

when there is a permanent destruction of cerebral substance that the patient seeks treatment.

A full account of these cases Dr. Mott purposes to publish shortly in the Archives of the Pathological Laboratory of the London County Asylum.

Dr. NICOLSON congratulated the South Eastern Division on possessing the services of such a man as Dr. Mott, and said that members were especially fortunate in being able to listen to such an interesting subject, presented in so clear, concise, practical and suggestive a manner. He thanked Dr. Mott for opening up the work of the Division.

The PRESIDENT said the question of general paralysis and syphilis was very interesting, but unfortunately they had no time for discussion. He gave particulars of a case in July, 1896. Personally, he found no difficulty in saying whether a case was one of syphilis or general paralysis. There are very few cases that own one single cause—causes are very complex. The returns as to causes are not worth the paper they are printed upon, they are frequently based upon statements of Relieving Officers.

Dr. MOTT said he was only too glad to give his experience to the Division, also that he agreed with Dr. Mickle, that brain disease is caused by several factors, but he hoped at an early date to prove more conclusively the statements he had made that afternoon.

The other papers on the agenda were not read for want of time.

In the evening 21 members dined together at the Café Monaco, Piccadilly Circus, W., amongst them being Drs. Chambers, H. G. Blandford, Bond, Alliot and Rawes, who were unable to attend the meeting at Cane Hill.

SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

The Spring Meeting of the Members of this Division was held at Barnwood House, near Gloucester, on April 27th. There were present Drs. Maury Deas, Benham, J. Greig, Soutar, Henley, Townsend, Morrison, Hanbury, Aldridge, McByran, Bullen, Blachford, Iles, Eager, MacDonald, *Hon. Sec.*, Percy Smith, A. L. Newington, and five visitors.

On the proposition of Dr. BENHAM, seconded by Dr. SOUTAR, Dr. Deas was voted to the chair.

Dr. MACDONALD (*hon. secretary*) read the minutes of the last meeting, which were confirmed.

The following candidates for membership were unanimously elected:—William Arthur McCutchan, L.R.C.P. and S. Edin., Assistant Medical Officer, County and City Asylum, Hereford. Proposers: Dr. Morrison, Dr. MacDonald, Dr. Hanbury. Ernest D. Warren, L.R.C.P. and M.R.C.S., Assistant Medical Officer, City Asylum, Digbys, Exeter. Proposers: Dr. Rutherford, Dr. MacDonald, Dr. Davidson, William R. Thurnam, M.B. and B.S., Assistant Medical Officer, City and County Asylum, Bristol. Proposers: Dr. Benham, Dr. MacDonald, Dr. Blachford. Thomas S. Good, M.R.C.S. and L.R.C.P., Assistant Medical Officer, County Asylum, Littlemore, Oxford. Proposers: Dr. Sankey, Dr. MacDonald, Dr. Davidson.

RE-ELECTION OF THE HON. SECRETARY.

Dr. SOUTAR said he had great pleasure in proposing the re-election of Dr. MacDonald as *hon. secretary* for the division.

Dr. BENHAM seconded, and testified to the time, attention, and enthusiasm that Dr. MacDonald put into the duties.

The CHAIRMAN said he put the motion with great pleasure, as he knew it would be carried unanimously, which was done by the meeting.

Dr. MACDONALD returned thanks. The duties involved a certain amount of labour, but he was quite willing to carry them on at any rate for another year.

THE ELECTION OF A COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT FOR THE DIVISION.

After considerable discussion it was proposed by Dr. MORRISON, and seconded by Dr. BENHAM, "That a Committee of Management, consisting of six members, together with the Hon. Sec., be appointed to conduct the business of the Division."

This was carried unanimously.

The HON. SECRETARY proposed, and Dr. MORRISON seconded, that Drs. Deas, Weatherly, Wade, Benham, Soutar, and Morton form the Committee of Management, and the same were unanimously chosen.

On the proposition of Dr. BENHAM, seconded by Dr. SOUTAR, it was unanimously resolved to submit Dr. Deas's name for the consideration of the Council when filling up the vacancies on the Council.

PLACE OF NEXT MEETING.

Dr. MACDONALD reported that Dr. Bonville Fox had written inviting the members to visit him at Brislington House, near Bristol, at some suitable date in October next. This was a very good centre, and he was sure Dr. Fox would be very pleased to see them. He moved that Dr. Fox's invitation be accepted and that the exact day be left open for the present.

The CHAIRMAN was pleased to second this, saying they would be sure to have a warm reception there.

The motion was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN said that concluded the business unless any member had anything to bring forward.

PROPOSED PAT HOLOG IS

Dr. MACDONALD said that a member had written asking for his views on the question of having a special pathologist for this Division or District, and he had great pleasure in bringing the matter before the meeting. He could not help thinking that it was a step in the right direction, and though we might perhaps be borrowing a leaf from the noble example of the Scotch Asylums, he was anxious that the proposal should be considered, and he therefore begged to move "That the proposal to appoint a special pathologist for this District be referred to the Committee of Management for the South-Western Division."

Dr. BENHAM said he would like to second the proposition that this be referred to the Committee. One or two Superintendents, who were unfortunately not present to-day, had spoken to him and expressed a strong opinion that the Division ought to appoint a pathologist. He thought when the name of the gentleman who had been suggested for the appointment was mentioned it would meet with general acceptance. The great point was the pecuniary one. It was thought they might possibly get the use of some rooms at Bristol Hospital, and then it would be necessary to have a certain sum of money for instruments. He might say that he believed that a great number of Medical Officers had the inclination for pathological work, but they had not the necessary time to devote to it. By the appointment suggested they might get some scientific advancement in the Division.

Dr. MORRISON said the idea was novel, and he did not know whether they could appeal to the Technical Education Committees of County Councils for a grant towards it. He did not see why they could not do so, as some Councils had made grants towards ambulance work.

The CHAIRMAN—That would be a matter for the Committee to consider.

The meeting agreed to refer the whole question to the Committee of Management.

RECOVERIES IN ASYLUMS.

Dr. J. GREIG SOUTAR read a paper on "Recoveries in Asylums." (See Original Articles.)

The CHAIRMAN said that, as time pressed and Dr. Goodall was not present, they had better defer to the next meeting the reading of a paper by that gentleman on "The Systematic Collection of Anthropometrical data in Asylums." It was a

very important and interesting question and it would not be satisfactory to discuss it in Dr. Goodall's absence (hear, hear). He had now the very pleasant and agreeable duty of asking the meeting to accord a cordial vote of thanks to Dr. Soutar for the very kind and hospitable manner in which he had received them that day. All knew what a pleasure it was to come to Barnwood House and see so lovely a place. One envied Dr. Soutar many things they saw there, but the great thing he envied him was the grounds.

The motion was carried with acclamation.

Dr. SOUTAR suitably returned thanks, and said he and his colleague had had the greatest possible pleasure in receiving the visitors. It was a great advantage for the members of the Division to have opportunities of meeting from time to time at various asylums, there to hear suggestions, and also to have their places criticised. Commendation was the greatest snare a Superintendent could have, and good wholesome criticism was the best thing to make them keep pace with the times.

The members and several visitors afterwards dined at the "New Inn" Hotel and a most enjoyable evening was spent.

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

Remarks upon Golf in the Treatment of Mental Disorders. By C. S. W. COBBOLD, M.D., F.R.C.P.Edin., etc.

The following is a short summary of a paper read before this Branch in April, 1897.

Golf is not destined to supplant the other amusements and occupations which have long been serviceable in the treatment of insanity, but it has a very definite usefulness in some cases, owing greatly to its acknowledged capacity for arousing a healthy enthusiasm in persons who are specially in need of some new and absorbing interest.

I. Golf as a Preventive of Serious Mental Disease.—There is no doubt that golf is of immense value in counteracting many of the harmful effects of the strain and competition of modern life. The rapidity with which golf clubs have sprung up around the most active and advancing business centres affords a strong presumption, that the capable business man of to-day finds in this game a healthy influence which is specially suited to his needs. Many do not hesitate to affirm that golf has saved them from mental breakdown. Golf probably acts as a preventive of insanity to a greater extent than can be estimated by any available facts or figures.

II. Golf as a Pastime for Chronic Insane Patients.—In this capacity the game has a very limited usefulness; patients are, as a rule, incapable of learning it sufficiently well to become interested in it; but exceptions are seen in some cases of chronic insanity with little or no dementia, especially in patients who have been skilful at ball-games before they became insane. Some patients who have been golfers while sane are also pleased to pass their time in playing feebly after they have become more or less demented. It must always be borne in mind that a golf-club skilfully wielded is a distinctly dangerous weapon, and that the game itself is peculiarly trying to the temper even of the sane.

III. Golf as a Curative Agent in Insanity.—It is during the later and convalescing stages of insanity that golf is sometimes invaluable; it often supplies just the new interest which is needed to complete a cure and may save a patient from drifting into partial dementia. It is often successful in arousing enthusiasm when old pursuits quite fail to do so. It is quite as useful for convalescing ladies as for men, and all its advantages may be obtained for beginners upon small garden or park links.