

to him, not merely for the work which we have had the opportunity of doing while there, but for the extraordinary hospitality which has been showered upon us while we have been in America. (Applause.) It is one thing to have the opportunity to work; it is quite another thing having the opportunity to work under the almost exceptional conditions that exist in the United States and especially under Prof. Meyer at the Phipps Clinic at Baltimore.

There is only one further point that I would like to mention. My response to hearing this lecture to-day is that I should like to hear not one, but a series of lectures developing the very wide perspective which Prof. Meyer has attempted, in his writings, to put before us. I do not think one can get that into a lecture, or even into a series of lectures; one has to work with the man to realize his bigness. But, failing that, one would wish that many of the extraordinarily interesting points which he has dwelt on this afternoon could be further elaborated and expanded. I shall merely mention some of the important clinical things. I would mention Prof. Meyer's work on the dynamic psycho-biological conceptions of mental disorders, which were formulated first in connection with the problem of the elucidation of dementia præcox and schizophrenia. And I would mention his work on personality studies, and his whole-hearted interest in social work, on psychiatry in relation to delinquency, and even in such practical matters as the development of occupational therapy, of drug therapy, and all the various isolated and detailed work which goes on, not merely in a psychiatric clinic, but in a mental hospital.

I do feel a debt of heartfelt gratitude to Prof. Meyer for everything he has done for psychiatry, and greatly privileged indeed to second this vote of thanks. (Applause.)

The vote of thanks was carried by acclamation.

Prof. ADOLF MEYER, in reply, said: I prize this opportunity to say an additional word of thanks to Sir Hubert Bond and to my friend and pupil Dr. Henderson, and to say that while perhaps I have lingered a great deal on the memories of the past, there has been with me to-day very strongly a feeling of being together again with a great many of my younger friends. This friendly environment is probably the greatest opportunity and privilege of any worker. I refer to the group who do not come to one merely for opinions, but for discussion, and for the stirring of discussion, for keeping alive a something that is a communion of spirit and work. It is in that spirit I feel this occasion is one of those opportunities of getting together in which the ocean and accidents of time and space can be obliterated when one receives such an overwhelmingly warm welcome as you have given me to-day. And through the request to give the Maudsley Lecture there came to me that something, activating my mind, which wanted to express that unity of striving and that unity of satisfactions that constitutes our life. Thank you very much for your kind attention. (Applause.)

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#### SOUTH-EASTERN DIVISION.

THE SPRING MEETING of the South-Eastern Division of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association was held at Leavesden Mental Hospital, Abbots Langley, Watford, on May 12, 1933, by courtesy of the Visiting Committee and of Dr. R. M. Stewart.

Members and their guests inspected the hospital and grounds during the forenoon, and were afterwards entertained to lunch.

The following members were present at the meeting: Drs. F. Douglas Turner, G. W. B. James, R. M. Stewart, Daniel F. Rambaut, Thomas Lindsay, Norman Oliver, G. W. Smith, T. P. Rees, Cedric W. Bower, N. H. M. Burke, O. P. Napier Pearn, K. Paddle, A. C. Sinclair, P. M. Turnbull, H. G. L. Haynes, A. Walk, David Rice, E. D. T. Roberts, Noel Sergeant, M. A. Collins and R. M. Macfarlane.

The minutes of the last meeting were taken as read, and confirmed.

It was agreed that the fixing of the date and place of the Autumn Meeting, 1933, and of the Spring Meeting, 1934, be left in the hands of the Divisional Secretary.

The following were elected members of the Divisional Committee of Management: Drs. Bower, E. D. T. Roberts, Robinson, Paddle, Haynes, Sinclair and Macfarlane.

The following Representative Members of Council were elected: Drs. Stewart, Roberts, Collins, Robinson and Rambaut.

Dr. Rambaut was elected Divisional Chairman.

Dr. Noel Sergeant was re-elected Secretary of the Division.

Dr. Sinclair was elected Examiner for the Preliminary Examination of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association, and Dr. Norman Phillips Examiner for the Final Examination.

It was agreed that the Division should entertain the Association to a Reception and Dance during the Annual Meeting at Clacton-on-Sea. The following Sub-Committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements: Drs. Haynes, Bower, Robinson, Sinclair and Macfarlane.

Dr. W. Ross ASHBY then read a most interesting paper entitled "The Measurement of the Corpus Callosum in the Mental Defective" (see below). This was followed by a cinematograph film entitled "A Clinical Study of Mental Deficiency".

After the meeting members and their guests were entertained to tea by Dr. and Mrs. Stewart.

**PAPER.—"The Measurement of the Corpus Callosum in the Mental Defective,"** by W. ROSS ASHBY, B.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.M., Assistant Medical Officer, Leavesden Mental Hospital. [*Abstract.*]

At this hospital we have been investigating a number of questions regarding the morphology of the brain in mental defectives. This investigation of the corpus callosum is given as an example of our methods.

The area of median cross-section of the corpus callosum was measured in the brains of 69 persons, 60 being unselected defectives of various mental ages and 9 being normal. The most satisfactory method devised consists in projecting the cut surface from an epidiascope, receiving the magnified image on a table and measuring the area with a planimeter.

In examining the results of the measurements, two features were found. Firstly it was found that the corpus callosum was more variable in the lower grades. This increased variability in the lower grades has been noticed by us to be a constant feature in measuring the brain and body of defectives. At present its significance is obscure. Secondly, we have found, by calculating regression coefficients and testing for significance, that the area of the corpus callosum shows some correlation with mental age. This fact is interesting, but before any conclusions can be drawn as to a causal connection between the two, there are certain essential points to be considered. The existence of a significant correlation does not prove causation.

In a recent paper (*Journ. Neur. and Psychopath.*, 1933, xiii; see abstract on p. 547 of this Journal) we have found that there is a general tendency for defectives as a whole to be smaller the lower the mental age. This means that any measurement on defectives will show correlation with mental age. Consequently before we can draw any conclusions about the connection between mental age and the corpus callosum we must first eliminate the general trend.

When this general trend is eliminated we find that the correlation becomes insignificant, showing that the correlation was merely due to the corpus callosum following the general trend in size.

The general conclusions, then, are that the area of the corpus callosum shows a significant correlation with mental age, but that, on further examination of the data, this correlation is found to depend merely on the general trend in size.

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SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

THE SPRING MEETING of the Division was held by kind invitation of Dr. S. J. Gilfillan at Bailbrook House, near Bath, on Thursday, April 27, 1933.

The following members were present: Drs. J. L. Jackson, John Keay, R. Eager, G. de M. Rudolf, E. Casson, J. M. Rutherford, J. D. Thomas, E. Barton White, W. G. Rivers, J. P. Westrup, P. W. Carruthers, J. W. Leech, A. S. Mules, C. F. Bainbridge, V. L. Connolly, W. R. Dawson, J. McGarvey, E. A. Patterson, J. G. Smith, P. Lornie, G. W. T. H. Fleming, L. Barber, P. G. Grant, R. W. Maxwell, and the Hon. Divisional Secretary, Dr. S. Edgar Martin.

Dr. J. R. P. Phillips, Mr. C. E. Newman, Mr. P. A. Thomas and Miss M. C. Thomas attended as visitors.

Dr. E. Barton White was in the Chair.

Apologies for absence were received from Col. E. W. White, Dr. W. S. J. Shaw, J. S. I. Skottowe and H. A. Scholberg.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

On the proposal of Dr. E. BARTON WHITE, seconded by Dr. J. L. JACKSON, Dr. S. Edgar Martin was re-elected Hon. Divisional Secretary.

Drs. E. Barton White and J. L. Jackson were elected as representative Members of Council on the proposal of Dr. C. F. BAINBRIDGE, seconded by Dr. J. P. WESTRUP.

Dr. J. L. Jackson was elected Divisional Chairman on the proposal of Dr. C. F. BAINBRIDGE, seconded by Dr. J. MCGARVEY.

Dr. J. L. JACKSON then took the chair, and said he was sure that he voiced the feelings of members when he said they were all sorry to lose the services of Dr. Barton White as their Chairman. Dr. Barton White had been an ideal Chairman, and it would be difficult for him to follow in his footsteps.