

reaction in the cerebrospinal fluid that in 58 *per cent.* there was a decreased protein content and a decreased cell-count, and in 25 *per cent.* the reaction of the cerebrospinal fluid became negative to the Wassermann test. The paper led to an interesting discussion.

Dr. GOSTWYCK then read a paper by Dr. REES THOMAS and himself on "Some Observations on Delinquent Mental Defectives" (see p. 41). They were cordially thanked on its conclusion.

A very hearty vote of thanks was passed to Dr. Mould for his hospitality.

#### SCOTTISH DIVISION.

A MEETING of the Scottish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association was held at the Aberdeen Royal Mental Hospital on Friday, November 28, 1924.

Prof. G. M. Robertson occupied the Chair.

There were 21 members present.

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

The Business Committee was appointed, consisting of the nominated member of Council, the two Representative Members of Council, along with Dr. R. B. Campbell, Dr. Annandale and the Divisional Secretary.

Dr. T. C. Mackenzie and Dr. D. Ross were nominated by the Division for the position of Representative Members of Council, and Dr. Wm. M. Buchanan nominated for the position of Divisional Secretary.

The following candidate, after ballot, was admitted an ordinary member of the Association:

DOUGLAS B. M. LOTHIAN, M.B., Ch.B.Edin., D.P.M., Assistant Physician, Craig House, Morningside Drive, Edinburgh.

*Proposed by* Prof. G. M. Robertson, Drs. W. McAlister and T. M. Davie.

The SECRETARY reported that, as instructed at the last meeting of the Division, the Scottish members of Council had reported the position of negotiations with the General Nursing Council of Scotland to the Annual Meeting of the Association in July, and read the resulting correspondence, of which the following is a copy:

"Springfield Mental Hospital, near Tooting, S.W. 17, July 21, 1924.—The Registrar, General Nursing Council for Scotland, 18, Melville Street, Edinburgh.—Dear Sir,—The following proposals of the General Nursing Council of Scotland were brought before the Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain and Ireland, at its Annual Meeting held at Belfast, on July 2, 1924: (1) That the General Nursing Council for Scotland invite the Scottish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association to form an Advisory Committee to meet with the Education and Examination Committee of the Council for the purpose of considering matters pertaining to the Final Examination for Mental Nurses. (Letter to Dr. Buchanan 1/4/24.) (2) That the General Nursing Council for Scotland invite the Scottish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association to nominate examiners for the Final Examination for consideration by the General Nursing Council. (Letter to Dr. Buchanan 1/4/24.) (3) That the Medico-Psychological Association should exempt from its Preliminary Examination Scottish nurses who have passed the Preliminary Examination of the Scottish General Nursing Council. (Letter to Dr. Buchanan 5/6/24.)

"I am pleased to report that all these proposals were unanimously accepted. It has been throughout the object of the Medico-Psychological Association to co-operate loyally with the General Nursing Councils in order to make the State Examinations and Registers a success. By the acceptance of these proposals by the Medico-Psychological Association, it is hoped it will be possible for a mental nurse in Scotland to pass the State Examinations and have her name placed on the State Register, and also to obtain at the same time the Certificate for Proficiency in Mental Nursing granted by the Medico-Psychological Association, without the personal trouble and administrative derangement produced by duplicate examinations held on the same subjects, provided the arrangements for the Final Examination are successfully adjusted by the two Committees. With regard to the fourth proposal or condition—namely, that the Medico-Psychological Association should cease to hold any Preliminary Examination of its own in Scotland, which

would of course not interfere with the activities of the Association elsewhere—I regret to say that the Medico-Psychological Association cannot accept this proposal. The scope of the activities of the Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain and Ireland is imperial, and it cannot withdraw from this position without detriment to mental nursing at home and in the Dominions. It cannot agree to discriminate against Scotland in particular. The condition referred to is not related in the most remote manner to any provision for carrying out the Act. It is uncalled for. For information I include copy of the arrangements made with the General Nursing Council in England. A copy of this letter is being sent to the Scottish Divisional Secretary of the Medico-Psychological Association. Yours faithfully, R. WORTH, Hon. General Secretary."

"General Nursing Council for Scotland, 18, Melville Street, Edinburgh, October 6, 1924.—Dr. R. Worth, Springfield Mental Hospital, near Tooting, London, S.W. 17.—Dear Sir,—Your letter of July 21 was considered at a meeting of my Council on 3rd inst. I am instructed to inform you that after full consideration my Council agreed to drop the fourth proposal mentioned in your letter, namely, that your Association should cease to hold in Scotland any separate Preliminary Examination for Mental Nurses. My Council have agreed to withdraw this proposal solely in order to meet your Association's views, but in order to prevent misunderstanding, I am asked to explain the reasons which led my Council to make the proposal, and which continue them in their belief that in the best interests of mental nurses it would have been well if your Association could have seen their way to agree to it. I am asked to say at the outset that my Council recognize entirely the position of your Association and the great work it has done for Mental Nursing. In fact it is so well known that throughout this correspondence they have not thought it necessary to stress this point. I am also to add that there was no suggestion that your Association should cease to grant its Certificate in Scotland. The only matter which my Council felt they were bound to endeavour to arrange was that there should not be two separate examinations, and my Council still feel that it would have been desirable if this could have been arranged. If your Association's Preliminary Examination is continued certain nurses may continue to take it, and afterwards discover that they desire to go in for another branch of nursing. In order to do so such nurses would require to take over again this Council's Preliminary Examination, and would further be debarred from the shortened training in a second branch of nursing provided under my Council's Rules for Nurses who have already taken the Council's Examinations in Mental Nursing. My Council's Final Examinations do not commence until next year, but meantime I shall be glad to have the names of the Advisory Committee of your Association to meet with my Education and Examination Committee in terms of the first proposal.—I am, yours faithfully, W. S. FARMER, Registrar."

The SECRETARY further reported that this correspondence had been submitted to the Quarterly Meeting of the Association in London in November; that it had been considered satisfactory; and that the nomination of the Advisory Committee referred to had been remitted to the Scottish Division. It was also pointed out that the Association's policy with the Nursing Councils would involve the appointment of one representative from England and one from Ireland on this Advisory Committee, the total number of which the Registrar of the Scottish General Nursing Council had suggested should be six.

The following members were then nominated: Drs. M. J. Nolan, R. Worth, Prof. G. M. Robertson, Drs. John Keay, T. C. Mackenzie and W. M. Buchanan, on the understanding that in the event of the number of the Committee exceeding six the names of Drs. G. Douglas McRae and R. B. Campbell be added.

Dr. McRAE called attention to the delay in announcing the results of the Nursing Certificate examinations, and asked if nothing could be done to expedite the assessing of the papers. He also suggested that the publication by the Examiners of model answers to the questions set would be helpful to teachers of candidates. The Secretary was instructed to communicate with the General Secretary with a view to having the matter raised at the Quarterly Meeting of the Association in February.

The SECRETARY reported that there had been no further meeting of the Conference dealing with Amendments to the Asylums Officers' Superannuation Act. He intimated that, since the last meeting of the Division, the Royal Asylums had reached agreement as to their inclusion, on a permissive basis, within the

provisions of the Act; that the necessary amendments had been drafted and were now in the hands of the Secretary of the Conference.

The meeting was then adjourned and members were kindly entertained to lunch at the hospital. After lunch, on the motion of Dr. D. Fraser, the Directors of the Aberdeen Royal Mental Hospital and Dr. Dods Brown were cordially thanked for the arrangements made in connection with the meeting and for their kind hospitality.

On the meeting reassembling, Dr. T. C. Mackenzie invited the Division to hold the Spring Meeting at the Inverness District Asylum. Dr. Mackenzie was thanked for his invitation, and it was unanimously agreed that the Spring Meeting take place at Inverness in May.

Dr. A. GREIG ANDERSON read, by invitation, a paper on "Encephalitis Lethargica," reviewing the history and literature of the disease, and incorporating his clinical observations of the cases which had occurred in the Aberdeen area. The paper was discussed by Drs. ROSS, McRAE, HENDERSON, DODS BROWN and Prof. ROBERTSON, and was illustrated by the clinical demonstration of a case of Parkinsonian syndrome following encephalitis.

Dr. DODS BROWN presented a case of Dementia Præcox with marked reactions of several years' standing and recovery following surgical operation; and Dr. ANNANDALE a case of Involutional Melancholia with an unusual group of symptoms of organic nervous disease. Both cases led to an animated discussion.

Time did not permit of Dr. Craig's paper on "Fractional Test-meals in Certain Types of Mental Disorder" being read.

Before and after lunch members were conducted over the Hospital by Dr. Dods Brown and his assistants, and after the meeting Dr. and Mrs. Dods Brown kindly entertained members to tea.

A dinner was held in the evening in the Athenæum Restaurant, and was well attended.

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#### IRISH DIVISION.

THE AUTUMN MEETING of the Irish Division, Medico-Psychological Association, was held at the Royal College of Physicians, Kildare Street, Dublin, on Thursday, November 6, 1924, Dr. M. J. Nolan, President, M.P.A., in the Chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed by the Chairman.

Letters were read from the Local Government Board in reply to the resolution sent to that body at the last meeting.

The following candidate was balloted for as an ordinary member of the Association and was duly elected:

RICHARD DOMINICK BRENNAN, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., N.U.I., Assistant Medical Officer, District Mental Hospital, Waterford.

*Proposed by* Dr. A. FitzGerald, and *seconded by* Dr. O'C. Donelan and R. R. Leeper.

The meeting next proceeded to consider the position of the Irish Division as regards the registration and training of mental nurses in Ireland. After a long discussion and consideration of the reply to the letter and resolution forwarded to the Government by direction of the Division at the Spring Meeting, the following resolution was proposed by Dr. Mills, seconded by Dr. Gavin, and passed unanimously, and a copy was directed to be sent to the Local Government Board of the Free State:

"That this meeting received with much regret the intimation conveyed in the letter of the Ministry of Local Government of July 1, 1924, stating that, if an opportunity occurred when five years' duration of the existing Nursing Council's existence had expired, the Government would possibly see their way to appoint a representative of the mental specialty of the medical profession to a position as member of the Council.

"The Irish Division, M.P.A., wishes to point out to the Government that the most important work of organizing their examinations, etc., will occur within the current five-year period, and begs to request that the granting of representation to those most directly concerned in the training of mental nurses be reconsidered. Under the regrettable circumstances that direct representation