

Part III.—Notes and News.

THE MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

THE QUARTERLY MEETING of the Association was held at the Darenth Industrial Colony, Dartford, Kent, through the courtesy of Dr. Rotherham, on Thursday, February 20th, 1913, under the presidency of Dr. J. G. Soutar.

There were present: Drs. T. S. Adair, G. A. Auden, H. M. Baker, D. Bower, A. N. Boycott, J. Chambers, P. E. Campbell, W. E. Collier, M. A. Collins, L. F. Cox, A. R. Douglas, T. Drapes, A. I. Eades, J. A. Ewan, F. H. Edwards, G. Evans, E. Faulks, C. L. Hopkins, W. D. Higson, R. Hughes, G. B. Hartnell, H. E. Haynes, W. B. Hill, J. Keay, H. W. Lewis, N. Lavers, E. Mapother, H. I. Mackenzie, A. Miller, J. Merson, B. H. Mumby, W. F. Menzies, W. Muirhead, W. F. Nelis, H. J. Norman, D. Ogilvy, E. Powell, E. Pasmore, A. Rotherham, F. O. Spensley, R. P. Smith, P. G. Stilwell, R. H. Steen, L. Watson and others.

Regrets at inability to be present were received from several members of the Association.

During the morning members were conducted through the Colony by Dr. Rotherham and his colleagues, and were much impressed by the exhibits and spheres of activity in the various workshops and wards. During the day the brass band attached to the colony played selections in a manner which was really creditable. A welcome luncheon preceded the discussions, and was attended by Mr. Helby, Chairman of the M. A. B. committee dealing with this work.

The PRESIDENT said the Secretary, Dr. Collins, had warned him that the luncheon room must soon be vacated for that other room where the real business of the Association would be transacted, though he was sure many would prefer to remain and linger over the delicacies which had been provided. Still, work was the main object of the Association's existence. But before leaving the room it was only right to take the opportunity of thanking Dr. Rotherham and Mr. Helby, as well as the other officers of the institution, for the very cordial welcome they had extended to the members of the Association, for the many matters of interest they had provided for them to see, and for the generous hospitality of which they had been the recipients. Far back in the history of the Association it had been the custom to meet at various institutions throughout the country, and those meetings had been of great educational value. The experience of recent years had thoroughly confirmed that view, and he was sure those present would agree with him that the meeting at Darenth on the present occasion had amply confirmed the general experience. To his mind, this was an absolutely amazing institution; it had been an eye-opener even to those who previously knew something of these matters and had been associated in some degree with the type of work which was being carried on here. If the public could only know what had been done, and what was being done here, he believed that many doubts and difficulties in regard to an important matter which had been occupying attention would be dissipated. The Association was interested in everything connected with asylum administration and with the treatment of patients; but from time to time their attention had been more fully occupied with one subject than with others. Recently their attention had been very strongly directed to the question of the Mental Deficiency Bill, therefore it was specially appropriate that they should have had the opportunity of coming here to-day. Any number of ideas and suggestions must have crowded in the minds of members as they wandered through the workshops and wards of Darenth; and there was one idea which came to his own mind with imperious iteration, namely, that if Dr. Rotherham could only see his way to accommodate for the remainder of their short recess the members of the Cabinet and of the House of Commons generally, at Darenth, they would rapidly pass through all its stages a Mental Deficiency Bill which would confer upon thousands of neglected persons the boons and benefits which were possessed by the inmates of Darenth Colony. Another suggestion which came to his mind was this, when

one went round this seminary—for Darenth must be reckoned one of the educational institutions of the country—that the system adopted here was one which might be applied with enormous advantage in the public schools of the country. For what did one find? That the first thing which was done with the pupils was to find out by careful consideration what was the limitation and potentiality of each, and the system of education was applied on that finding. He invited his hearers to think what that might mean if throughout the schools of the country that system were adopted; the difficulties and misery of the pupils would be reduced enormously, and on the other hand, the opportunities for development would be vastly increased. He thought the principle of individualising, which was so strongly marked a feature of this institution, was one which might very well be imitated in many of the other educational institutions of the country. In the meeting about to take place a paper was to be read by Dr. Spensley dealing with the work done in the Colony, and he did not wish to anticipate that, and hoped he had not done so in anything he had said. His only object in rising was to express to Mr. Helby and Dr. Rotherham the Association's very sincere gratitude for the way in which they had received the members, and to tell them that they had afforded them a most interesting and instructive morning. He offered the toast of success to Darenth and to those who, by their labour and constant attention to detail in a most important work, had brought it to the pitch of perfection at which it had arrived. The staff clearly were endeavouring in every possible way to extend the benefits of the institution. With the toast he coupled the names of Mr. Helby and Dr. Rotherham. The toast was drunk with great cordiality.

Dr. ROTHERHAM said he wished to thank Dr. Soutar for the many kind things which he said about Darenth, and the general company for the manner in which they had received the toast. All at the institution—officers, servants and patients—were deeply honoured by the large number of members of the Association who had taken the trouble to take part in the visit, and he hoped all would depart with the feeling that their day had not been entirely wasted. Darenth was not by any means a new institution; in the last few years it had changed considerably, both in character and form; and he thought that Dr. Fletcher Beach and Dr. Taylor, both of whom he was pleased to see present, would scarcely be able to find their way round the Colony in its present condition. About those changes he felt a temptation to say a good deal, but at the meeting about to be held Dr. Spensley would be reading a paper on the matter, therefore he would say nothing. But one point on which he might be allowed to say a word was as to the institution's industrial staff, and the way in which they worked. At the present time there were twenty-four female industrial attendants and nineteen male. The male industrial attendants were all skilled people, men who were skilled in their particular work before they took up their posts in the colony; he referred to those in such crafts as printers, bookbinders, etc. The female industrial instructors were drawn from the Colony nursing staff; they had to learn their work here after they came to the Colony, and before they were able to teach patients. With regard to the manner in which the industrial section was worked, he believed that a teacher was very much better able to teach a pupil if he or she understood the ways of that pupil, both at work and apart from work. To that end, they at Darenth had always had their trainers working in the wards as well as in the workroom. That, he believed, entered largely into the success which had been achieved with the pupils. Associated with him in the toast was that of his Chairman, Mr. Helby. It was somewhat difficult to talk about one's Chairman. Mr. Helby had been, for the last eight years, either Chairman of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards as a whole, or Chairman of this particular sub-committee. Had he not been in that position, this Colony would not have been in its present position. Mr. Helby was a man of business and he knew his own mind, and when he wanted a thing done it had got to be done, and it had to be done quickly; there was no red tape about it. Mr. Helby, at the present moment, wanted to say a few words, and it had got to be done quickly, therefore he would, himself, sit down. (Laughter and applause.)

Mr. HELBY, who was very cordially received, said that as he had to be quick about the work, he would remark, first of all, that he felt in a somewhat awkward position. Generally he was in the chair, and Dr. Rotherham was by his side. The position was now reversed, and Dr. Rotherham had inveigled him there, but he had no idea that he would be expected to make a speech. He felt somewhat nervous

as being almost the only layman amongst a lot of professional men. However, he could say it had given him the greatest possible pleasure, as Chairman of this Committee, as well as on behalf of the Board, to have seen the members of the Association there that day, and he trusted it had been, as Dr. Soutar had said, both instructive and interesting. During the last nine years this had been almost his life-work, if there was any work he had done during his lifetime which had been of some service to his fellow-men to make them happy. He had perhaps done something to make fellow-beings happy and contented at the same time as he had looked after the interests of the ratepayers of London. But that work could not have been done without the cordial and harmonious working of the staff. Dr. Rotherham had stated he did not like to say anything in the presence of the chairman, but he, the speaker, was not afraid to say anything in the presence of Dr. Rotherham. Without a man of Dr. Rotherham's calibre this work could never have attained the high state of perfection seen at the present time. His staff were most loyal to him, and by their harmonious working the work had been done most efficiently. A great question had arisen in connection with the Mental Deficiency Bill, and a few weeks ago he formed one of a deputation to go before the Home Secretary. The Home Secretary was not present, but his Under-Secretary, Mr. Ellis Griffiths, was there, and he said to that gentleman, "Look here, Mr. Ellis Griffiths, if only a Committee of the House of Commons would attend for three hours at Darenth Colony, that would do more good to this work than by people standing for three or four weeks talking who mostly know nothing about the work on which they are called upon to decide." Those present saw what had been done at this institution, but some of them had not seen it as he had during the last fifteen years. Nine years ago, if they could have been there and seen the poor creatures wandering about the airing courts, like prisoners with a warder with them, and then looked upon the residents that day, they would have been as much impressed as he was. He regarded it as one of the best things he had done in his life to assist in bringing about this state of improvement—only to assist, because it was officers like Dr. Rotherham who were able to carry out the detail and get the best work. He would like to say a good deal more on the subject, but he knew that members were eager to get to another room, to their principal work, where he understood Dr. Spensley would put his fellow-doctors in possession of many facts about the institution. He was much gratified with the way in which the toast of his health had been received. Before resuming his seat, he wished to read to the assembly the last clause of the Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy, which was made a few weeks ago: "We cannot conclude without expressing our pleasure and satisfaction with all we saw and learned during our visit of inspection, and we desire to record our impression that the work of the institution is being carried out on well-planned lines, and with much skill and thoughtfulness in organisation, and that the object in view, namely, the adequate training and occupation of the imbecile class, is being attained in a most satisfactory and gratifying manner." (Applause.)

MEETING.

The PRESIDENT intimated that the minutes of the previous meeting had already appeared in the Journal, and asked whether the meeting would approve them and take them as read.

Agreed.

ELECTION OF CANDIDATES.

The PRESIDENT nominated Dr. Wolseley Lewis and Dr. Stewart Adair as scrutineers for the ballot, and the following gentlemen were duly elected ordinary members:

Brunton, George Llewellyn, M.B., Ch.B. Edin., Assistant Medical Officer, Lancashire County Asylum, Winwick. (Proposed by Drs. Alexander Simpson, F. M. Rodgers and William Boyd.)

Glashan, Herbert William, M.B., Ch.B., Assistant Medical Officer, Natal Government Asylum, Pietermaritzburg. (Proposed by Drs. James Hyslop, Rutherford, Macphail and M. A. Collins.)

Ryan, Ernest Noel, M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., B.A. (Trinity College, Dublin), Medical Officer, Northumberland House, Green Lanes, Finsbury Park, N. (Proposed by Drs. Bernard Hart, Frank R. King and M. A. Collins.)

Shand, George Ernest, M.B., Ch.B. Aberd., Birmingham City Mental Hospital. (Proposed by Drs. Alfred A. Miller, John R. Lord and M. A. Collins.)

Dr. F. O. SPENSLEY read a paper entitled "A Brief Account of Darenth and its System of Industrial Training," which was followed by a discussion (see p. 305).

Dr. WINIFRED MUIRHEAD (Edinburgh) read the following communication from Dr. GEORGE M. ROBERTSON, Physician-Superintendent, Royal Edinburgh Asylum, Morningside:

THE DEMONSTRATION OF *TREPONEMA PALLIDUM* IN THE BRAIN IN CASES OF GENERAL PARALYSIS.

In the February number of the *Journal of Experimental Medicine* there is a communication by H. Noguchi and J. W. Moore on the finding of the spirochæte of syphilis in the brain of twelve out of seventy cases of general paralysis of the insane. They conclude by stating, whether or not, by improving their technique, the organism can be demonstrated in a much higher percentage of cases, will be determined by further investigations.

The relationship of syphilis to general paralysis has been one of the most interesting and controversial subjects in psychiatry for many years, and this discovery appears finally and conclusively to lay at rest this debatable point. It has passed through the following stages: Esquirol and Bayle, the original discoverers of general paralysis, pointed out in the first quarter of the nineteenth century that it occurred very frequently among soldiers and those who were guilty of alcoholic and venereal excesses. In 1857, Esmarch and Jessen expressed the opinion that syphilis was the invariable cause. This observation was overlooked till Fournier, about twenty years later, pointed out that syphilis was the cause of locomotor ataxia, and that the ætiology of general paralysis appeared to be similar. In 1894, he published his work on parasymphilis, in which he stated that general paralysis was syphilitic in origin but not in nature, because its lesions were diffuse and it was not amenable to anti-syphilitic treatment. The interval between infection and the onset of the disease was also long. In 1897, Krafft-Ebing inoculated nine advanced cases of general paralysis in whom no history of syphilis could be obtained with virus from two cases of syphilis in twenty places, and after six months' observation no reaction was obtained. In 1906, Wassermann and Plaut applied the Wassermann reaction for syphilis to the cerebro-spinal fluid of cases of general paralysis and obtained positive results. Finally, in December, 1912, Noguchi applied a modification of the Levaditi method of staining, and demonstrated the presence in great number in twelve cases of the spirochæte of syphilis.

Through the kindness of Dr. Noguchi and my friend and former assistant, Dr. W. K. Henderson, now of the psychiatric clinic of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, I have been favoured by the presentation of a section of the cortex. This shows the spirochætes in large numbers stained black, and so distinctive as to be quite unmistakable. Regarding these, Drs. Noguchi and Moore write: "The spirochæta were found in all layers of the cortex with the exception of the outer or neuroglia layer. One was located at the border of this layer but not within it. A few were found subcortically. Careful search of the pia failed to reveal any of the organisms. In all instances, they seemed to have wandered into the nerve-tissue. They were not found in the vessel-sheaths, and seldom in close proximity to the larger vessels. There seems to be no ratio between the number of spirochæta and the severity of the parietic process, although the case in which they were most numerous showed excessive parietic changes."

It only needs to be added that all the cases presented the typical appearances of general paralysis, and that in none were any signs of the distinctive or focal lesions of tertiary syphilis found after a careful examination.

Dr. MUIRHEAD also demonstrated the slide under the microscope, and was thanked by the PRESIDENT, in the name of the Association, for bringing the matter before the meeting.

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING.

The PRESIDENT said a matter had arisen out of the Council meeting held yesterday, and he would ask Dr. Collins to read the resolution which had been adopted by the Council.

Dr. COLLINS (General Secretary) read the resolution as follows: "That the Parliamentary Committee consider it is most undesirable that criminal lunatics be sent to county and borough asylums, and recommend to the Council that the Association be asked to express this opinion to the Home Secretary; and for this purpose it suggests that a Committee be appointed consisting of Drs. Wolseley Lewis, Menzies, Powell, Spence and Stansfield, and to act also as a deputation."

The PRESIDENT pointed out that the resolution came originally from the Parliamentary Committee to the Council, and the Council had decided to bring it before the Association for confirmation. Very strong arguments were urged against criminal lunatics being in county and borough asylums, and it was thought that the Association should make an effort to have them removed. It was for the meeting, if it thought fit, to approve of the suggestion. He would like it to be duly proposed and seconded.

Dr. WOLSELEY LEWIS said he would be glad to propose that the resolution which had been read should be accepted by the meeting. The question was an old one, and it had been often discussed by superintendents of county asylums, because there were many reasons why it was undesirable for criminal lunatics to be sent to county and borough asylums. Unfortunately, if they were sent to the asylums on the order of the Secretary of State, the superintendent had no power to have them removed elsewhere; his only recourse was to request the Secretary of State to remove them. The reason why these people were undesirable to have in asylums was known to all engaged in the work, especially at asylums which had prisons in their neighbourhood. It was a great hardship on the other patients, because often habitual criminals came who had to be placed in wards with recoverable patients, yet the habits and language of these said criminal lunatics were disgusting in the extreme, and they taught other patients things which they otherwise would not know. It was also unfair to the mass of the criminals themselves, for most of the county asylums nowadays were constructed on hospital lines, and there were no structural arrangements for keeping them safe. Hence they had to be treated more severely than in such places as Broadmoor, where he knew the conditions, having been medical officer there. The criminal lunatic could not be allowed so much liberty in ordinary asylums, for the reason he had given; and to have such cases there was a serious menace to the public safety, seeing that some of the men were most expert burglars. To have them there was also unfair to the staffs of the asylums. Everything was done nowadays to encourage asylum staffs to treat patients with every kindness and consideration, but many habitual criminals it was impossible to treat on those lines. For those reasons he considered it was most improper that the county and borough asylums should be compelled to house them, simply because the Government would not expend the necessary money to look after them.

Dr. BOWER seconded the motion, and said he did so from the point of view not only of a medical officer, but as a member of an asylum committee. Besides the classes which Dr. Wolseley Lewis mentioned as having to be taken in to asylums, whether the staffs of those institutions were willing or not, there were other cases whom the Secretary of State wanted boarded out in asylums, and he tempted committees to fill up vacant places by taking criminal lunatics. As a member of the committee he, Dr. Bower, would be very glad if the committee were protected from the inducement to take these patients, by making it absolutely necessary that they should be kept in Government establishments.

Dr. BOYCOTT said he could fully endorse everything which Dr. Wolseley Lewis had said about criminal lunatics, but he considered that a strong distinction should be made between the ordinary criminal lunatic and what one might describe as the lunatic criminal. The latter was a person whom, he thought, one should not receive into a county asylum. One class committed a crime because he was a lunatic; and in the other class the person became a lunatic while he was a criminal; he was a criminal in the first place, and such a case the county asylum should not be called upon to deal with. But great hardship might arise in certain cases in which

if patients could not be sent to county or borough asylums who were lunatics first and criminals by accident; it would be "hard luck" on those people to be forced to reside at Broadmoor and similar places; although, as he had said, he thought criminals who became lunatics should not be sent to county or borough asylums. He had no amendment to propose; he simply wanted to raise the distinction.

Dr. CORNER suggested that the difficulty raised by Dr. Boycott could be got over by the insertion of the qualifying word "habitual." The point was as to whether a person was a habitual criminal, or whether he had committed a criminal act while in a condition of lunacy. After committing one criminal act he could be admitted into an ordinary asylum; but if he were an habitual criminal besides being a lunatic, he was the class of case the lunatic asylum did not want.

Dr. WOLSELEY LEWIS, replying to Dr. Corner, said "habitual criminal" was a legal phrase; it meant the commission of a certain number of criminal acts in a given length of time. So that if a person had gone a definite length of time without committing such act, he did not come under the term.

The PRESIDENT said that if the deputation was approved by the meeting, they would consider the points which had been raised.

The resolution was carried.

OBITUARY.

The PRESIDENT said that before proceeding to the actual agenda, he had to discharge a duty which very few presidents of the Association could hope to escape. Since the last quarterly meeting, three of the Association's members had passed away—Dr. Courtney, Dr. Bailey and Dr. Longworth. Dr. Courtney was, for many years, Inspector of Lunatics for Ireland, and at one time was Secretary of the Irish Branch. Dr. Bailey was, for forty-eight years, superintendent of St. Andrews Hospital, Northampton. Both those gentlemen were very old members of the Association, and each in his respective sphere had left an indelible impress of personality and capacity on the work to which he had devoted his life; each had accomplished his share in lightening the burdens of his fellow men, and each had carried the work in which all the members of the Association were engaged to a higher level of aspiration and achievement. The memory of such men was a precious possession, a stimulus, an encouragement to effort to those who remained. Dr. Longworth was assistant medical officer at the Suffolk Asylum, and he died at the early age of thirty-nine. It was not given to him, as it was to Dr. Courtney and Dr. Bailey, to see the full fruition of his labours, but his qualities of head and heart endeared him to those who knew him. This was not the occasion to tell the story of the lives of these men; that would be fittingly done elsewhere; the purpose now was for the meeting to record their appreciation of their colleagues and express their sorrow that they were no longer with them, and to send a message to the representatives of their families assuring them of the condolence of the Association.

This was agreed to, the members all standing.

DR. MERCIER'S ILLNESS.

Dr. HAYES NEWINGTON desired to say a word about a distinguished member of the Association who was at the present time seriously ill. It would be recalled that quite recently the past president, Dr. Mercier, passed through a very severe series of illnesses, so severe that they would have laid most men low. But in spite of all that was left by those illnesses, Dr. Mercier had been amongst his fellow members as late as November last, speaking at the meetings and showing much of his old fire. Two or three days ago he, the speaker, received a card from him stating that he was, as he termed it, in the hands of the Philistines again, and asking him to come and see him. Yesterday he found their old friend very ill indeed. When Dr. Percy Smith and he saw Dr. Mercier after his former illnesses, they were struck by the large amount of buoyancy of spirit, which, he said, carried him through. He regretted that on this occasion Dr. Mercier felt he was without that spirit, and was really ill. Members would hope better things for him than

he hoped for himself. He believed his visit had cheered the invalid, and he came away charged with a message of regret and hopes for a successful meeting. He, the speaker, thought it would be a great comfort to Dr. Mercier if he were to receive the regrets and sympathy of this meeting, and perhaps he might be allowed to convey that message.

Agreed to with expressions of much sympathy.

SCOTTISH DIVISION.

A MEETING of the Scottish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association was held at H.M. Prison, Perth, on Friday, March 14th, 1913.

Present: Drs. Alcock, Bruce, Carre, Chislett, Clarkson, Havelock, Hotchkis, Carlyle Johnstone, Keay, Kellas, Mitchell, Muirhead, T. C. Mackenzie, McRae, Oswald, Parker, Ross, Shaw, Soutar, Sturrock, Urquhart, and R. B. Campbell, Divisional Secretary.

There were also present as guests: The Master of Polwarth, Chairman of H.M. Prison Commission, Mrs. Sturrock, Drs. Lyell, Hume, Stirling, Taylor, McCall Smith, Paton, Menzies, Meek.

Dr. J. Greig Soutar, President of the Association, occupied the Chair.

The Master of Polwarth, Chairman of the Prison Commission, welcomed the members of the Division, and briefly described the accommodation of the Prison, and the arrangements made by the Prison Commissioners for the care of state inebriates and criminal lunatics.

The minutes of the last Divisional meeting were read and approved, and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

Apologies for absence were intimated from Sir Thomas Clouston, Drs. Alexander, D. G. Campbell, Dunlop, Easterbrook, Macdonald, Reid, G. M. Robertson, Turnbull, and Yellowlees.

Drs. G. M. Robertson and G. Douglas McRae were unanimously elected Representative Members of Council, and Dr. R. B. Campbell was elected Divisional Secretary.

Dr. Hotchkis was nominated as an Examiner for the Certificate in Psychological Medicine.

The following candidates after ballot were admitted to membership of the Association: Dermid Maxwell Ross, M.B., Ch.B.Edin., Assistant Physician, Royal Edinburgh Asylum (proposed by Drs. G. M. Robertson, Dods Brown and Ross); Percy William Page Bedford, M.B., Ch.B.Edin., Clinical Assistant, Royal Edinburgh Asylum (proposed by Drs. G. M. Robertson, Dods Brown, and Ross).

After the formal business of the Division had been transacted, Dr. Sturrock showed the members over the Lunatic Department and other parts of the Prison and described the methods adopted for dealing with insane and mentally defective prisoners.

On the meeting re-assembling after the tour of inspection of the Prison, Dr. Sturrock read an instructive and interesting paper on "The Mentally Defective Criminal" (see page 314).

Votes of thanks to the Prison Commissioners and Dr. Sturrock for their hospitality, and for the trouble which they had taken to make such an interesting and successful meeting, and also to the President for his conduct in the chair, concluded the business of the meeting.

The members afterwards dined together in the Station Hotel, Perth.

THE AFTER-CARE ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING, FEBRUARY 25th, 1913.

Sir JAMES MOODY, who presided, said that he had accepted the invitation to occupy the chair because he was very much indebted to the Association, which assists the class of the community which is most unable to assist itself.