

he hoped for himself. He believed his visit had cheered the invalid, and he came away charged with a message of regret and hopes for a successful meeting. He, the speaker, thought it would be a great comfort to Dr. Mercier if he were to receive the regrets and sympathy of this meeting, and perhaps he might be allowed to convey that message.

Agreed to with expressions of much sympathy.

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#### SCOTTISH DIVISION.

A MEETING of the Scottish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association was held at H.M. Prison, Perth, on Friday, March 14th, 1913.

*Present*: Drs. Alcock, Bruce, Carre, Chislett, Clarkson, Havelock, Hotchkis, Carlyle Johnstone, Keay, Kellas, Mitchell, Muirhead, T. C. Mackenzie, McRae, Oswald, Parker, Ross, Shaw, Soutar, Sturrock, Urquhart, and R. B. Campbell, Divisional Secretary.

There were also present as guests: The Master of Polwarth, Chairman of H.M. Prison Commission, Mrs. Sturrock, Drs. Lyell, Hume, Stirling, Taylor, McCall Smith, Paton, Menzies, Meek.

Dr. J. Greig Soutar, President of the Association, occupied the Chair.

The Master of Polwarth, Chairman of the Prison Commission, welcomed the members of the Division, and briefly described the accommodation of the Prison, and the arrangements made by the Prison Commissioners for the care of state inebriates and criminal lunatics.

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

Apologies for absence were intimated from Sir Thomas Clouston, Drs. Alexander, D. G. Campbell, Dunlop, Easterbrook, Macdonald, Reid, G. M. Robertson, Turnbull, and Yellowlees.

Drs. G. M. Robertson and G. Douglas McRae were unanimously elected Representative Members of Council, and Dr. R. B. Campbell was elected Divisional Secretary.

Dr. Hotchkis was nominated as an Examiner for the Certificate in Psychological Medicine.

The following candidates after ballot were admitted to membership of the Association: Dermid Maxwell Ross, M.B., Ch.B.Edin., Assistant Physician, Royal Edinburgh Asylum (proposed by Drs. G. M. Robertson, Dods Brown and Ross); Percy William Page Bedford, M.B., Ch.B.Edin., Clinical Assistant, Royal Edinburgh Asylum (proposed by Drs. G. M. Robertson, Dods Brown, and Ross).

After the formal business of the Division had been transacted, Dr. Sturrock showed the members over the Lunatic Department and other parts of the Prison and described the methods adopted for dealing with insane and mentally defective prisoners.

On the meeting re-assembling after the tour of inspection of the Prison, Dr. Sturrock read an instructive and interesting paper on "The Mentally Defective Criminal" (see page 314).

Votes of thanks to the Prison Commissioners and Dr. Sturrock for their hospitality, and for the trouble which they had taken to make such an interesting and successful meeting, and also to the President for his conduct in the chair, concluded the business of the meeting.

The members afterwards dined together in the Station Hotel, Perth.

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#### THE AFTER-CARE ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING, FEBRUARY 25th, 1913.

Sir JAMES MOODY, who presided, said that he had accepted the invitation to occupy the chair because he was very much indebted to the Association, which assists the class of the community which is most unable to assist itself.

He had two suggestions to make with regard to increasing the funds of the Association—first, that collections should be taken in the asylums, as was at present done in his and a few other asylums, and secondly, that the clergy might help to make the work known by means of annual sermons. He thought that this might be brought about by making the suggestion to personal friends. He then called upon the Secretary to read the report.

Mr. THORNHILL ROXBV read the report and balance-sheet, pointing out that, if anything, the annual subscriptions were less than last year, and that more help was urgently needed. He mentioned the names of supporters who were unable to be present.

The adoption of the report was moved by Sir GEORGE SAVAGE, M.D., who said that it was a mere outline of the work of the Association. As Treasurer he would like to say that nothing could be done without money, and that everything possible was being done with the money available. He hoped that the report would be accepted as a good evidence of good work.

The BISHOP OF CROYDON said he had much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report. He was present merely to prove his interest in the Association, which he had done little or nothing to support. But he was engaged in work of a very similar nature, and so knew what a good work was being done, and how urgently funds were needed to carry it on.

The adoption of the report was put to the vote and carried.

The election of Council and officers was then moved by Dr. THOMAS, and seconded by Dr. NEEDHAM, who said that he thought that the public would contribute more liberally if they realised that a great many of the people who are discharged every year are not yet sufficiently well to be able to meet difficulties in the world, and that the aid which this Association gives them means, in many cases, the prevention of relapse, and thus a saving of the rates.

The election was carried.

The CHAIRMAN then called upon Dr. Bond to read his paper on "After-Care in Cases of Mental Disorder and the Desirability of extending its Scope" (see p. 274).

## THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE.

### SECTION OF PSYCHIATRY (Sir George Savage, President, in the chair).

A clinical and pathological meeting was held at Claybury Asylum on March 11th, and was well attended. After the Council had met, Dr. Jones, the Medical Superintendent, kindly gave the members tea. In the meantime, Dr. Paine demonstrated a case of *osteitis deformans* of twelve years' development. During the last two and a half years aural hallucinations, delusions of persecution and progressive dementia had supervened. He showed also a "Case of Organic Disease of the Nervous System, presenting some features of General Paralysis of the Insane," in which there was a negative Wassermann reaction and no lymphocytes. Following upon this was a "Case of Cerebral Tumour, illustrating the value of the Operation of Decompression."

The members then adjourned to the laboratory, where Dr. Mott had provided a demonstration of great interest.

We cannot do better than quote Dr. Mott's synopsis *in extenso* :

(1) *Some recent investigations on the bio-chemistry of the neurone.*

(a) The living nerve-cell seen with the ultra-microscope. A viscous homogeneous colloidal spongioplasm containing an enormous number of minute oval or round granules, which appear highly refractile on the dark ground; the nucleus with nucleoli is seen in the centre of the cell, dark and less refractile. When the isotonic medium (cerebro-spinal fluid) is replaced by water an endosmosis takes place, and the refractile granules escape; these remain discrete and exhibit a Brownian movement, but do not coalesce. It is probable that each granule consists of a colloidal fluid substance surrounded by a delicate membrane of (? lipoidal) substance. No Nissl granules or fibrils are seen.

(b) The living nerve-cell removed from an animal immediately after death is placed in a hanging drop of cerebro-spinal fluid (the normal isotonic medium)