

that the Members of the Scottish Division of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association desire to express their deep sense of loss sustained by the death of Dr. J. H. Skeen, and their sympathy with the members of his family in their bereavement, and the Secretary was instructed to send an excerpt of the minute to Mrs. Skeen.

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

Apologies for absence were intimated from the President-Elect, Sir Arthur Rose and Drs. J. H. C. Orr, T. C. Mackenzie, A. M. Dryden, W. McAlister, R. Mary Barclay and Prof. D. K. Henderson.

The SECRETARY submitted a letter of acknowledgment from Mrs. Gibson, thanking the members for their kind letter of sympathy.

The SECRETARY reported that at the last quarterly meeting the Council had agreed that the Association should support the Scottish Association for Mental Welfare by annually subscribing to its funds as an affiliated body, and had remitted to the Division the appointment of official representatives to its Executive Council. In terms of this remit it was agreed that the Chairman and Secretary of the Division for the time being should be the Association's representatives on the Executive Council.

Dr. C. J. Shaw was nominated for the position of Divisional Chairman for 1933-34.

Drs. C. J. Shaw and C. G. A. Chislett were nominated for the positions of Representative Members of Council, and Dr. W. M. Buchanan for the position of Divisional Secretary.

The following nominations of examiners were made for submission to the Educational Committee:

1. *Professional Examination*: Prof. D. K. Henderson and Dr. Angus MacNiven.
2. *Nursing Examination (Preliminary)*: Dr. C. A. Crichlow.
3. *Nursing Examination (Final)*: Dr. J. H. Macdonald.
4. *Nursing Examination (Mental Deficiency)*: Dr. D. J. Forbes.
5. *Nurse Examiner*: Miss McGrigor, Larbert.

The following candidate, after ballot, was unanimously admitted an ordinary member of the Association:

JAMES THOMAS CURRAN, M.B., Ch.B.Glasg., Deputy Medical Superintendent, Stoneyetts Certified Institution, Chryston.

Proposed by Drs. C. G. A. Chislett, Henry Carre and Alexander Dick.

Drs. R. B. Campbell, Douglas McRae and Wm. M. Buchanan were appointed as a Committee to watch the interests of the staffs of district mental hospitals in connection with pension rights following the recent cuts in salaries.

Dr. CARRE and his assistants conducted members round representative portions of the hospital.

Members were kindly entertained to lunch in the hospital, after which Dr. Carre, on behalf of the Corporation of Glasgow, welcomed the Division to Woodilee, and the Chairman thanked the Corporation and Dr. Carre and his staff for their kind hospitality and for the arrangements made in connection with the meeting.

On the meeting reassembling Dr. JOHN MACLEOD read a short paper, "Some Observations on Pneumococcal Infection in a Mental Hospital", which was discussed by Drs. Ford Robertson, Donald Ross, L. C. Bruce, Douglas McRae, C. C. Easterbrook, Wm. Boyd, T. F. Rodger, W. D. Chambers, C. J. Shaw and the Chairman.

Dr. ALEXANDER DICK gave a *résumé* of the results of treatment of general paralysis at Woodilee by malarial infection, and demonstrated four interesting cases in illustration. Three of these were advanced cases, now so much improved that they were good hospital workers and able to be on parole. The fourth, who was discharged recovered, had for the past six years been working at his trade of sign-writing and giving every satisfaction to his employer. The pyrexial treatment was combined with injections of tryparsamide. An interesting discussion followed contributed to by the Chairman, Drs. Douglas McRae, Ford Robertson, Ronald Stewart, Aidan Thomson and T. R. C. Spence.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the business of the meeting, after which members were kindly entertained to tea.

IRISH DIVISION.

THE SPRING QUARTERLY MEETING of the Irish Division of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association was held at St. Patrick's Hospital, Dublin, by kind invitation of Dr. R. R. Leeper, on Thursday, April 6, 1933.

The following members were present: Drs. Dorah E. Allman, S. Blake, R. D. Brennan, P. J. Cassin, Kathleen Dillon, Catherine Carey, W. Eustace, Nora May Fitzgerald, John Fitzgerald, P. Grace, Dorothy Gardner, L. Gavin, Norman Graham, B. F. Honan, G. J. Harrison, G. H.

Keene, J. Kearney, B. Lyons, R. R. Leeper, J. C. Martin, C. B. Molony, J. Mills, P. Moran, M. J. Nolan, E. N. M. O'Sullivan, Eveleen O'Brien, J. Scott, R. Taylor, R. H. Taylor, F. O'C. Walsh and R. Thompson (Hon. Secretary).

Apologies for unavoidable absence were received from: The President (Dr. R. B. Campbell) Drs. J. O'C. Donelan, D. L. O'Kelly, D. Rambaut, P. J. Irwin, A. FitzGerald, T. P. Conlon, R. Worth, E. M. Mahony, T. Greene, J. J. FitzGerald, T. I. Considine, F. J. Deane, Douglas McRae, C. H. Wilson, P. J. Courtney, H. R. C. Rutherford and J. F. FitzGerald.

The members were entertained to luncheon, and guests at the luncheon included: Dr. T. P. C. Kirkpatrick, Dr. W. A. Winter, Sir John Lumsden, Dr. F. S. Bourke and Mr. J. G. Perry.

In the absence of the Divisional Chairman (Dr. J. O'C. Donelan), the chair, in the opening stages, was taken by Dr. R. R. Leeper.

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

The following candidates were, after ballot, declared unanimously elected members of the Association:

DENIS HEGARTY, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. (N.U.I.), D.P.M., Assistant Medical Officer, Portrane Mental Hospital, Donabate, co. Dublin.

Proposed by Drs. J. O'C. Donelan, S. Blake and R. Taylor.

JOHN CARR OSBURNE, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. (N.U.I.), Medical Superintendent, Lindville Private Mental Hospital, Cork.

Proposed by Drs. B. F. Honan, R. R. Leeper and John FitzGerald.

The meeting then proceeded to the election of the Officers of the Division for the year 1933-1934, and the following, after ballot, were declared elected:

Honorary Secretary: Dr. R. Thompson. Representative Members of Council: Drs. L. Gavin and J. C. Martin.

Dr. LEEPER expressed the obligation the Division was under to their outgoing Chairman (Dr. Donelan), who was no longer eligible for re-election. He had great pleasure in proposing Dr. Gavin as his successor. This was seconded by Dr. MARTIN, and carried unanimously.

Dr. Gavin then took the chair.

The Mental Nursing Advisory Committees to the General Nursing Council were re-elected as follow:

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

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

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

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

Preliminary: Dr. Dorothy Gardner.

Final: Dr. P. Moran.

Mental Deficiency: Dr. G. H. Keene.

Nurse Examiner: Miss Delany.

The SECRETARY then reported that, regarding the resolution adopted at the November meeting for the provision of a Central Pathological Laboratory, replies in favour of this resolution had been received from seven mental hospitals. The Secretary further reported that a Memorandum had been received from the Joint Committee of Grangegorman Mental Hospital, calling attention to the alarming increase in the number of insane persons in public institutions, and the necessity for a better education of medical students in the study of insanity and nervous diseases. Both these subjects were discussed in detail by the members present, and the discussion also included a tabled motion by Dr. MORAN that a sub-committee of the Division be appointed to examine the position as to the teaching of psychological medicine in the Irish medical schools.

Following upon this discussion it was decided that a sub-committee of the Division be set up to inquire into these three important matters, and to make a report to the July meeting of the Division. Dr. Moran was appointed Secretary of this sub-committee, and other members included Dr. J. O'C. Donelan, Dr. John FitzGerald, Dr. Dorothy Gardner, Dr. Norman Graham, Dr. R. R. Leeper and Dr. C. B. Molony. *Ex-officio* members: Dr. L. Gavin and Dr. R. Thompson.

It was decided to hold the Summer Meeting on Thursday, July 13, at Donegal District Mental Hospital, Letterkenny.

Dr. LEEPER opened a discussion on "**The Role of Septic Foci in Mental Disease**". He said that it had been a great pleasure for him to see that of recent years septic foci had been

frequently sought, and cases of mental disease frequently ameliorated by their removal. Psychiatry had been far too given to unlimited verbosity as regards mental disease, rather than the search for clinical and curative methods. In a recent number of the Journal, Dr. Goodall had given a very carefully considered review of those conditions of mental disorder associated with chronic sepsis. Again, it had been pleasant to see, in the July number, 1932, a monograph on Sinusitis in Mental Disorders, giving directions as to the treatment of this disease. Of course the foci found most easily were those of the teeth and gums, whereas others were most difficult to trace and costly to treat. He had had two patients suffering from uterine toxæmia hysterectomized a few weeks ago. Both had recovered from the operation, and one lady had lost the sullen and hallucinated state in which she had been for some years, and had made a good mental recovery. The other was much improved mentally. But he would not advise hysterectomy except in such mental cases as show definite symptoms of pelvic disease of a septic nature.

Cotton in America and Hunter and Ford Robertson in Great Britain were the great exponents and advocates of specialized surgical treatment in these cases.

One could not but feel that many of the writers on the subject were possibly unduly optimistic of its value, and one could not neglect the hereditary factor in the causation of insanity.

Dr. MOLONY cited a case where a septic nasal condition seemed to be clearly associated with confusional symptoms, and in which the latter symptoms had temporarily become more marked on the septic conditions being dealt with.

Dr. GRAHAM expressed the view that he was never able to satisfy himself that a septic focus was the sole cause of any mental illness, and he cited several interesting cases, where a combination of conditions—shock, heredity, stress, etc.—had been in operation as well as the septic focus. He was, however, strongly in favour of attempting—where possible—to remove any focus of infection.

Dr. MILLS stated that he had frequently dealt with conditions of nasal sepsis and sinusitis in members of his staff, but had never met with one who showed any tendency to mental symptoms. He had frequently had chronically inflamed appendices removed from mental patients, without any apparent benefit to their mental state.

Dr. HONAN expressed the view that focal sepsis was already losing its prestige in the domain of physical diseases, and that the extraction of tonsils, etc., for rheumatism in children appeared to be of doubtful benefit.

Dr. KEENE cited a case of intractable delusional insanity where an attack of carbuncles had brought about a cure, but, unfortunately, only a temporary one.

Dr. R. H. TAYLOR stressed the importance of following up the removal of septic foci by vaccines, so that more distant and inaccessible foci of infection might be reached.

The CHAIRMAN, in summing up, stressed the importance of a complete clinical examination of every patient, and that every effort should be made to restore the patient to a condition of sound bodily health.

On the motion of Dr. KEENE, seconded by Dr. MARTIN, a vote of thanks was passed to Dr. Leeper for his kind hospitality.

After the meeting the members were entertained to tea by Mrs. Leeper.

PATHOLOGICAL, BACTERIOLOGICAL AND BIOCHEMICAL SUBCOMMITTEE.

REQUEST FOR AUTOPSY MATERIAL.

Dr. Pickworth, Hollymoor, Northfield, Birmingham, would like to have sections, about 1 cm. thick, of formalin-fixed brains from early typical cases of dementia præcox, general paralysis and lethargic encephalitis. Also blocks of the skull containing the sphenoidal sinuses from cases of suicide, lethargic encephalitis and active mental disease, especially if associated with recent epilepsy.

Please state: Initials, age, duration of mental disorder, type of mental disorder, cause of death, and time between death and fixation of material.

Dr. B. H. Shaw, County Mental Hospital, Stafford, would like to have the parathyroid glands from cases of epilepsy.

NOTICES BY THE HONORARY LIBRARIAN.

The Library is open to members between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Books are issued to borrowers between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., and between 2.30 and 4.30 p.m.; Saturdays, between 10 a.m. and 12 noon.

The Hon. Librarian will endeavour to obtain any books on psychiatry and allied subjects required by members.