

Dr. CHARLES H. FENNEL read a paper on "The Care of Children in County and Borough Asylums" (see p. 541).

Dr. TAYLOR showed the case of a female patient (E. B.) suffering from recurrent insanity associated with ophthalmia. He stated that the patient had been in the asylum three times. On the first occasion she was restless and depressed on admission, but on the others was suffering from acute excitement. On each occasion, shortly after admission, she developed ophthalmia, which was characterised by severe pain, swelling of the eyelids, and conjunctivitis. Whilst the inflammation of the eye was present the patient was quite well mentally. The ophthalmia lasted about a fortnight and then got suddenly better, the patient at this time becoming mentally worse, at first being somewhat depressed and then passing into a condition of acute mania, during which she was extremely restless and noisy, and had marked hallucinations of hearing and of sight. This condition lasted about a fortnight to three weeks, and then she became well mentally. On two occasions she had a relapse within two months, each relapse being preceded by ophthalmia; then she became well, and was discharged recovered. On the first occasion she stayed in one of the asylums four months and on the second six months. She was twenty-seven years of age on first admission. She is stated to have had an attack of insanity when seventeen years of age, but was not in an asylum. No history of hereditary predisposition was obtained. When well patient is of good intelligence.

Dr. CRAWFORD described the last attack. She was admitted to the Asylum on March 7th, 1907, having been discharged on August 25th, 1906. She was in a condition of simple excitement of a joyful nature. She had opacity of the right cornea and some conjunctivitis. Within a few days of admission she became much better mentally. She now complained of severe pain at the back of the right eye and in the temporal region. The eyelids and conjunctiva became very much swollen, and the cornea was covered with flaky deposit, but there was no ulceration. The eye was fomented, washed out with boracic lotion and atropine instilled. Patient was quite well mentally. A fortnight later the eye got rapidly well, and patient passed into a condition of acute mania. She remained excited for about a week, and then became quite well.

The PRESIDENT proposed that the thanks of the Division should be sent to the Chairman and Visiting Committee for the great privilege they had in holding their meeting at the East Sussex Asylum, and of seeing the very full and complete arrangements made at that institution for the care, curative and custodial, of those suffering from every form of mental disease.

This was unanimously agreed to, and it was requested that the Divisional Secretary should convey the thanks of the Division to the Chairman.

Dr. JEFFERY, on behalf of the Visiting Committee, replied.

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#### SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

The SPRING MEETING of the Division was held at the County and City Asylum, Burghill, Hereford, on Thursday, April 18th, 1907.

The members were kindly entertained to lunch by Dr. Morrison, who subsequently showed them over the Asylum.

The following members were present: Drs. Baskin, Braine-Hartnell, Bullen, Glendinning, Jex-Blake, W. F. MacDonald, Morrison, Nelis, Rambaut, Soutar, and the Hon. Div. Sec.

The visitors were Drs. Thos. Turner, Edgar Morris, J. Oswald Lane, Herbert Jones, Warren Swettenham, Arthur Wood, and Thos. Mendes.

Dr. Glendinning was voted to the Chair.

The minutes of the Autumn Meeting were read and signed.

Letters from the relatives of the late Drs. Craddock and Stewart returning thanks for votes of sympathy were also read.

The following candidates were elected members of the Association:

Humphrey P. Blackmore, M.D., Physician, Salisbury Infirmary. Proposed by Drs. Baskin, Aveline, and W. F. MacDonald.

James Whigham Rutherford, L.R.C.P.I., L.R.C.S.I., L.M., Assistant Medical Officer, Somerset and Bath Asylum, Cotford, near Taunton. Proposed by Drs. Aveline, Rorie, and W. F. MacDonald.

Mr. H. T. S. Aveline was re-elected Hon. Divisional Secretary, and Drs. Goodall and Bullen representative members on the Council.

Drs. Baskin and Goodall were elected on the Committee of Management, and Dr. Soutar kindly consented to act for a further period of twelve months in place of the late Dr. Stewart.

The next meeting was fixed to take place at Fisherton House, Salisbury, on Friday, October 25th next, by kind invitation of Dr. Baskin, and the Spring Meeting at Barnwood House, Gloucester, on Friday, April 24th, 1908, by kind invitation of Dr. Soutar.

Dr. Baskin exhibited his new form of case for the protection of clinical thermometers during use, and gave a short explanation.

Dr. W. F. MacDonald read a paper on the "Bacteriology of Asylum Dysentery," describing the clinical features of cases coming under his notice and pointing out their association with the presence of a bacillus of the Flexner type.

The paper was discussed by the Chairman, Drs. Soutar, Morrison, Braine-Hartnell, and the Hon. Div. Sec., and Dr. MacDonald suitably replied.

Dr. Morrison read a paper on "The Inference of Degeneracy in Herefordshire supplied by Vital and Medical Statistics," and the important conclusions drawn were commented on by several of the visitors.

On the motion of the Chairman a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Dr. Morrison for the hospitable manner in which he had received and entertained the members, and also for his most able and interesting address, and the proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to Dr. Glendinning for presiding.

#### NORTHERN AND MIDLAND DIVISION.

THE SPRING MEETING of the Northern and Midland Division was held, by the courtesy of Dr. Perceval, at Lancashire County Asylum, Prestwich, near Manchester, on April 18th, 1907. Dr. Perceval presided.

The following members were present:—Drs. Stewart Adair, Archdale, Legge, Cowan, MacDougall, Mackenzie, Macphail, Pierce, Middlemass, G. E. Mould, Orr, Powell, M. Rhodes, Rows, Simpson and Starkey. There were seven visitors.

1. The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.
  2. John Exley, L.R.C.P.I. and M.R.C.S., Medical Officer to H.M. Prison, Leeds, was unanimously elected a member of the Association.
  3. It was resolved to suggest the names of Dr. Bedford Pierce and Dr. Richard Legge to the Council as members of the International Committee on the Causes of Insanity.
  4. Dr. Bedford Pierce was re-elected Secretary to the Division.
  5. Drs. T. W. McDowall and Ewan were unanimously re-elected Representative Members of Council.
- As it was expected that the number of members of the Division would reach 150 next month Dr. David Orr was unanimously elected Representative Member of Council in place of Dr. Edgerley who retired.
6. Cordial invitations having been received from Dr. Stewart Adair and Dr. Middlemass, it was decided to hold the Autumn Meeting at the Sunderland Borough Asylum, at Ryhope, on October 17th, and the Spring Meeting next year at the Storthes Hall Asylum, near Huddersfield, on April 30th, 1908.
  7. Dr. Clarke was unavoidably prevented from reading the paper announced in the agenda.
  8. The meeting adjourned to the Laboratory, and Dr. David Orr and Dr. Rows demonstrated a number of recent researches in Pathology, in particular the effect of toxins upon the brain and spinal cord, showing the degeneration produced by toxins reaching the central nervous system along the peri-vascular lymphatic channels.

Specimens were also shown demonstrating the presence of a specific micro-organism in the walls of the alimentary canal, and in the spinal cord in a case of acute insanity.

After the meeting ten members and three visitors dined at the Midland Hotel.