

this out, I think we shall be undoing a great deal of the work we have done in the past. If this training is ignored, very few in the future will take the trouble to train. Therefore I propose that we bring this subject before the various bodies who are dealing with this subject of conditions of service, and so I submit this resolution:

"The Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain and Ireland wishes to lay stress upon the principle that the best interests of the insane demand the careful and systematic training of all persons engaged in the care and treatment of patients in mental hospitals.

"The Association strongly recommends that nurses who are well trained and duly qualified should receive considerably higher remuneration than those not so qualified."

Dr. MENZIES: May I second that? The way we have to bring it before the Asylums Workers' Union is that they be requested to recognise the contracts of apprenticeship.

Dr. TURNER: I gathered from the meeting at the London County Council that the Asylum Workers' Union not only do not recognise the Medico-Psychological Association, but they are under the impression that to be boxed up with the insane means becoming a qualified nurse, and that they are going to do away with all training. That is a very strong point.

Dr. DIXON: I attended this Conference, and I heard the delegates speak, and from what I gathered they seemed to think that as soon as a candidate became a nurse in an asylum she immediately became skilled—that a probationer on the first day became skilled—and apparently they wanted a minimum wage to be given to a junior employée as to a skilled worker. Of course, they very rightly made the point that it is a very sound thing to get a better class of worker to deal with the insane. They said if we want good treatment we must get a better class in to attend to patients, therefore we must give them shorter hours and do various other things. But they did not say, "Therefore we must train them." It is a matter of wages and short hours. They expect to get a good class of nurse. I do not agree with that. I think the less wages you pay, the better nurse you get. (Laughter.)

The resolution was carried.

Dr. BEDFORD PIERCE: I suggest that this be sent to the same people.

Dr. MACPHAIL: Do we accept the principle of forty-eight hours per week? Do we agree? And when we appoint this Committee from this Association, what are they going to say? What views will they bring before them? I ask whether we, as a society, accept the principle of working forty-eight hours per week?

Dr. STEEN: To answer Dr. Macphail, the Council have to-day decided to call a special meeting of the Association to consider all these questions at an early date.

Dr. TAYLOR: Am I in order in raising the question of the agenda of the meeting at the Mansion House with regard to the business Executive Officer? Dr. Wolseley Lewis alluded to it in his opening speech. It is a very important question. It appears it must be a medical administration, and I thought that possibly the Association would make some comment on the appointment of this proposed business Executive Officer. It seems to me to be an impossible position for the superintendent if such an officer is appointed.

The PRESIDENT: That point might be brought up for the special meeting which has just been announced by the Secretary.

[A paper was read by Lieut.-Col. E. P. Cathcart on "Psychic Secretion—the Influence of the Environment." We regret that limitations of space will not permit of its appearing in this number of the Journal. It will, however, be published in our July number, along with the discussion which followed.—Eds., *Journal of Mental Science*.]

#### MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

At a Special Meeting of the Association, which was held at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London, W., on March 13th, 1919, the following resolutions affecting asylum administration were passed unanimously:

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(1) Proposed by Dr. Soutar and seconded by Dr. David Bower—"Resolved that to deny any asylum authority the discretionary power to appoint a medical officer as its representative on the National Council of Institutions for the Treatment of the Mentally Afflicted is inimical to the best interests of the patients, in whose treatment and care there often arise questions in which administration and medical considerations are so inextricably involved that the special knowledge and experience of the medical officers are essential for the proper understanding of such matters, and that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Provisional Secretary of the National Council of Institutions for the Treatment and Care of the Mentally Afflicted, and to all asylum authorities in England and Wales."

(2) Proposed by Dr. Turner and seconded by Dr. Turnbull—"That whilst this Association is in sympathy with reducing the hours of work so far as possible for the asylum nursing staff, it is opposed to the principle of a uniform standard of hours of work per week with payment for overtime as contrary to the ethics of the nursing profession."

(3) Proposed by Dr. Steen and seconded by Dr. Robertson—"That a special committee be formed to watch all movements of asylum management, and to be a general advisory committee to be appointed by the chairman, treasurer, and general secretary, together with the chairmen of the Educational and Parliamentary Committees."

(4) Proposed by Dr. Rice and seconded by Dr. Robertson—"That it be an instruction to the above committee that the fact be constantly pressed upon the Ministry of Labour and any industrial council formed to deal with asylum service, that the National Asylum Workers' Union is not truly representative of asylum workers, since it debar from membership all officers, whilst admitting domestic workers, artisans, and the most junior probationers, and makes no distinction between the trained and certificated, and the untrained."

*Preliminary announcement:* The annual meeting will be held at York on July 22nd and 23rd, 1919. Council meeting on July 21st, 1919.

#### IRISH MEETING.

THE SPRING MEETING of the Irish Division was held on Thursday, April 3rd, at St. Edmondsbury, Lucan, by the invitation of Dr. Leeper.

*Members present.*—J. M. Colles, K.C., LL.D., Lieut.-Col. Dawson, Dr. J. O'C. Donelan, Dr. Greene, Dr. Mills, Dr. O'Mara, Dr. Rainsford, Dr. H. R. C. Rutherford, and Dr. Leeper (Hon. Sec.).

Letters and telegrams of apology for unavoidable absence were read from Lieut.-Col. Keay (President of the Association), Dr. Nolan (Downpatrick), Dr. Drapes, Dr. Hetherington, Dr. Lawless, Dr. Revington, Dr. Redington, Dr. Harvey, Dr. Fitzgerald (Clonmel), Dr. Irwin (Limerick), Dr. H. Eustace, Dr. Gavin, Dr. Considine.

Dr. Colles having been moved to the chair, the minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed.

A ballot was next taken for election of the Hon. Secretary and two representative members of Council for ensuing year.

Dr. Mills and Dr. O'Mara having been appointed scrutineers, the Chairman declared that Dr. Leeper was elected Hon. Secretary; Dr. Nolan, District Asylum, Downpatrick, and Dr. J. O'C. Donelan were elected representative members of Council.

A ballot was next taken for election of two ordinary members of the Association. Dr. John Murnane and Dr. Stanley Blake were declared elected.

It was decided to hold the Summer Meeting at Ennis Asylum by the kind invitation of Dr. O'Mara.

The following dates were provisionally fixed for the meetings of the Division for the ensuing year: Autumn Meeting, Thursday, November 6th, 1919; Spring Meeting, Thursday, April 1st, 1920; Summer Meeting, Thursday, July 1st, 1920.

Dr. J. O'C. Donelan and Dr. Gavin were elected to the posts of Examiners for the certificate of the Association for the year.

The HON. SECRETARY stated to the meeting that the Royal College of Physicians had invited two delegates from the Irish Division of the Association to form part