

PART IV.—PSYCHOLOGICAL NEWS.

Proceedings at the Twenty-third Annual General Meeting of the Medico-Psychological Association, held at the Royal College of Physicians (by permission of the President and Fellows), on Tuesday, August 4, 1868, under the Presidency of W. H. O. SANKEY, M.D. Lond., F.R.C.P.

AGENDA :—

- I. Meeting of the General Committee, at 10.30 a.m.
- II. Morning Meeting of the Association, at 12.0 noon.
 - 1. Address by the retiring President (*Dr. Lockhart Robertson*).
 - 2. General Business of the Association.

The following Notices of Resolutions and Amendments of the Rules have been received :—

- a. Dr. Christie and Dr. Davey* will move Resolutions as to the mode of Election of the President; and *Dr. Maudsley and Dr. Tuke* will move a Resolution as to the duration of the President's office.
 - b. Dr. Belgrave and Dr. Rhys Williams* will move a Resolution that Quarterly Meetings of the Association be held for the purpose of scientific discussion.
 - c. Dr. Davey* will move a Resolution regarding the Election of Honorary Members.
- III. Afternoon Meeting of the Association, at 3.0 p.m.
 - 1. Address by *W. H. O. Sankey*, M.D. Lond., President.
 - 2. *Professor Laycock* will read a Paper, "Suggestions for the better application of Psychological Medicine to the administration of the Law," and will move the appointment of a Committee.
 - 3. *Dr. Kirkman* will move a Resolution relative to the Superannuation Clause of the Lunacy Acts Amendment Act, 1862.

The Council met at eleven a.m.

THE MORNING MEETING

of the Association was held at noon. Forty-five members of the Association were present, including Dr. Bucknill, F.R.S., Professor T. Laycock, Dr. Tweedie, Dr. Hughlings Jackson, Hume Williams, Esq., Dr. Kirkman, Dr. Lockhart Robertson, Dr. Sankey, Dr. Davey, Dr. Duncan, Dr. Sibbald, Dr. Blandford, Dr. Maudsley, Dr. Harrington Tuke, Dr. Paul, Dr. Monro, Heurtley Sankey, Esq., E. Toller, Esq., G. W. Mould, Esq., W. Rorke Ley, Esq., Dr. T. C. Shaw, Dr. W. Wood, Dr. Thos. B. Christie, Dr. Manley, Dr. J. Langdon H. Down, Dr. Edwd. T. Hall, Dr. Alonzo H. Stocker, Dr. Eastwood, Dr. W. Rhys Williams, Dr. H. C. Kempthorne, Dr. Moodie, Dr. T. L. Rogers, G. R. Irvine, Esq., Dr. H. Stillwell, Dr. J. T. Sabben, Dr. J. T. Arlidge, Dr. Octavius Jepson, Dr. J. Murray Lindsay, Dr. W. J. Hunt, Dr. Ellis, Dr. T. S. G. Boisragon, Dr. D. Mackintosh, Dr. R. Boyd, Dr. Arthur Harrison, Dr. Edwd. S. Haviland, Dr. Ed. Hart Vinen, Geo. R. Dartnell, Esq., Inspector-General of Hospitals, Dr. Frederic M. Smith, Dr. John A. Campbell, Dr. Edmund Lloyd, G. H. Dodsworth, Esq., &c., &c., &c.

Dr. Lockhart Robertson, the retiring President, took the chair and delivered the following address:—

GENTLEMEN,—

Before I resign this chair, which, by your great favour, I have occupied for the past year, I would ask your leave to say a few words—which shall be most brief—on two or three points having reference to the business of this Association.

I. I would give you an account of my stewardship. Having heard a rumour of possible lunacy legislation during the past session, I placed myself, in January, in communication with the Commissioners in Lunacy, from whom I received a most friendly reception. I specially brought to their notice the Superannuation Clause of the Lunacy Acts Amendment Act, 1862, as one which the Medical Superintendents of the County Asylums unanimously desired to see altered, and I left with the Board a copy of the report of our *Committee on the Superannuation Clause*, adopted at the annual meeting in 1866. On the 14th of February the Commissioners addressed the following letter to me:—

“ Office of Commissioners in Lunacy,
“ 19, Whitehall Place, S. W.,
“ 14th February, 1868.

“ SIR,—

“ Adverting to possible legislation this Session on the subject of Asylum Superintendents’ pensions, I am directed by the Commissioners to inform the Committee of the Medical-Psychological Association, that this Board feels that the opposition in Parliament to the claims set

forth by the Association in their last published resolution on the subject would be quite insuperable. The Commissioners, desirous of supporting as far as possible the interests of the Superintendents, propose simply to seek an excision of the Statutory proviso which now renders confirmation by the Quarter Sessions necessary to any valid grant of superannuation. Should the Committee, after this communication, desire to press their views upon the Commissioners, it is requested so to do without delay. A meeting of the Board takes place on Monday next, at 12 o'clock, and would afford an opportunity of discussing the matter which may not again occur in time for legislation this Session.

" I am your obedient Servant,
" CHARLES PALMER PHILLIPS,
" Secretary."

" Dr. Lockhart Robertson,
" Haywards Heath Asylum."

I attended the Board at the time specified, accompanied by our Honorary Secretary. The result of this conference was to confirm my impression that no hope could be entertained of Parliament placing the retirement upon the footing this association desired, viz., as a matter of right. Acting on an invitation from the Commissioners, I subsequently transmitted to them the following memorandum on the question, accepting their facts, and rather endeavouring after what might be attainable, than adhering to an impracticable resolution:—

Memorandum on the Superannuation Clause submitted to the Commissioners in Lunacy, by the President of the Medico-Psychological Association, February, 1868.

1. I desire respectfully to thank the Commissioners for their courteous reception of the claims I have on several occasions made on them to aid the Medico-Psychological Association to obtain a revival of the superannuation clause of the "Lunatic Acts Amendment Act," 1862.

2. The following illustrations will serve to show the unequal and unjust operations of the existing superannuation arrangements in the County Asylums.

Dr. Williams retired from the superintendence of the Gloucester Asylum, after seventeen years' service, disabled by an injury received in the performance of his duty. Two-thirds of his salary and allowances would have been £532 a year. Dr. Williams received £350.

In 1862 Dr. Huxley retired from the superintendence of the Kent Asylum, after a service of fifteen years. The value of his salary and allowances was equal to Dr. Williams', viz., £800. He only received £450, instead of £532 (two-thirds).

In 1866 Mr. Hill received, on his retirement in grave ill health from the superintendence of the East Riding Asylum, the full allow-