands of the Council.

Dr. YELLOWLEES seconded this. He thought they were indebted to Dr. Stuart for pointing out the errors contained in the report; he considered, however, it would be wisest to pass the amendment. Now that these mistakes had been brought to light, the Council would take steps to rectify them. It was the duty of the Council to protect the dignity of the Association in every possible manner, and that duty was not going to be neglected.

Dr. MACPHAIL thought that Dr. Stuart was right in bringing the matter forward.

Dr. STUART said that if the Chairman of the Committee had accepted the responsibility for the report instead of the Secretary doing so, he would not have brought the matter up before the Association.

Dr. YELLOWLEES did not think that the Chairman of the Committee would deny responsibility; he believed that the Chairman deplored the errors as much as anyone.

The PRESIDENT, in answer to Dr. Stuart, said that the whole matter had been referred to a statistical expert, and that the corrections would be published in the *Journal of Mental Science*.

After some further discussion the amendment was put and carried by an overwhelming majority. It was afterwards adopted as a substantive motion, no one voting against it.

THE STEREOPLASM OF THE NERVE-ELEMENTS—A STUDY IN NERVE DYNAMICS.

Dr. W. LLOYD ANDRIEZEN read a paper, with lantern demonstration, on the "Stereoplasm of the Nerve-elements—a Study in Nerve Dynamics." After reviewing the older doctrine of the morphological unity of protoplasm, he pointed out that this was succeeded by the modern view of its diversity of structure and function, and exemplified it by lantern-slides of specimens of the central nervous system. He emphasised the view that the neuron, or nerve-element in its entirety, was an individual element embryologically (as shown by His), anatomically (as shown by the work of Golgi, Ramon y Cajal, and others), and physiologically (as shown by various experimental methods relating to velocity of nerve-impulse, reaction-time, etc.). The Golgi method of staining revealed the neuron as an opaque body even to its terminal fibrils and "gemmules." He then showed that the cell-body, by modern methods of staining, seemed to be composed of a reticulo-fibrillar element or stereoplasm and a hyaline substance or hygroplasm. He pointed out analogies in the case of epithelial cells, gland-cells, and muscle-cells in regard to this differentiation of structure, and illustrated the nature of the hygroplasm from observations on the amœba, on leucocytes, and on young cartilage cells. The stereoplasmic network, with its prolongation into fibrils in the axis-cylinders of nerve-cells, seemed to be present even in such lowly forms as the Crustacea, as shown by Retzius with the *intra vitam* methylene-blue method, and it was more marked in the higher vertebrata. His own studies on the brain and spinal cord of the cat, ox, monkey, and man harmonised with this view. (Various slides were shown on the screen illustrating the stereoplasmic structure of the nerve-cells in the spinal cord, cerebrum, and cerebellum as shown by special methods of staining.) The large motor-cells of the human spinal cord, the pyramid cells of the cortex, and the Purkinje cells of the cerebellum showed the structure described. He also pointed out that even in the spinal cord of the freshly killed ox the fibrillar prolongations of the stereoplasm could be shown in cell-processes and within the cell-body. He then discussed certain physico-chemical theories regarding the nature of this structure as contrasted with the hygroplasm, and stated his view that the chief metabolic changes (assimilation of food, the building up of the tigroid substance or Nissl's bodies, and probably also the maintaining of the intra-cellular stereoplasm in a state of heightened functional excitability) were subserved by the hygroplasm. Analogies from other tissues of the body and from unicellular organisms were cited and shown to harmonise with this view. The stereoplasm was thus, both from positive and negative evidence, believed to be the conducting element of the nerve-cells, but it was also more than this, for its structure and its environment were modified in the axis-cylinder as compared with the nerve cell-body itself. To quote a simile from the body politic, he would look upon the hygroplasm as the more mobile and "progressive" element, and the stereoplasm as the more "conservative" element. He concluded by pointing out that Herbert Spencer in some of his remarkable speculations (*Data of Biology*) had come very close to the general view which the lecturer had just propounded, and urged that such a view not only gave a philosophical interest to study, but enabled them to understand some of the deeper problems of neurology and psychology. He also briefly described observations in cases of insanity (chronic alcoholic insanity, epileptic insanity, and general paralysis of the insane) in which he found marked and extensive destruction of the stereoplasm within the cell-bodies of the cortex, and hoped that alienists and other investigators would devote special attention to the study of this most important constituent of the nerve-elements.

Dr. ERNEST WHITE read a paper entitled "The Care and Treatment of Persons of Unsound Mind in Private Houses and Nursing Homes" (see page 245).

Dr. OUTTERSON WOOD read a paper entitled "Lunacy and the Law" (see page 260).

The discussion on these two papers was adjourned until the next General Meeting.

The members dined together in the evening at the Midland Hotel, Derby.