

circulation among the poor, under the impression that they could not afford to buy the written Word of God. Later he developed the idea that he was the Holy Ghost, and that it was his bounden duty to bite out the testicles of anybody he could find to save them from ultimate perdition. Finally a state of acute mania developed, and he died.

Dr. AVELINE stated, in reply to Dr. Paul, that the dose of iodide of potassium which he had prescribed in the case alluded to was 10 grs. three times a day, continued over a period of some months.

At the close of the proceedings the CHAIRMAN said he had the pleasurable duty of offering their kind host their thanks for having received them so hospitably.

Dr. MACBRYAN, in reply, assured the members that it had been a great pleasure to him to have received them that day. It would interest them to know that Kingsdown House was said to be the oldest licensed house in England, dating back to 1792.

The members dined together at Messrs. Fortt's restaurant, Bath, in the evening.

SCOTTISH DIVISION.

A meeting of the Scottish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association was held at Perth District Asylum, Murthly, on Friday, November 2nd, 1906.

The following members were present: Drs. Alcock, Carlyle Johnstone, Easterbrook, Goldie Scott, Gostwyck, Keay, Kerr, Macdonald, McIlwraith, Mackenzie, Marr, Parker, G. M. Robertson, J. M. Rutherford, and L. C. Bruce, Divisional Secretary.

Dr. Carlyle Johnstone was called to the chair.

Letters of apology were intimated from the President and Dr. Watson.

The minutes of last meeting were read, agreed to, and signed.

The following nominations were made: Drs. Turnbull and L. C. Bruce to be Representative Members of Council; Dr. Hamilton C. Marr to be Divisional Secretary; examiners in psychological medicine, Drs. Easterbrook and Oswald.

Dr. BRUCE showed a case of melancholia, and illustrated the disease process by charts; (1) of the urinary excretion of urea as against the nitrogen ingested in the food; (2) leucocyte charts, comprising that of the melancholic patient with charts compiled from sane persons who were at the time of observation suffering from known disease processes; (3) charts of opsonic indices in similar cases of melancholia to the patient shown, and in whom bacteria had been isolated to which the serum of the patients gave a definite agglutinative reaction; (4) charts of the opsonic indices in a case of chronic rheumatism and in a case of fissure of the tongue—both sane persons—were also shown and compared with the indices in the cases of mental disease.

An interesting discussion followed.

The Division appointed Drs. Ireland, Urquhart, and Ford Robertson, with powers to add to their number, to represent the Division at the International Congress for Psychiatry and Neurology to be held at Amsterdam in September, 1907.

The project of a joint meeting with the American Medico-Psychological Society was mentioned, and a letter was read from Dr. A. E. Macdonald.

The meeting terminated with votes of thanks to the Chairman and Dr. Bruce.

The members afterwards dined at the Station Hotel, Perth.

IRISH DIVISION.

The Autumn Meeting of the Irish Division was held on Monday, November 5th, 1906, at the Royal College of Physicians, Dublin, by the kind permission of the President and Fellows of the College. Dr. Conolly Norman occupied the chair, and there were also present Drs. G. T. Revington, F. E. Rainsford, G. F. West, T. Drapes, E. D. O'Neill, R. L. Graham, J. Mills, R. R. Leeper, W. Graham, J. J. Fitzgerald, M. J. Nolan, H. M. Eustace, and W. R. Dawson (Hon. Sec.).

Dr. NORMAN said that before the minutes were read he would ask the permission of the meeting to propose the following resolution: "That this meeting desires

to express the sorrow felt by every member of the Association at the death of our distinguished colleague Dr. Oscar Woods, ex-President of the Association. We desire to convey to Mrs. Woods and the other members of our lamented friend's family our sincere sympathy in the irreparable loss which they have sustained." He was sure that he spoke the mind of the whole Association in this expression of condolence.

Dr. O'NEILL, in seconding the resolution, said that the Association could ill afford to lose Dr. Woods. He was a conscientious man, a hard worker and a good friend, and his death was an irreparable loss to the profession and his family.

The resolution was passed unanimously in silence,

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, confirmed, and signed.

The SECRETARY reported shortly on a matter arising out of them.

It was proposed by Dr. RAINSFORD, seconded by Dr. REVINGTON, and carried, that the next meeting of the Division be held at Portrane Asylum, on the second Thursday in April, 1907, as the members were of opinion that this date would be more convenient than Monday, April 22nd, the date originally fixed, the President's consent to the change to be secured.

Referring to the recent Report of the Viceregal Poor Law Reform Commission, Dr. NOLAN thought it satisfactory that the Commission had adopted the recommendations of the Committee appointed by the Irish Division, so far as to advise that all lunatics should be placed in asylums and looked after by a resident medical officer.

Dr. WEST then read a paper on "The Utilisation of Asylum Sewage," in which he advocated the employment of a filtration system and the use of the solid products for manure.

The CHAIRMAN called on Dr. Revington to give the results of the system in use at Dundrum.

Dr. REVINGTON said that the precipitation system there produced a good effluent which did not decompose and was free from smell, but that the manure would only grow green vegetables, not potatoes, being a "cold manure." It would also grow grass, but of poor quality. The fluid was also useless as manure. He had tried cow-manure and human manure on potatoes side by side. The cost of working was 4d. per week per head for the population of 200.

Dr. DRAPES had obtained poor results from the use of cesspool contents as manure. He alluded to the rapidity with which sewage was sterilised in a river, but had found the drinking of such water unsafe. Spreading sewage on land had been tried at Waterford Asylum, but discarded owing to the smell.

Dr. DAWSON thought that the human manure having already been decomposed, the conditions were not the same as with cow-manure.

Dr. LEEPER had found the septic tank system work well, but had not tried the products on land.

Dr. RAINSFORD said that fresh sewage had been tried as manure at Bristol Workhouse, but found unsatisfactory owing to the smell. The infectious tract in a river extended at least fifteen miles below the point of sewage discharge.

Dr. GRAHAM read an interesting paper entitled "The Psychology of Christian Science." He traced the growth of the cult in spite of argument and ridicule, and expressed the view that, though seven tenths of the so-called recoveries must be rejected, there existed a grain of truth in Mrs. Eddy's teachings, that grain being the power of the mind to control the bodily state, a power recognised by all who practise suggestion.

After some remarks by Drs. Norman, O'Neill, and West, Dr. Drapes agreed that suggestion explains a good deal, though he thought that certain facts related, for example by Crookes, contravene physical laws. He mentioned an instance of a man suffering from hay fever who improved after writing to a Christian Science expert, but relapsed on finding that the latter had not received his letter.

Dr. NOLAN thought there was a further element which could not be quite understood, and related the case of a tabetic patient who was judged by an eminent medical man to be dying, but who walked into his study three weeks later after a visit to St. Winifred's Well. A neighbour said to have been similarly affected also went and was improved.

Dr. RAINSFORD alluded to the large nervous element in disease as explaining Christian Science "cures."

Dr. NORMAN thought that the interest, other than metaphysical, of the new faith consisted in the vogue it had attained. Cases like that quoted by Dr. Nolan sometimes improved greatly without aid at all, as shown in that of a tabetic general paralytic of fifteen years' standing, who was quite helpless and suffered from bed-sores, but began to get better and recovered power of walking. Evidence of the dependence of well-marked physical disease on mental causes was accumulating—*e.g.*, some cases of Bright's disease.

Dr. GRAHAM, in replying, said he had heard a Christian Scientist claim that a tumour had been cured.

Dr. NOLAN brought forward a study of a case of melancholic *Folie raisonnante*.

Dr. RAINSFORD substituted for the paper on the agenda one entitled "Clinical Records of Four Cases of General Paralysis of the Insane."

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the President and Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians for the use of the college hall.

In the evening the members dined together at the Shelbourne Hotel.

THE MILAN INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS.

REPORTED BY W. W. IRELAND, M.D.

THE second International Congress for the Assistance of the Insane was held at Milan from September 26th to the 30th. The different chambers of the University Bocconi had been arranged for the use and comfort of the visitors. The meetings were held in the great hall, a circular chamber well lighted and adapted for acoustic purposes. In the upper story there were some interesting models and plans of asylums. Dr. Augusto Tamburini, of Reggio-Emilia, discharged the duties of President with his usual address and ability, and much of the success of the Congress was owing to the unwearied energy and courteous attention of the secretaries, Dr. G. C. Ferrari, of Bologna, and Dr. P. Gonzales, of Milan. There were about three hundred adherents on the list of the Congress, but the attendance was seldom greater than fifty or sixty. Although the larger number was composed of Italians, there were physicians from every country in Europe and America. There were official delegates from France, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Holland, Belgium, Portugal, Greece, Roumania, Sweden, and Luxembourg, who were entertained at a banquet by the Committee. After the opening address of the President, Dr. Frank, of Zurich, read a paper advocating the formation of an International Committee to collect information about the causes of insanity with a view to prophylaxis. He expressed the hope that this would lead to the formation of an International Institution to ascertain and combat the causes of insanity. Professor Zuccharelli, of Naples, stated that he had already made a similar proposal to the International Congress for Criminal Anthropology at Amsterdam. Dr. Easterbrook had communicated to the Milan Congress a scheme for International statistics of the insane. Professor Lombroso considered that little would be gained from such an assembly, but Dr. Frank's proposal, supported by Professor Bianchi, Dr. Percy Smith, Dr. Cassaves, and Dr. van Deventer, was eventually carried. Dr. Lombard offered the use of his chateau on Lake Lugano for the meetings of the Committee. The subjects discussed at the Congress included the general care of the insane and idiotic epileptics, criminals, and drunkards. There were eight sittings; besides Italian the French, English, and German languages were allowed.

As the number of papers read or communicated was considerable, we can only indicate some which strike us as more interesting. Much attention was given to the family treatment of the insane, which, it was hoped, would afford a relief to the expense of building new asylums for the ever-increasing number of lunatics. Dr. Agostoni, Superintendent of the asylum at Perugia, stated that the out-of-door treatment of harmless lunatics in Umbria had been given up. The subsidies were ill-spent, and the use of spoiled maize in the dietary was a cause of danger and degeneration.

In a communication by Drs. Tamburini and Guicciardi it was stated that, in spite of the obligatory instruction of attendants and guardians, the family care of the insane had not been attended with the desirable success save about the asylums