

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.

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#### 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

diagnosis through insufficient observation was a matter to be studiously avoided, and the admission of such cases to licensed houses receiving the fully certified was not to be thought of." Notification and inspection were the keynotes to this form of treatment, which had for its object, early care, privacy, and skilled treatment under supervision. Dr. Beattie Smith emphasised his remarks by stating that the treatment of the mentally afflicted by the inexperienced, and under unsuitable conditions had developed to a great extent. These two papers were in accord on many points, and to them, as well as to the Presidential Address, a valuable paper by Mr. T. Prout Webb, K.C., Master in Lunacy in Victoria, was markedly complementary. Mr. Webb elaborated under three headings: "The Legal Duties and Responsibilities of the Medical Profession in Matters of Lunacy." Those headings were, "first, the legal which cares only for the due and proper care and protection of the person of the patient and of his estate, and provides for the well-being and requirements of society; second, the medical, which views the case from a remedial standpoint only, necessarily including the care of the person; third, the sentimental, which regards only the feelings and susceptibilities of the patient's family, caring only to a minor degree for the personal treatment of the patient, and often unduly disregarding his advantage and best interests." This paper will not bear the pruning knife of short comment, and merits fuller reporting; suffice it to say, however, that he agreed that some such statute law as exists for the State-certified insane in Victoria might be made available with modifications for private patients, and thus supersede the common law—a matter contended for by others. Discussion on those papers was restricted for want of time, and by reason of the need for avoiding, as the President remarked, the importing of matters of local State policy, which visitors could not take part in.

The Honourable Dr. Creed, of Sydney, read papers on "The Treatment of Alcoholism" and "Hypnotic Suggestion as a Therapeutic Agent." Dr. McCreery, of Melbourne, whose paper was taken as read, in treating the "Psychology of Crime," dwelt chiefly on the practical steps which should be taken to carefully study all defective and backward children in schools and in institutions, as well as in private life where parents would co-operate. Dr. Barker, Medical Superintendent of the Kew Hospital for Insane, detailed a history of cases of typhoid fever, in which mental improvement had occurred after the fever, and was daring enough to suggest that from certain observation of the conditions in some forms of mental disturbances, typhoid might some day be introduced as a curative agent under control. In connection with the same epidemic Dr. Hollow, the Senior Medical Officer, wrote, or rather spoke, a most exhaustive paper on the subject of typhoid carriers, which, we hope, he will condense for publication. Dr. Hollow's work was much appreciated, and he thanked Dr. MacKeddie, the Departmental Pathologist, for kindly and valuable assistance.

Dr. Kate Hogg, Junior Medical Officer, Hospital for the Insane, Callan Park, New South Wales, in a paper entitled, "The Relations of the Female Pelvic Organs to Insanity," said that, when appointed by Dr. Sinclair, she was asked to pay special attention to the cases where pelvic disease was associated with insanity, and was surprised to find comparatively few with definite signs and symptoms suggesting pelvic lesions. Dr. Hogg next turned her attention to dementia præcox, where she now believed there are well-marked anatomical defects in the pelvic organs in the majority of cases; absence or excess of ovarian secretion being a factor through metabolism not to be disregarded in insanity. The subject was dealt with under various headings—"first, the relation of the functional disorders to insanity; second, the relation of pathological pelvic lesions to insanity; third, the relation of operations on pelvic organs to insanity." This paper received marked attention, and we hope to deal more fully with it.

From Dr. Gamble, Medical Superintendent, Ararat Hospital for Insane, Victoria, we had a carefully prepared paper on "Dementia Præcox," which was much appreciated, considerably more time than usual being allotted to it with the President's permission. Dr. Gamble dealt with a controversial subject, which is chiefly approved of by some Continental and American specialists, but not by any means so by British authorities. The working out of the cases written about and shown to members was very thorough, and regret was expressed that time did not permit discussion. The President, however, suggested that perhaps Dr. Gamble might follow out investigations somewhat on the lines adopted in the paper read by Dr. Kate Hogg. Dr. Steell, Medical Superintendent of the Ballarat Hospital for Insane, read an abstract of his paper on "The Progress in Treatment of the

Epileptic Insane," and also some notes from a paper on epilepsy by Dr. G. A. Hogg, Senior Medical Officer, Kenmore, New South Wales. A paper on "Dysentery," by Dr. Prior, Senior Medical Officer, Paramatta Hospital, New South Wales, was taken as read. Dr. Davidson, Medical Superintendent of the Callan Park Hospital, New South Wales, in a paper opening a discussion on syphilis, gave an historical view of the disease, and saying that, "as a factor syphilis must not be treated with closed eyes." He said the causation was still in need of absolute confirmation, but strong evidence had been produced to show that the cause is a Spirochæte, with the life-history of which organism there are still many gaps to fill before the cycle is complete. Dr. Davidson said few scientific data help us in a diagnosis of the relations of syphilis to nervous diseases, but the treatment by iodides and mercury helped in showing our suspicions had been justified. The Argyll Robertson pupil and lymphocytosis of cerebro-spinal fluid help to confirm the diagnosis. Theories of the relation between syphilis, tabes, and general paralysis of the insane were also touched upon and authorities quoted. In connection with the section of children's diseases, opportunity was taken to have a combined meeting, when a "Lantern Demonstration of the Brain in Amentia" was given by Dr. A. W. Campbell, of Sydney. The demonstration was valuable to each section, and followed a display of cases of juvenile cretins and mongolism by Dr. A. J. Wood. A paper entitled "Recent Investigations into the Pathology and Treatment of General Paralysis and Tabes Dorsalis," with original microscopic slides, by Dr. Ford Robertson, Pathologist to the Scottish Asylums, Edinburgh, was read by Dr. MacKeddie, the Pathologist of the Hospitals for Insane, Victoria. We hope to print this in its entirety. Dr. Flashman, of Sydney, in speaking to the paper, said:—"I think we must all regard it as a very high compliment to this section that Dr. Ford Robertson has found time to send us a paper and exhibits, and we trust that Dr. Robertson will look upon the request for a paper made to him by our Secretary as an acknowledgment on the part of this section of the high esteem in which he is held as a neuropathologist. We are all of us familiar with the great work of Dr. Ford Robertson in regard to general paralysis and tabes, and, on viewing the preparations of diphtheroid organisms shown in the next room, one cannot but admire the mastery of technique shown by Dr. Robertson, who, in almost every subject that he takes up, seems to be able to evolve a specially suitable method for his purpose. The granules shown in some of his preparations are most striking. Some time ago Dr. Eyre and myself made some investigations in regard to the presence of these organisms in the insane. For the purpose of that investigation we used blood serum tubes, and I think that our results can be compared with the results obtained by other investigators who have dealt with these organisms. Some of my more recent experiences, however, with Robertson's Byno-hæmoglobin Agar have convinced me that, when searching for the presence of a diphtheroid organism in any material, one more often gets a positive result with this medium than with ordinary agar or blood serum. As to the view I now take as to the rôle of these organisms in tabes and G.P., that will be expressed in a paper Dr. Latham and I intend presenting to the section later on, but I think I may here say that I feel that the subject of the frequency of the presence of diphtheroid organisms in the bodies of the insane should be again taken up, using especially Ford Robertson's own methods. Using the ordinary methods, Dr. Eyre and I have obtained certain results which I think we carefully and accurately arrived at, and which I still think can be relied on. On the grounds, however, that Ford Robertson still succeeds in finding the organism in a very large percentage of cases of G.P., and that I myself have occasionally been surprised to find a good growth on Byno-hæmoglobin when there was none of blood serum, I intend to again investigate the matter."

Dr. MacKeddie, Dr. Latham, Dr. G. A. Smith, Dr. Jones, and Dr. Beattie Smith also spoke. Following upon this Dr. Flashman read a paper, by himself and Dr. Latham, of New South Wales, on "The Effects Produced in Animals by Prolonged Administration of Diphtheroid Organisms and their Toxins," with microscopic slides. These slides and Dr. Robertson's were exhibited in a well arranged series of microscopes in a special room under Dr. MacKeddie and Dr. Flashman after the papers were read. Dr. Flashman's own paper is not yet to hand. Dr. MacKeddie, for want of time, kindly took his paper on "Craniometry of the Insane" as read.

Regret was felt that by error a demonstration of "Freezing Histological Methods for Small Laboratories" by Dr. Latham was forgotten at the last sectional meeting.

We think, with the evidence of work displayed in this section of congress, and the

congestion of good matter which had to be crowded out, that New South Wales, when we next meet, would do well to, as far as possible, specify and limit the work, in order that more benefit may be gained, and much labour not go unrequited.

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#### OBITUARY.

HARDINGE FRANK GIFFARD, M.A., F.S.A., Commissioner in Lunacy.

By the death of Mr. H. F. Giffard, from acute peritonitis, at Buxton on October 11th, the English Lunacy Commission has again been deprived of one of its members, who, although he had only been in office for eight years, had become the Senior Legal Commissioner on the lamented death of Mr. Urmson in September, 1907. Mr. Giffard was the son of the late Judge Giffard, and was born at Hampton Wick in 1860. He was educated at Merton College, Oxford, and was called to the bar in 1887. In the administration of 1886-92, and again in that of 1895, he acted as private secretary to his uncle, Lord Chancellor Halsbury. In the latter year he was appointed Secretary to the Lunacy Commission in succession to Mr. G. H. Urmson, and on the death of Mr. Frere in 1900 he became a member of the Board. He held sound views as to the duties of Lunacy Commissioners and their primary function in the guardianship of the insane, views which found expression in the evidence he gave before the Royal Commission on the Care and Control of the Feeble-minded. He was of sturdy physique, and fond of all forms of active exercise; but he was especially devoted to antiquarian research, which, with him, was more of a pursuit than a hobby. Doubtless the fact that he came of ancient lineage—for one Walter Giffard was a close friend of the Conqueror—and that many of his forbears had held high office in Church and State, stimulated his zeal in this study; and he was a prominent member of the Society of Antiquaries. It was therefore quite appropriate that he should have been laid to rest at Chittlehampton, in North Devon, of which the fine church contains monuments of the Giffards of the 17th century, whose ancient seat of Brightley is in the vicinity. Needless to add, too, that he was an enthusiastic Devonian. Mr. Giffard married in 1900, and has left a widow and two young children to mourn their loss.

S. C.

#### JAMES ADAM.

DR. J. ADAM, of West Malling Place, Kent, whose death it is our painful duty to record, was one of the oldest and best known members of our specialty.

Born at Perth in 1834, he obtained his medical education at the Edinburgh University, graduating with distinction. In 1857 he joined the Indian Medical Service, serving through the Mutiny. Quitting this service he became the Resident Medical Officer at Bethnall House Asylum in 1860, later becoming Senior Medical Officer and Acting Medical Superintendent of the female side of Colney Hatch.

In 1870 he was appointed Superintendent of the Metropolitan District Asylum at Caterham, where he remained until 1879, when he became Superintendent of the Crichton Royal Institution, Dumfries, and of the Southern Counties Asylum.

Retiring from public asylum work, Dr. Adam acquired in 1883 the West Malling Place Private Asylum, which he continued to direct until the onset of the illness that proved fatal.

The successive appointments held by Dr. Adam are sufficient evidence of his great professional capacity, which was manifested by untiring energy and zealous desire to improve the organisation of the institutions committed to his care. This was especially the case in regard to West Malling, which he practically reconstituted.

His literary contributions on Self-mutilation in Tuke's *Dictionary of Medicine*, and others in the *Journal of Mental Science*, *Lancet*, etc., are evidence of his interest in the scientific side of his life's work.

Dr. Adam, like many other private asylum superintendents, took an active part in the affairs of his locality, where his loss will be felt by a numerous circle of friends. He leaves a widow, four sons, and four daughters to mourn his loss. His own failure of health dated from the death, two years ago, of a son whose health