

A general discussion took place on matters at present affecting asylum administration, and a scheme of reduced working hours for the nursing staff in asylums was recommended.

The SECRETARY pointed out that a committee, drawn from recognised medical bodies in Scotland, had been appointed for the purpose of considering the proposals under discussion for the establishment of a Ministry of Health, and that he considered that the Scottish Division of the Association had strong claims to be represented on such a committee. After some discussion it was unanimously agreed that the Secretary should communicate with the Secretary of the committee requesting that the Division should be represented, and Lieut.-Col. Keay was nominated as representative.

It was also agreed that a small committee, composed of Lieut.-Col. Keay, Dr. G. M. Robertson and Dr. Campbell should be appointed to act as a Watching Committee *re* the Ministry of Health Bill.

A vote of thanks to the President for presiding concluded the business of the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The following communication from Sir H. Bryan Donkin has been forwarded to the Editors for publication :

It is greatly to be regretted that my article on the " Factors of Criminal Actions " was published in the *Journal of Mental Science* only a few days after the lamented death of Dr. Charles Goring. This article consisted mainly in a reply to Dr. Goring's criticisms of a paper by me which he published in the *Journal* for April, 1918. My reply was written in the summer of 1918, and the proof was corrected by me many months before the article was printed off for the April number of this year, some time previously to Dr. Goring's death on May 5th.

But for this unavoidable concurrence of dates my article would have been published later, with an expression of my personal sorrow for the loss of Dr. Goring and my regret that no further elucidation of the controversy between us could now be made.

H. BRYAN DONKIN.

June 12th, 1919.

PRISON REFORM.

THE POLICY OF THE HOWARD ASSOCIATION.

IN a statement of policy, just issued, the Howard Association, which recently celebrated its jubilee, says that the two main reasons for maintaining a penal system are the protection of the community and the reformation of the offender; and because society cannot obtain real protection unless the offender either be permanently segregated or permanently reclaimed, it follows that the chief business of our penal methods is to secure the reformation of offenders. To this end the Association urges that prison governors and their subordinates shall be chosen as possessing special aptitude for reclaiming men and women, and that a certain amount of freedom to experiment shall be permitted. The Association instances the striking results recently obtained in American prisons, notably at Sing Sing, New York, and in British prisons advocates abolition of the " Silence Rule," which is seldom observed, and breeds deceit in prisoners and warders alike; the shortening to a very brief term of the period of separate confinement; more free intercourse from judicious persons from outside; extension of the functions now exercised by the paid prison Chaplain to persons of all denominations, paid or unpaid, having the necessary gifts and calling; adoption of the Indeterminate Sentence, ensuring that offenders shall be released when they are fit to be released, and the adoption of the Parole System, that they may receive guidance during the early days of liberty. An extension of the Probation System is advocated, together with the appointment of more and better-trained and better-paid Probation Officers. The Association shows that the easy method of making prison the alternative to payment of a fine bears much more heavily on the poor than the rich, and urges

that in certain well-defined cases it shall be compulsory on Justices to allow time in which to pay fines. In cases of fraud, theft, and embezzlement, magistrates should more often order compensation to be paid by the offender, by instalments, as in the case of civil debt. This course would supply the element of deterrence, now often felt to be lacking in the system of probation. Copies of the Statement of Policy of the Howard Association may be obtained on application to the Secretary at 43, Devonshire Chambers, Bishopsgate, E.C. 2.

 OBITUARY.

JOSEPH WIGLESWORTH, M.D., F.R.C.P.,
Former Medical Superintendent, County Asylum, Rainhill, Liverpool.

By GEO. H. SAVAGE.

One by one our senior fellows and former leaders are dropping off, and it is our duty to note and record the work they have done. Time passes so quickly that the milestones of progress are not noticed by the hurrying workers of to-day.

First I will refer to the official position of Dr. Wiglesworth.

After a distinguished studentship at Liverpool and St. Thomas's Hospital he was for a time House-Surgeon at the Royal Infirmary at Liverpool. He was then appointed Assistant Medical Officer, under Dr. Rogers, at the County Asylum, Rainhill, Lancashire. After some years he succeeded Dr. Rogers as head of the asylum, and was appointed Lecturer on Insanity at the Liverpool School of Medicine. He was President of the Association 1902-1903, and Member of the Neurological Section of the Royal Society of Medicine. He contributed to Tuke's *Dictionary of Psychological Medicine* and to our Journal. He also wrote an article in *Brain* and contributed to the *Liverpool Medical Journal*. He was a regular attendant at the meetings and spoke occasionally at them.

Next I must refer to his original work. This was both pathological and clinical. He studied very carefully the histology of general paralysis of the insane, and described very accurately the vascular and other changes present in that disease. The relationship of it to syphilis had not been established, but Wiglesworth with some diffidence traced a connection between the two. Probably he will remain known as the first to point out that pachymeningitis is not an inflammatory disease, and all authorities now recognise his work on subdural hæmorrhages. He contributed several articles on the subject which appeared in the *Journal of Mental Science*. Another very important contribution by him was on adolescent insanity and the relationship of delusions and hallucinations to the mental disorders. He recognised the teaching of Hughlings Jackson showing that defect in the highest centres of control led to over-action of the lower centres, and he inferred that maniacal conditions depended on disorder in the highest centres. On the other hand, the mental affections chiefly marked by sensory disorders he believed to originate in disease of the organs of sense and their representative centres. This is certainly supported by the fact that there may be persistent hallucinations of all kinds without any apparent defect of memory or intellect apart from the delusions depending on the sensory disorders.

Wiglesworth contributed to the Journal various clinical records of interest. He supplied elaborate tables in reference to uterine disease and insanity—tables which are still of value. His observations and records are models of careful work whatever he did he did thoroughly.

As President of the Association he took for the subject of his address "Hereditry and Evolution"—he was, at the time, a firm believer or follower of Weismann—but the most valuable part of the address was the special reference to the influence of the male and female parent on the neurotic tendency of the offspring. He confirmed the general belief that the mother passed on the neurotic taint to the female children more than to the males, and though the father did to some degree pass on a greater tendency to nervous disorders to sons than to daughters, yet the daughters run a great risk even from fathers.