

mental hospitals towards the patients in their charge is a subject I do not care to comment upon.

In conclusion, I would say that my objection to the voluntary form of admission is that it enables cases that should come in on certificate to come in voluntarily. The result is that they leave the hospital too soon, and so lower the recovery-rate and raise the incidence-rate, for they are soon back. I would suggest that both entry and discharge as a voluntary patient should be at the discretion of the medical staff of the hospital.

Conclusions.

1. (a) The voluntary case has a longer duration before admission (9·8 months) than the certified case (5·2 months). This is because it is a mild type, half the cases being melancholia (40%) and early dementia præcox (11%).

(b) The voluntary form of admission, no doubt, brings many of these cases in earlier than would have occurred under the need to have them certified. The duration before admission, nevertheless, remains longer for the voluntary class by reason of the concentration in this class of the chronic type. (Chronicity refers only to the longer duration before admission of the case.)

(c) The chronic type does not belong to any particular psychosis.

(d) The voluntary case is a mild chronic type.

2. The voluntary case represents a late, though not necessarily later, stage, so that the Mental Treatment Act does not attain early treatment of cases.

3. The voluntary case will not stay in a mental hospital. He leaves either unimproved or before the recovery has become established. The result is (a) that the recovery-rate for the voluntary class (17·9) is lower than that for the certified class (22·1), and (b) that he tends to come back sooner and more frequently, thus raising the incidence-rate.

(a) The voluntary form of admission is suited for the chronically recurrent type of case.

IRISH DIVISION.

THE SPRING QUARTERLY MEETING of the Irish Division was held at Portlaoighise District Mental Hospital, by the kind invitation of Dr. Pierce Grace, Medical Superintendent, on Saturday, April 13th, 1935.

In the forenoon the members were kindly conducted over the hospital by Dr. Grace and his staff, and were especially interested in the many forms of occupational therapy on which the patients were engaged, and which has been developed in this hospital to such a high degree of efficiency. Later the members and guests were kindly entertained to luncheon.

At the conclusion of the luncheon, Mr. J. A. LUMLEY (Chairman, Committee of Management) welcomed the members to Portlaoighise Mental Hospital. Dr. GAVIN and Dr. DUNNE replied.

Dr. L. Gavin was in the Chair, and, subsequently, Dr. John Mills.

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

The following nominated candidate was, after ballot, elected a member of the Association:

PATRICK JOSEPH AIRD, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.(N.U.I.), D.P.M., D.P.H.,
Assistant Medical Officer, Grangegorman Mental Hospital, Dublin.

Proposed by Drs. J. O'Connor Donelan, Stanley Blake and John FitzGerald.

The meeting then proceeded to the election of the Officers of the Division for the year 1935-1936, and the following, after ballot, were declared elected:

Honorary Secretary, Dr. R. Thompson; Representative Members of Council, Dr. D. L. Kelly and Dr. John Mills.

Dr. MARTIN expressed the obligation the Division was under to their outgoing Chairman, Dr. Gavin, and proposed Dr. Mills as his successor. This was seconded by Dr. Donelan and carried unanimously.

Dr. Mills then took the Chair.

The Mental Nursing Advisory Committees to the General Nursing Councils were re-elected as follows:

For Irish Free State: Drs. S. Blake, J. O'Connor Donelan, L. Gavin, R. R. Leeper, J. C. Martin.

For Northern Ireland: Drs. F. J. Deane, Dorothy Gardner, N. B. Graham, M. J. Nolan, J. Watson.

Dr. O'Connor Donelan and Dr. Nolan were re-nominated Examiners for the Association's Certificate in Psychological Medicine.

The following were nominated Examiners for the Nursing Certificates of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association:

Preliminary Nursing Examination	Dr. C. B. Molony.
Final Nursing Examination	Dr. John FitzGerald.
Final M.D. Examination	Dr. Eveleen O'Brien.
Nurse Examiner	Miss Williams.

The meeting then considered the present position regarding the contemplated Central Pathological Laboratory. The SECRETARY read correspondence from the Minister for Local Government and Public Health on this question, and Dr. MORAN detailed the steps he had taken to interest the authorities in the need for research into the problems of mental disease. It was agreed that, for the present, nothing further could be done.

The SECRETARY then submitted correspondence from the General Nursing Council, in which the latter body intimated its decision to set up an independent examination for Mental Nurses, which examination alone would entitle to registration. The matter was discussed at length, and the unanimous feeling of the meeting was that every facility should be given to any candidate who wished to take the examination of the General Nursing Council.

The meeting accepted with pleasure Dr. Dunne's invitation to hold the Summer Meeting at Sligo Mental Hospital, at a date to be arranged later.

At the conclusion of the business of the meeting the Chairman (Dr. MILLS) referred in feeling terms to the recent death of Mrs. Leeper. Dr. GAVIN and Dr. O'CONNOR DONELAN also associated themselves with the Chairman's remarks, and the Secretary was directed by the members present to convey the deep sympathy of the meeting to Dr. Leeper.

Dr. JOHN FITZGERALD, Assistant Medical Officer, Grangegorman Mental Hospital, read a communication entitled "**Mental Deficiency in the Saorstat: A Medico-Legal and Educational Problem.**" Dr. FitzGerald pleaded for the tackling of the Mental Deficiency Problem in the Irish Free State, on broader and more modern lines, and showed, by careful reasoning, that expenditure on this question would ultimately result in an economy to the State. He also pleaded for the modernization of legislation with regard to mental defectives, and also for the modernization of the present lunacy laws.

Dr. FitzGerald's paper gave rise to an interesting and lengthy discussion, in which the majority of the members took part. Dr. Martin pointed out that legislation was also urgently required for what was known as the "Sane Epileptic". It was finally decided that, as the questions raised in Dr. FitzGerald's paper were of such importance, sub-committees of the Division should be formed to deal with them. Accordingly, the following Sub-Committees were constituted:

To Study Problems relating to Mental Deficiency and the Sane Epileptic.—Drs. John FitzGerald (Secretary), J. C. Martin, Eveleen O'Brien, P. J. Cassin, W. J. Coyne, R. R. Leeper, John Mills (*ex-officio*), R. Thompson (*ex-officio*).

For the Revision of the Lunacy Laws in the Irish Free State.—Drs. J. C. Martin (Secretary), L. Gavin, P. Grace, J. O'Connor Donelan, Stanley Blake, B. F. Honan, John Mills (*ex-officio*), R. Thompson (*ex-officio*).

Dr. DEANE then proposed a cordial vote of thanks to Dr. and Mrs. Grace for

their very kind hospitality. This was seconded by Dr. GAVIN and carried unanimously.

Subsequently the members were kindly entertained to tea by Mrs. Grace.

SCOTTISH DIVISION.

A MEETING of the Scottish Division was held at the Perth District Asylum, Murthly, on Friday, May 24, 1935.

Dr. Lewis Bruce, Divisional Chairman, presided. The minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed by the Chairman. An apology was read from Dr. Marr for his inability to be present at the meeting.

Before commencing the ordinary business of the meeting the Secretary read a letter from Mrs. Sturrock, in which she thanked the Scottish Division for the wreath which they had sent as a token of their respect and affection for the late Dr. Sturrock. Tributes were paid to the memory of Dr. Sturrock by several members, and the Secretary was asked to write Mrs. Sturrock, conveying to her the sincere sympathy of the members of the Division in her bereavement.

Reference was then made to the illness of Dr. Douglas McRae, and the Secretary was instructed to write to Dr. McRae, conveying to him the sincere wishes of the Division for his speedy recovery.

Dr. R. D. Clarkson and Dr. A. M. Dryden were unanimously elected Representative Members of the Council.

Dr. Wm. McAlister was unanimously elected Divisional Secretary.

Dr. R. D. Clarkson was unanimously elected Chairman of the Division and Vice-President of the Association.

The present Members of the Mental Nursing Advisory Committee to the General Nursing Council, Drs. Douglas McRae, T. C. McKenzie, R. D. Hotchkis, Donald Ross and W. M. Buchanan, were unanimously nominated for re-election.

The following were appointed Members of the Divisional Standing Committee of Management: Drs. R. D. Clarkson, A. M. Dryden, R. B. Campbell, C. A. Crichlow and A. R. Boyd.

The following were nominated as Examiners for Nursing Certificates and Professional Examinations:

- (1) Professional Examinations: Drs. Wm. McAlister and R. B. Campbell.
- (2) Nursing Examination (Preliminary): Dr. John McDougall.
- (3) Nursing Examination (Final): Dr. W. D. Chambers.
- (4) Nursing Examination (Mental Deficiency): Dr. C. G. A. Chislett.
- (5) Nurse Examiner: Miss Christie, Ayr.

The Secretary read a letter from Dr. Thos. A. Munro, Research Worker under the Medical Research Council, in which Dr. Munro invited Medical Superintendents in Scottish Mental Hospitals to co-operate with him by selecting suitable case-material for his research work into the influence of consanguinity on the production of mental disease. After discussion the meeting agreed to give Dr. Munro all possible assistance.

The following candidates (after ballot) were admitted as Ordinary Members of the Association:

MAXWELL SHAW JONES, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.M., Assistant Physician, Royal Edinburgh Hospital for Mental and Nervous Disorders.

Proposed by Prof. D. K. Henderson, Drs. Angus MacNiven and T. Ferguson Rodger.

FRED HAYDEN TAYLOR, M.B., B.S.Durh., M.R.C.S.Eng., L.R.C.P.Lond., B.Hy., D.P.H.Durh.

Proposed by Drs. McWilliam, Angus MacNiven and T. Ferguson Rodger.

Members were kindly entertained to lunch, after which Dr. Bruce welcomed the Division to Murthly.