

"independent"; whilst the reference to the superintendent of a public mental hospital or other medical officer in the public service does not indicate whether the permission to certify accorded to a practitioner falling within these categories does or does not extend to the case of a patient already in his own charge.

The Committee welcomes the recommendation enabling the certifying practitioners to consult together.

The Commission suggests (R., p. 159) in connection with the procedure in the case of an involuntary patient who requires to be dealt with by reception order after full certification as a person of unsound mind, that the petition should be accompanied by a statement of particulars, including a disclosure of the patient's property, if any. The Committee assumes that this proviso has reference to the requirement (R., p. 160) proposed by the Commission that the Board of Control should forthwith notify the Master in Lunacy if the patient has property exceeding £100. It seems to the Committee to be unfortunate to load the procedure with such matters as this, and it is suggested that if such a statement is necessary on grounds of public policy it might be supplied at any time within seven days of the patient's certification.

OTHER MATTERS.

Voluntary Boarders.

Whilst welcoming the main recommendations of the Royal Commission in connection with the extension of facilities for the reception of voluntary boarders, the Committee wishes to draw attention to certain points which seem to require explanation or modification.

The Commission states (R., p. 157) that written application should be made for treatment as a voluntary boarder; but the authority to whom this application is to be made is nowhere specified. This is a matter of some importance.

The Commission recommends (R., p. 158) that if the voluntary boarder ceases to have volition he should, within one month, be dealt with as an involuntary patient. The Committee wishes to emphasize in this connection the necessity for introducing into any legislation concerning voluntary boarders some special provision for dealing with those cases in which transfer from one institution to another would, in the absence of such provision, be bound to occur by reason of chargeability and might be detrimental to the patient.

Board of Control.

The Committee regrets that the suggestions of the Royal Commission (R., p. 176) for the reconstruction of the Board of Control do not ensure the appointment of a medical woman on the Board of Commissioners, and that the scale of salaries proposed for Assistant Commissioners is not calculated to attract practitioners of sufficient standing.

The above memorandum was considered on July 18 and again on Tuesday, the 19th, at the Edinburgh meeting of the Representative Body.

Dr. Langdon-Down (Chairman of the Lunacy Law and Mental Disorder Committee) moved its approval and reference to the Council.

Dr. C. O. HAWTHORNE (Marylebone) moved as an amendment, referring the memorandum to the Council and requesting the Council to re-appoint the Committee with instructions to take whatever steps were possible to secure what the Report of the Royal Commission declares to be "fair"—namely, that the medical profession should not be asked "to perform their essential part under the menace of litigation which, even if unsuccessful, may spell financial or professional ruin."

Dr. JAMES NEAL (Hendon) seconded.

The amendment was accepted by Dr. Langdon-Down and then carried without dissent.

SCOTTISH ASYLUMS' PATHOLOGICAL SCHEME.

THIRTIETH ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1926.

[*Abridged.*]

The Board of the Scottish Asylums' Pathological Scheme, in submitting their Report for the year 1926, desire to record their continued appreciation of the

valuable research work carried out by Dr. Reynolds in the Laboratory during the year.

It is learned with satisfaction that a further grant of £200 has been promised by the Medical Research Council to Dr. Reynolds for the current year towards the expenses of his research work.

The close association with the teaching school of Edinburgh University is being maintained, and during the year Dr. Reynolds has given post-graduate lectures in addition to his usual course of lectures as University Lecturer on Neuropathology.

Dr. Reynolds has paid visits to several mental hospitals during the past year, and the Board recognize the importance of them in stimulating interest in pathological and laboratory work.

In November of last year the Laboratory was moved to the University Buildings, where more convenient accommodation has been provided by Edinburgh University, no rent being charged. The Board desire to acknowledge this provision by the University Authorities, and also the further financial assistance in providing an additional Laboratory Assistant to Dr. Reynolds.

The revenue for 1926 amounted to £1,687 15s. 5½d. The expenditure for the year was £1,037 4s. 8½d., leaving a credit balance at the end of the year amounting to £650 10s. 9d., or a surplus of £182 15s. 0½d. on the year's working. The balance carried forward from last year amounted to £467 15s. 8½d.

At the Annual Meeting of the Board Dr. Douglas McRae was reappointed Chairman for another year, and the Executive Committee was appointed, consisting of Dr. McRae, *Chairman*; Dr. R. B. Campbell, *Honorary Secretary and Treasurer*; Dr. Bruce, *Ex-Provost* Stark, Profs. G. M. Robertson and Lorrain Smith, Drs. W. D. Chambers and W. M. Buchanan.

Research work.—A further study on "The Paths of Infection to the Brain, Meninges and Venous Blood Sinuses from Neighbouring Peripheral Foci of Inflammation" was read at the Royal Society of Medicine, London, on June 4, 1926. This and two other studies were published during the year (*Journal of Laryngology and Otology*, vol. xli, February, July, November, 1926).

A fourth study in the series was published in March, 1927; the fifth will appear in August, the sixth in the autumn of this year.

It is probable that the sixth study will be the last individual paper to be published, as it appears likely that the further cases in the series are similar to those already published. When these further cases have been worked out a monograph embodying all the data collected will be published.

In April, 1927, Dr. J. E. Slater commenced research work on Neuroglia.

Routine work.—During the year 1926, 127 reports on routine work were sent out from the Laboratory.

FIRST INTERNATIONAL MENTAL HYGIENE CONGRESS.

THE First International Congress of Mental Hygiene will be held in Washington, D.C., in April, 1929. This decision was reached at a meeting of the Organizing Committee held in Paris on June 3, 1927, which was attended by delegates from fourteen countries. It was also decided that the International Committee for Mental Hygiene, now in process of formation, should be formally founded at one of the sessions of the Congress, and that Mr. Clifford W. Beers, who has been in charge of the work of the Organizing Committee, be appointed permanent Secretary-General of the International Committee when it is established. Its secretariat, it was agreed, will be located in the United States. This will enable Mr. Beers to continue as Secretary of the National Committee for Mental Hygiene, which has its headquarters in New York City.

In reporting upon the progress of the international movement, Mr. Beers said that national committees, leagues, councils or societies for mental hygiene have been established or are being organized in more than twenty countries, and that all the principal countries will undoubtedly be represented by such agencies by the time the First International Congress of Mental Hygiene is held.—*Mental Hygiene Bulletin*, June, 1927.