

Dr. Macpherson's letter was read as follows :

"I am in receipt of the illuminated minute of the Scottish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association which you have been so kind as to send me. It is a document of great interest, and one which I shall always treasure. Please accept my thanks. It seems to me to testify especially to the community of purpose which has inspired all those who have been engaged, during half a century, in the care of the insane in Scotland. That harmony of purpose must, I have often thought, be attributed to the wisdom of the men to whom the practical application of the Act of 1857 was first entrusted. It would have been easy then to cast Scottish lunacy administration into a different mould, but with liberal foresight they decided to direct it into its present form. It thus comes about that advances in our specialty in Scotland, though no doubt fostered by the General Board, have been initiated and promoted, chiefly, by individual superintendents of asylums. It is for these reasons, I believe, and also because the members of the Scottish Board have endeavoured to maintain, as the source of their inspiration, the high standard of sympathy for the insane which they received from their predecessors that your Division has paid to the existing Board this gratifying tribute.

"So impersonally do I feel in this matter that had I been present at the meeting of the Association at which the proposal to draw up this address was made I should have most cordially supported it."

Mr. T. W. L. Spence wrote on behalf of the General Board of Lunacy—

"I have now laid before the Board your letter of 19th ultimo with accompanying minute of the Scottish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association, and with reference thereto, I was instructed by the Board to express to the Division the pleasure with which they have received the minute, and to thank them for the gratifying terms in which the appreciation of their policy during the past fifty years has been conveyed."

James Adam, Esq., Chairman, Royal Asylum, Edinburgh, replied in these terms—

"Your letter of 19th inst. addressed to Professor Rankine, the late Chairman of this Board, has been handed to me together with the copy of the minute of the Scottish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association of date 19th March, 1908, the latter of which I to-day had the honour of submitting to my Board. I have been directed to ask you to convey to the members of your Association the gratification felt by this Board at the manner in which their services have been appreciated, and to assure your Association that as in the past so in the future their every effort will be devoted to furthering the cure and alleviation of those suffering from mental disease and to advancing the study of mental pathology."

Drs. Hugh F. Watson, Senior Assistant Medical Officer, Ayr District Asylum; W. Tuach Mackenzie, Medical Superintendent, Dundee Royal Asylum; W. H. McWalter, Medical Officer, H.M. Convict Prison, Peterhead; and George Dunlop Robertson, Medical Officer, Smithston Asylum, Greenock, were unanimously admitted members of the Association.

Drs. FORD ROBERTSON and DODS BROWN read a paper on "The Bacteriology of the Cerebro-spinal Fluid in General Paralysis of the Insane," and gave a microscopical demonstration (see page 36).

Votes of thanks to Drs. Ford Robertson and Dods Brown for their interesting paper and to the Chairman for presiding concluded the business of the meeting.

IRISH DIVISION.

THE AUTUMN MEETING of the Division was held at the Royal College of Physicians, Dublin, by the kind permission of the President and Fellows of the College, on Saturday, November 7th, 1908, at 3 p.m. Dr. Drapes occupied the chair, and there were also present Drs. J. Mills, James J. Fitzgerald, F. E. Rainford, H. R. C. Rutherford, J. Cotter, A. Fitzgerald, J. O'C. Donelan, and W. R. Dawson (Hon. Sec.). Expressions of regret for inability to attend were received from Drs. M. J. Nolan, J. A. Oakshott, and P. O'Doherty.

The following resolution was proposed by Dr. Donelan, seconded by Dr. J. J. Fitzgerald, and passed unanimously in silence:—"That we have heard with deep regret of the sad affliction which Dr. Finegan has recently sustained by the death of his wife, and we tender to him our sincere sympathy."

The minutes of last meeting were read, confirmed, and signed, and the Hon. Secretary reported shortly on certain matters arising out of them.

The invitation of the Hon. Secretary to hold the Spring Meeting of the Division at Farnham House, Finglas, was unanimously accepted.

The assistance of the members was invited in obtaining information for the Committee on Reform of Criminal and Civil Procedure.

The Hon. Secretary read for Dr. M. J. Nolan, who was unavoidably absent, a paper entitled "Some Aspects of 'Maniacal-Depressive Insanity.'" (See p. 45.)

Dr. Cotter read a "Report on 31 cases of Maniacal-Depressive Insanity which came under Treatment in the Down District Asylum during the year ending December 31st, 1907." (See p. 52.)

Dr. Donelan read for Drs. J. M. Redington and P. J. Dwyer a "Report on the occurrence of Maniacal-Depressive Insanity amongst the male admissions to the Richmond District Asylum in the year 1907." (See p. 56.)

Dr. Drapes read a paper "On the Maniacal-Depressive Insanity of Kraepelin." (See p. 58.)

The papers were discussed by Drs. Rainsford, Dawson, Mills, and Donelan; and Drs. Cotter and Drapes replied.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the President and Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians for the use of the College Hall.

AUSTRALASIAN MEDICAL CONGRESS HELD IN MELBOURNE, OCTOBER, 1908.

Contributed by Dr. W. BEATTIE SMITH.

The Section of Neurology and Psychiatry was well attended, and much interesting work engaged in. The Presidential Address of Dr. Eric Sinclair, Inspector-General of the Insane in New South Wales, was very comprehensive, and dealt with the whole subject of treatment and administration as adopted in the various States of the Commonwealth. This, however, together with Dr. Sinclair's paper on "The Recent Hospital Provision for the Acute Insane in New South Wales" will have separate notice. Dr. Sinclair's paper was read, and plans exhibited at the Reception House, Royal Park, where the Section met, and where Dr. Jones, Inspector-General of Insane, Victoria, and Dr. Godfrey, the Resident Medical Superintendent, explained the working of the House, and guided the members round that building, as well as the new Acute Mental Hospital in course of completion.

The treatment of "Stammering with Special Relation to Respiratory Exercises" was dealt with by Dr. Garnet Leary, of Sandringham, and was much appreciated, particularly as the Doctor described his own case. "The Treatment of the Insane in Private Practice" was the subject of papers by Dr. Chisholm Ross, of Sydney, and Dr. Beattie Smith, of Melbourne. Dr. Ross's paper, which was read for him in his absence, embraced such subjects as the qualifications for dealing with insanity and borderland cases, the improvement in methods of treatment in the annexe to the Sydney Reception House for non-certified cases recently established by Dr. Sinclair, and the desirability of treating suitable cases in private, as well as general, hospitals with requisite safeguards and without certificates. Dr. Beattie Smith's paper commenced by a *resumé* of measures urged by him in furtherance of treatment made many years ago, some of which are now bearing fruit. The main portion of his paper centred on the subject of treatment without certificates in approved houses under notification and inspection, but without official visitors. "Many cases," he said, "were certifiable, which should not be certified, and still more were not certifiable, and yet needed definite treatment." "The incipient insane for the most part required removal from their usual surroundings, rest, experienced nursing, proper food, curative companionship and skilled medical attendance," and should be treated apart from the certified insane, "since, to deprive anyone of his liberty on incorrect