

inquiries of the various railway companies in the United Kingdom to see if they would allow facilities in the middle of the week corresponding to those they now allowed from Saturday to Monday or Friday to Tuesday. He hoped this would meet the views of those who came from Scotland.

Dr. DAVID ORR and Dr. R. G. ROWS, Pathologists to the Prestwich and Lancaster Asylums, then gave their joint lantern and microscopical demonstration on the "Experimental Production of Spinal and Cranial Nerve-lesions by Toxins," see page 367. The importance of their contribution was fully appreciated.

Before separating the PRESIDENT said there were two further matters he should like to refer to, first, they had lost by death in America, Dr. A. E. MacDONALD. He was in great sympathy with their Association, and at the time of his death a correspondence was going on between him and Dr. BOND with regard to the establishment of a joint meeting of the two Associations—the British and the American. He was sure they would unanimously pass a vote of condolence with his widow. Secondly, they must be grateful to their host, Dr. JACKSON, and also to his sub-committee, for the privilege they had had of seeing over this new asylum. He thought that these provincial meetings of the Association were a very happy way of forming acquaintances and of strengthening ties of friendship. The Association had afforded to members, for many years past, opportunities of seeing friends and talking over their work and the progress which science was making in their fuller understanding of mental diseases and their treatment. He had himself walked through the asylum under Dr. JACKSON'S superintendence, and he was able to compliment him on the comfort and the excellent appearance of his asylum, showing that not only was he doing good work, but that he was supported by very able officers. He trusted that they would unanimously agree to pass a cordial vote of thanks to the Sub-committee of the Asylum, and also to Dr. JACKSON, and to ask the latter to convey the same to the governing authorities.

Dr. STEWART (Leicester) seconded. He said he had had the pleasure of visiting the Asylum four times, and he should like to say that Dr. JACKSON had had very uphill work in bringing the Asylum into the condition in which they saw it, and he congratulated him on such an excellent result.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Dr. JACKSON, in acknowledging the vote of thanks, said that he very highly appreciated the honour the Association had done him by visiting the Asylum.

In the evening between twenty and thirty members dined together at the George Hotel, Nottingham, and entertained several guests from the neighbourhood.

IRISH LUNACY LEGISLATION.

At a meeting of the Lunacy Legislation (Executive) Sub-committee held at the rooms of the Association, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W., on Wednesday, April 3rd, 1907, it was resolved unanimously—

"That in view of pending Legislation for Ireland, likely to affect Lunacy Administration, the following considerations should be placed briefly before the Chief Secretary:

- "1. That the usual method of Certification for admission into the Public Asylums in Ireland is unsatisfactory and requires amendment.
- "2. That facilities should be provided for the Admission of Voluntary patients or boarders into all Asylums in Ireland.
- "3. That provision should be made for Boarding out Pauper patients in private houses as is done so successfully in Scotland.
- "4. That the Chronic Insane of the harmless class should be treated in Annexes to existing Asylums in preference to workhouses or other institutions with separate administrations both on the ground of efficiency and economy.
- "5. That the provisions of the English Idiots Act, 49 and 50 Vict. c. 25, should be extended to Ireland.
- "6. That the qualifications of the Resident Medical Superintendent of an Asylum set out in S. 24, clause 2, of the Local Government (Ireland) Act of 1898 should be retained, and the mode of Election of Asylum Medical

Officers, together with their status and powers should be clearly defined by Statute.

- "7. That in order to secure a better class of Nurses and Attendants, and thus promote the better care and supervision of the patients under their charge the Superannuation of the Officers and Staff of every Public Asylum in Ireland should be made compulsory, and—
- "8. That with their extended duties and responsibilities an increase in the numbers and powers of the Inspectors of Lunatics in Ireland is necessary."

OBITUARY.

F. K. DICKSON, M.D.

By the death of Dr. Francis Kennedy Dickson, of Wye House, Buxton, the Association loses one of its senior and widely respected members, who, by his character and social position, reflected honour upon it. Dr. Dickson was not alone the successful superintendent of a private asylum, but a man who took a strenuous part in all the social work of his district. He was an active Justice of the Peace for the county of Derbyshire, second in seniority on the Buxton Bench, and Chairman of the Licensing Committee. He was Senior Consulting Physician to the Devonshire Hospital, an active supporter of the Buxton and District Nursing Association, and took an active part in many other local movements and interests.

Dr. Dickson was Honorary Acting Medical Officer to the Devonshire Hospital and Buxton Bath Charity from 1865 to 1878, and succeeded his father as proprietor of Wye House, which post he held for upwards of thirty years.

His death occurred suddenly on the evening of February 2nd, after a brief indisposition of two days only, in his sixty-fourth year, and the great esteem in which he was held was manifested by the attendance at his funeral of representatives of the many public bodies with which he had been associated, as well as by a very large number of friends.

JAMES EDMUND HUXLEY, M.D.St.And.

It falls to my lot to record the death in February last at Maidstone of this gentleman who, in point of age, was the doyen of public asylum superintendents in England. He was the elder brother of the late Prof. T. H. Huxley, President of the Royal Society. He was in his eighty-seventh year, and had been in receipt of a pension of £300 a year from the Kent County Authorities since the year 1863, and during that long period of retirement had resided at 39, Upper Fant Road, Maidstone, near the scene of his former labours. I believe he commenced his professional career as Medical Superintendent of the old Marylebone Infirmary, then became for a short time Medical Superintendent of the Gloucester County Asylum, from which he was elected Medical Superintendent of the then comparatively new Kent County Asylum at Barming Heath, near Maidstone, where he was often visited by his two brothers—the late Professor Huxley, and the youngest, a rising barrister, who died at a comparatively early age. All were highly talented men, but of the three the youngest was the most gifted, and I have heard that to spend an evening in their company was a great intellectual treat. Dr. James Huxley was an original member of our Association, and his name appears frequently in the first number of the *Journal of Mental Science*, then designated the *Asylum Journal*, to which, among other contributions, he communicated a paper on the Kent Asylum at Barming. Being of a retiring disposition he did not take an active part in the official work of the Association, and later on, when his health failed somewhat, his interest also declined. Amongst his Assistant Medical Officers were the late Dr. Wm. Charles Hills, afterwards, for many years, Medical Superintendent of the Norfolk County Asylum, and the late Dr. Robert Spencer, the first Medical Superintendent of the Kent County Asylum at Chartham. Dr. James Huxley retired at an early age (43) in consequence of ill-health, and lived the quietest and most secluded of lives. He was twice married and leaves issue.—ERNEST W. WHITE.