

The members were entertained to luncheon and were afterwards shown round the house and grounds.

The meeting was held at 4 p.m.

Dr. C. M. Tuke took the Chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Dr. D. BOWER proposed, and it was seconded by Dr. G. E. SHUTTLEWORTH, that the Spring Meeting should be held sometime in the month of April.

At a meeting of the Committee of Management held the same day it was decided that the day and place of the Spring Meeting be left to the Hon. Divisional Secretary to arrange.

Dr. TUKE then read his paper "On Some Points of Historical and Architectural Interest in Chiswick House," and Dr. G. W. SMITH gave a short account of a case of "Mania in Myxœdema," which was followed by a discussion, in which Dr. EDWARDS and Dr. G. F. BARHAM took part. Dr. SMITH replied.

A vote of thanks to Dr. Tuke was carried by acclamation, and the members were then entertained to tea, which concluded this very pleasant meeting.

#### PARLIAMENTARY NEWS.

*November 3rd, 1921: Ex-service men in asylums.*—In reply to a long question by Capt. Loseby, Mr. MACPHERSON said that he was bound by law to send a certified patient to an asylum or some other place approved by the Board of Control. The places he utilised for this unfortunate class of men were very well run indeed. He did not ask for any charity. It was an obligation of the State to attend to this work. Mr. Macpherson added that he had no personal knowledge of the success or otherwise of Chartfield. A report was now being submitted. He should consider the individual merits of the place. It was, of course, his duty to see that the various institutions under the department were good and were carrying on successful work. He refused to send ex-service men to a charity institution.

Sir WATSON CHEYNE asked whether it was not a fact the general asylums were fully aware of the hope and possibility of treatment, and put that as their first object in receiving patients.—Capt. LOSEBY said he could not follow what kind of hardship was held to be inflicted upon the insane by compelling them to mix with the sane.—Mr. MACPHERSON said it was difficult to discuss the question of policy by means of question and answer, but he refused to mix insane patients with neurasthenics.

*November 8th, 1921: Ex-service men in asylums.*—Capt. LOSEBY asked for the number of lunatic asylums approved by the Ministry of Pensions for ex-service men and the number of these which were run for private gain.—Mr. MACPHERSON said that approximately 240 institutions were under the control of or had been approved by the Board of Control and the Ministry, and of these more than 60 were private establishments.

*November 9th, 1921: Ex-service men in asylums.*—Capt. LOSEBY asked the Prime Minister if the treatment allowances upon which some 6000 ex-service men depend, were paid strictly on the condition that these men consented to be confined in lunatic asylums, whereas the allowance was refused in respect of patients being treated and anxious to be treated in certain private institutions of the Board of Control; also whether the official figures showed that on January 1st, 1919, there were 2507 ex-soldiers confined in lunatic asylums; that the figures had risen to 4673 on January 1st, 1921, and to 6435 on October 27th, 1921. He asked, further, if the Prime Minister was aware that bitter laments were continually emerging from the men so confined, and whether he would consider the advisability of setting up a Commission of members of the Houses of Parliament to hear complaints and consider whether conditions could be improved.

Mr. MACPHERSON, who replied, said that the lunacy law required that every person who was certified as insane should be sent to an institution approved by the Board of Control, save that under certain conditions a single patient might be placed in a private house not specifically licensed for the reception of lunatics. Treatment allowances were granted, and the necessary cost of treatment was defrayed by the Pensions Department in respect of all certified patients whose insanity was due to war service and who were receiving treatment in institutions,

whether public or private, approved by the Board of Control and by the Ministry. He could not speak for the ex-service men in asylums the origin of whose state did not entitle them to Royal Warrant benefits, but as regards certified "service patients" it was not accurate to suggest that any large number of complaints were received as to the conditions of their treatment. On the contrary the number was small and they had invariably proved to have been made on unsubstantial grounds or to be of minor importance. When a complaint was received the practice was for the institution to be inspected and the whole circumstances investigated by Pensions Ministry officers, either alone or jointly with Commissioners of the Board of Control. Under an arrangement with the Board of Control, asylums were now visited by medical officers of the Pensions Ministry, and the service patients personally interviewed. Thus he was kept in close touch with the conditions of asylums and he did not consider that there was any ground for adopting the suggestion to set up a commission. He could not accept as accurate Capt. Loseby's statement as to the number of certified ex-soldiers in asylums in January, 1919, and January, 1920. On the latter date the number was approximately 6000.

Capt. LOSEBY inquired whether, if he could produce tangible evidence that some lunatic asylums were highly unsuitable for ex-service men and make out a *prima facie* case, the Minister would advise the setting up of a commission.—Mr. MACPHERSON did not think he could do so, but said he would be glad if any member of that House would visit any institution under his control. He had taken the greatest personal interest in this particular branch of work, and the complaints he had received had always been on unsubstantial grounds.—Mr. GRITTEN asked whether it would not cause a large drain on financial resources to place large numbers of patients in private institutions.—Mr. MACPHERSON said that was so; the State, in his opinion, was behaving very generously, but he had consistently refused to mix patients who had been certified with those who had not. In answer to Sir Philip Magnus, Mr. Macpherson added that the private institutions approved by the Board of Control, like the asylums, were periodically visited by the department. In reply to Mr. Gillis, he said that provision had been made in the Ministry's neurasthenic hospitals for the accommodation and treatment by trained medical officers of uncertifiable cases suffering from war injury.

#### EDUCATIONAL NOTES.

*The Maudsley Hospital.*—The lectures and practical courses of instruction for a Diploma of Psychological Medicine, fourth course, 1922, are announced as follows:

Part I.—(I) Eight Lectures on the Anatomy of the Nervous System. By Sir Frederick Mott, K.B.E., M.D., LL.D., F.R.S., F.R.C.P. On Tuesdays, at 2.30 p.m., commencing on January 3rd, 1922. The evolution of the nervous system in the animal series; physiological levels; macroscopic and microscopic anatomy of the nervous system; the neurone concept—the projection, association and autonomic systems; ultimate distribution of the cranial nerves, spinal nerve roots and sympathetic nerves; the meninges—cerebral arteries and their distribution—the intra-cranial venous and lymphatic systems; the congruence of structure and function in the brain; the congruence of experimental investigation with anatomical observation; the clinico-anatomical methods of investigating the functions of the central nervous system—spinal cord—medulla oblongata—pons—cerebellum—mesencephalon basal ganglia—cerebral hemispheres; the cortex cerebri in relation to cerebral localisation, including the cerebral mechanism of speech; the structure of the endocrine and reproductive organs.

Practical Instruction and Demonstrations: Methods of staining nervous tissue and preparing it for microscopical examination; the living nerve-cell—the nerve-fibre; degeneration and regeneration of nerves; distribution of sections, illustrating the principal diseases of the nervous system, for mounting as a permanent collection.

(II) Eight Lectures on the Physiology of the Nervous System. By F. Golla, M.D., F.R.C.P., Physician, St. George's Hospital. On Fridays, at 2.30 p.m., commencing on January 6th, 1922. Reflex action—co-ordination and proprioceptive system; motor system, including muscle and nerve; sensation—fatigue—localisation and reference of sensation, normal and abnormal—special senses—mental