

## SOUTH-EASTERN DIVISION.

A MEETING of the South-Eastern Division of the Medico-Psychological Association was held at 11, Chandos Street, W. 1, on Wednesday, May 7th, 1919.

Regrets at inability to be present had been received from Sir Robert Armstrong-Jones, Sir H. Bryant Donkin, Drs. G. N. Bartlett, Fletcher Beach, W. Bevan-Lewis, A. H. Boys, A. I. de Steiger, R. Eager, F. Elkins, G. C. Fitz-Gerald, John Keay, John R. Lord, David Rice, R. Percy Smith, D. G. Thomson, and F. Douglas Turner.

*Present* : Drs. Archdale, Bower, Chambers, Collins, Evans, Fothergill, Fuller, Galpin, Haynes, Higson, Hughes, Norman, Prideaux, Stewart, Watson, and J. Noel Sergeant (Hon. Div. Sec.).

Dr. David Bower took the Chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Drs. Bower, Craig, Daniel and Steen were elected to be members of the Council, and Dr. J. Noel Sergeant Hon. Divisional Secretary for the year 1919-1920.

Drs. Gilfillan, Norman and Steen were elected members of the Divisional Committee of Management.

Dr. Mary Rushton Barkas, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Temporary Assistant Medical Officer, Bethlem Royal Hospital, 46, Connaught Street, W. 2, was elected a member of the Medico-Psychological Association.

It was decided to accept with thanks Dr. Watson's kind invitation to hold the Autumn Divisional Meeting at Elm Lodge, Clay Hill Lane, Enfield, on Wednesday, October 1st, 1919.

Dr. H. J. NORMAN opened a discussion on "Crime and Insanity." Dr. HIGSON followed with some very interesting remarks on modern procedure in connection with the mental condition of criminals. Drs. FULLER, SERGEANT and STEWART also spoke.

Drs. BOWER and CHAMBERS expressed the thanks of the meeting to Drs. Norman and Higson, and the meeting then closed, the members taking tea.

No dinner was held owing to the fact that insufficient members signified their desire to dine.

## SCOTTISH DIVISION.

A MEETING of the Scottish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association was held in the Hall of the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow, on Friday, March 21st, 1919.

*Present* : Lieut.-Col. Keay, Major Hotchkis, Capt. Patch, R.A.M.C., Drs. Buchanan, Carre, Easterbrook, Kerr, T. C. Mackenzie, McRae, Macdonald, Oswald, G. M. Robertson, Maxwell Ross, Shaw, and Surgeon-Commander R. B. Campbell, R.N., Divisional Secretary.

Lieut.-Col. Keay, R.A.M.C., President of the Association, occupied the Chair.

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

The SECRETARY submitted a letter of acknowledgment received from Mrs. Reid, thanking the members of the Division for the kind letter of sympathy sent to her.

Apologies for absence were intimated from Drs. Thomson, Carr, Eager, Lord, Mills, Skeen, Alexander, Sutherland, Dods Brown, Orr and Crichtlow.

The CHAIRMAN stated that Dr. Donald Ross, who had come to Glasgow to attend the meeting, had been taken ill, and the Secretary was asked to write to Dr. Ross expressing the sympathy of those present, and to send him their best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery.

The PRESIDENT thanked the members for the kind letter which he had received regarding his recent illness.

Dr. J. H. Skeen and Dr. T. C. Mackenzie were unanimously elected Representative Members of Council for the ensuing year, and Dr. R. B. Campbell was elected Divisional Secretary.

Dr. W. M. Buchanan was recommended to the Educational Committee of the Council as an Examiner for the Certificate in Psychological Medicine.

A general discussion took place on matters at present affecting asylum administration, and a scheme of reduced working hours for the nursing staff in asylums was recommended.

The SECRETARY pointed out that a committee, drawn from recognised medical bodies in Scotland, had been appointed for the purpose of considering the proposals under discussion for the establishment of a Ministry of Health, and that he considered that the Scottish Division of the Association had strong claims to be represented on such a committee. After some discussion it was unanimously agreed that the Secretary should communicate with the Secretary of the committee requesting that the Division should be represented, and Lieut.-Col. Keay was nominated as representative.

It was also agreed that a small committee, composed of Lieut.-Col. Keay, Dr. G. M. Robertson and Dr. Campbell should be appointed to act as a Watching Committee *re* the Ministry of Health Bill.

A vote of thanks to the President for presiding concluded the business of the meeting.

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#### CORRESPONDENCE.

The following communication from Sir H. Bryan Donkin has been forwarded to the Editors for publication :

It is greatly to be regretted that my article on the " Factors of Criminal Actions " was published in the *Journal of Mental Science* only a few days after the lamented death of Dr. Charles Goring. This article consisted mainly in a reply to Dr. Goring's criticisms of a paper by me which he published in the *Journal* for April, 1918. My reply was written in the summer of 1918, and the proof was corrected by me many months before the article was printed off for the April number of this year, some time previously to Dr. Goring's death on May 5th.

But for this unavoidable concurrence of dates my article would have been published later, with an expression of my personal sorrow for the loss of Dr. Goring and my regret that no further elucidation of the controversy between us could now be made.

H. BRYAN DONKIN.

June 12th, 1919.

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#### PRISON REFORM.

##### THE POLICY OF THE HOWARD ASSOCIATION.

IN a statement of policy, just issued, the Howard Association, which recently celebrated its jubilee, says that the two main reasons for maintaining a penal system are the protection of the community and the reformation of the offender; and because society cannot obtain real protection unless the offender either be permanently segregated or permanently reclaimed, it follows that the chief business of our penal methods is to secure the reformation of offenders. To this end the Association urges that prison governors and their subordinates shall be chosen as possessing special aptitude for reclaiming men and women, and that a certain amount of freedom to experiment shall be permitted. The Association instances the striking results recently obtained in American prisons, notably at Sing Sing, New York, and in British prisons advocates abolition of the " Silence Rule," which is seldom observed, and breeds deceit in prisoners and warders alike; the shortening to a very brief term of the period of separate confinement; more free intercourse from judicious persons from outside; extension of the functions now exercised by the paid prison Chaplain to persons of all denominations, paid or unpaid, having the necessary gifts and calling; adoption of the Indeterminate Sentence, ensuring that offenders shall be released when they are fit to be released, and the adoption of the Parole System, that they may receive guidance during the early days of liberty. An extension of the Probation System is advocated, together with the appointment of more and better-trained and better-paid Probation Officers. The Association shows that the easy method of making prison the alternative to payment of a fine bears much more heavily on the poor than the rich, and urges