

Dr. ARCHDALE then replied to various questions which the paper had suggested.

Dr. COLIN McDOWALL read a paper on "Blood Changes as a means of Prognosis in the Acute Insanities." He said that leucocytosis was a phenomenon which most authorities regarded as the reaction of the organism against an invading toxin. By an observance of the character of the leucocytosis and the presence or absence of an eosinophilia, together with the advent of dementia, a prognosis could be arrived at. Excitement with confusion gave more uniform results than did depression with excitement. The observations made regarding the latter disease did not coincide entirely with those of other workers upon this subject. Chloral and morphin as depressants were not advocated in cases in which the leucocyte count was low. A regular moderate leucocytosis was regarded as the most hopeful sign found in the blood, especially if accompanied by an eosinophilia. Whilst there was leucocytosis there was hope.

A number of coloured drawings were shown, illustrating blood in the diseases under discussion.

Dr. MERSON and Dr. ARCHDALE made some remarks on the paper, and Dr. McDOWALL replied.

Dr. SIMPSON read a paper entitled "The Prognosis in the more Acute Forms of Mental Disorder." He pointed out the difficulties there were in treating of prognosis—arising from classification, from the peculiar individual nature of insanity, and from the meaning attached to the term "recovery." He showed how the various factors of sex, age, heredity, the form of mental disorder, the duration of the disorder, and bodily disease affected the prognosis; that the prognosis was more favourable in males than females in the ratio of 1·07 to 1; that it was more favourable in melancholia than in mania, and very unfavourable in delusional and epileptic insanity. He commented upon the public ideas and prejudices against asylums, and emphasised the necessity for early treatment.

Dr. ARCHDALE exhibited and explained the use of Oliver's hæmomanometer for estimating blood pressure.

A very interesting and instructive meeting was then brought to a close by a hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Archdale for his kind hospitality.

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#### SCOTTISH DIVISION.

The HALF-YEARLY MEETING of the Scottish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association was held in the Hall of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, on Friday, 20th November, 1908.

There was a large attendance of members. Dr. Clouston occupied the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN referred in fitting terms to the death, since last meeting, of Dr. Cameron, Lochgilphead, and the loss thereby to the Association. It was moved that it be recorded in the minutes "That the members of the Scottish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association desire to express their deep regret at the loss of Dr. Cameron and their sympathy with the members of his family in their bereavement," and the Secretary was instructed to transmit an excerpt of the minutes to the relatives of Dr. Cameron.

The Superannuation Allowances Committee reported that Sir John Jardine, M.P. for Roxburgh, had stated his intention of bringing in next session the Bill drafted by the division. Formal notice of the Bill has to be published in the *Edinburgh Gazette* on 20th and 24th instant. It was suggested that all the Scottish members and others who can assist in the promotion of the measure should be approached in due time, and every endeavour made to ensure the passing of the Bill.

The SECRETARY, Dr. Hamilton Marr, submitted a list of acknowledgments received in connection with the illuminated excerpt from the minutes of meeting of 19th March last regarding the Jubilee of the Present Legislative System of Lunacy Administration in Scotland, a copy of which had been sent to the Chairman and the Superintendent of each of the Scottish asylums. It was unanimously resolved that letters from the General Board of Lunacy, Dr. John Macpherson, H.M. Commissioner in Lunacy, and the Chairmen of the several Scottish District Asylums should be engrossed in the minutes.

Dr. Macpherson's letter was read as follows :

"I am in receipt of the illuminated minute of the Scottish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association which you have been so kind as to send me. It is a document of great interest, and one which I shall always treasure. Please accept my thanks. It seems to me to testify especially to the community of purpose which has inspired all those who have been engaged, during half a century, in the care of the insane in Scotland. That harmony of purpose must, I have often thought, be attributed to the wisdom of the men to whom the practical application of the Act of 1857 was first entrusted. It would have been easy then to cast Scottish lunacy administration into a different mould, but with liberal foresight they decided to direct it into its present form. It thus comes about that advances in our specialty in Scotland, though no doubt fostered by the General Board, have been initiated and promoted, chiefly, by individual superintendents of asylums. It is for these reasons, I believe, and also because the members of the Scottish Board have endeavoured to maintain, as the source of their inspiration, the high standard of sympathy for the insane which they received from their predecessors that your Division has paid to the existing Board this gratifying tribute.

"So impersonally do I feel in this matter that had I been present at the meeting of the Association at which the proposal to draw up this address was made I should have most cordially supported it."

Mr. T. W. L. Spence wrote on behalf of the General Board of Lunacy—

"I have now laid before the Board your letter of 19th ultimo with accompanying minute of the Scottish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association, and with reference thereto, I was instructed by the Board to express to the Division the pleasure with which they have received the minute, and to thank them for the gratifying terms in which the appreciation of their policy during the past fifty years has been conveyed."

James Adam, Esq., Chairman, Royal Asylum, Edinburgh, replied in these terms—

"Your letter of 19th inst. addressed to Professor Rankine, the late Chairman of this Board, has been handed to me together with the copy of the minute of the Scottish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association of date 19th March, 1908, the latter of which I to-day had the honour of submitting to my Board. I have been directed to ask you to convey to the members of your Association the gratification felt by this Board at the manner in which their services have been appreciated, and to assure your Association that as in the past so in the future their every effort will be devoted to furthering the cure and alleviation of those suffering from mental disease and to advancing the study of mental pathology."

Drs. Hugh F. Watson, Senior Assistant Medical Officer, Ayr District Asylum; W. Tuach Mackenzie, Medical Superintendent, Dundee Royal Asylum; W. H. McWalter, Medical Officer, H.M. Convict Prison, Peterhead; and George Dunlop Robertson, Medical Officer, Smithston Asylum, Greenock, were unanimously admitted members of the Association.

Drs. FORD ROBERTSON and DODS BROWN read a paper on "The Bacteriology of the Cerebro-spinal Fluid in General Paralysis of the Insane," and gave a microscopical demonstration (see page 36).

Votes of thanks to Drs. Ford Robertson and Dods Brown for their interesting paper and to the Chairman for presiding concluded the business of the meeting.

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#### IRISH DIVISION.

THE AUTUMN MEETING of the Division was held at the Royal College of Physicians, Dublin, by the kind permission of the President and Fellows of the College, on Saturday, November 7th, 1908, at 3 p.m. Dr. Drapes occupied the chair, and there were also present Drs. J. Mills, James J. Fitzgerald, F. E. Rainford, H. R. C. Rutherford, J. Cotter, A. Fitzgerald, J. O'C. Donelan, and W. R. Dawson (Hon. Sec.). Expressions of regret for inability to attend were received from Drs. M. J. Nolan, J. A. Oakshott, and P. O'Doherty.