

## Part IV.—Notes and News.

### THE ROYAL MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

#### QUARTERLY MEETING.

A QUARTERLY MEETING of the Association was held at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, on Thursday, May 17, 1934, the President, Dr. F. Douglas Turner, occupying the Chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and were signed by the President.

#### OBITUARY.

The PRESIDENT said he had again the sad duty of referring to the death of several members of the Association. The first was Dr. Peter Macdonald, who was President of the Association in 1907. He was a very distinguished man in the Association world, and had for long served as Secretary to the South-Western Division.

Next was Dr. Ogilvy, late of the Long Grove Mental Hospital, Epsom, whose death was recorded in the Press only a few days ago.

Then there was Dr. Lavers, who at one time was a member of the Council of the Association, but unfortunately had not recently been able to attend the Association's meetings.

The last name was that of Prof. Tanzi, of Italy, who was one of the Association's Honorary Members.

As a tribute to the memory of the deceased members, those present stood in their places for a few seconds.

#### MATTERS ARISING AT THE COUNCIL MEETING.

The PRESIDENT intimated that Dr. Sybille Yates, of the British Psychological Society, had written calling attention to a social function, in the form of a reception and dance, which that body proposed to hold in the autumn, and in which it was suggested that members of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association might co-operate. Particulars would be supplied later.

The Annual Congress of French-speaking Alienists and Neurologists was being held at Lyons from July 16 to 21. Dr. James had been asked to be the Association's delegate. A cordial invitation was also extended to any other members of the Association who might be able to attend.

An invitation had also been received from the German Psychiatric Association asking that the Association might be represented at its Annual Meeting at Münster, which would take place from May 23 to 26. No representative was appointed, and the matter was left in the hands of the General Secretary of the Association.

A letter had been received from the Central Association for Mental Welfare concerning the Report of the Departmental Committee on Sterilization. The Central Association was proposing to set up an *ad hoc* Committee, chiefly with the object of pressing forward efforts to secure legislation on the lines of the Report. He, the President, thought the Eugenics Society had appointed representatives on it, but the British Medical Association had not done so, and, he thought, was not likely to do so. He believed that the County Councils' Association and the Municipal Corporations had also been asked to appoint representatives, and their own Association had been invited to appoint three representatives. It was felt by the Council that, as the most important body with knowledge of the subject, it would be best that the Association should be represented on such a Committee; but in order to ascertain what were the present views of members on the subject, the Council had decided to send out a brief questionnaire to all members of the Association, to which it was hoped all members would be able to give definite replies.

The following resolution had been passed by the South-Western Division of the Association: "That, having regard to the lack of uniformity in the local methods of administration of the Mental Health Services, and to the great desirability, in the interests of psychiatry, of such services being uniformly subject to the direction of psychiatrists, the Council of the Association should set up a special Committee to report upon the organization of local mental health services,

and suggest such representations upon the subject as might properly be made to the appropriate central authority." It was felt by the Council that this was an urgent matter, and that therefore the sooner the Association got to work upon it, the better.

The date of the Annual Meeting of the Association, at Northampton, had been altered to the first week in July. He hoped that as many of the members as possible would support Dr. Rambaut on that occasion.

The Council had given the Research and Clinical Committee permission to revise the Statistical Tables of the Association.

He had further to report that under the auspices of the Mental Deficiency Committee of the Association a very successful meeting had been held at the State Institution, Rampton, when over a hundred members were present—a very considerable muster. It was a great satisfaction to find such support at the first meeting, not only by those specializing in that branch, but also by members generally.

As President he had visited the Scottish Division the previous week, and it was a pleasure to him to report that that Division was in a most flourishing position, and the members of it extended to him personally a very cordial welcome, and he thoroughly enjoyed the visit.

#### ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS.

For this election Dr. J. Ivison Russell and Dr. Stewart acted as scrutineers. The following were elected ordinary members of the Association :

McLEMAN, JOHN, M.B., Ch.B.Edin., Assistant Medical Officer, St. Andrew's Hospital, Northampton.

EUSTACE, HENRY JOCELYN, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., Dublin University.

(Each *proposed* by Drs. Daniel F. Rambaut, Norman R. Phillips, Daniel J. O'Connell and Ruby O. Stern.)

#### THE FIFTEENTH MAUDSLEY LECTURE.

The Maudsley Lecture was delivered in the Hall of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Manson House, Portland Place, by the Right Hon. Lord Macmillan, P.C., M.A., LL.D., Lord of Appeal in Ordinary.

The PRESIDENT, in introducing Lord Macmillan, alluded to the Lecturer's work in the cause of mental health throughout the country, apart from the immense amount of work he has done for social good in other directions.

LORD MACMILLAN then delivered the lecture, entitled "**The Professional Mind**".

Dr. W. F. MENZIES, in proposing a vote of thanks to the lecturer said: To propose a vote of thanks to Lord Macmillan for his brilliant discourse this afternoon is a great honour, but also it carries with it a heavy responsibility, and I would that such an orator as Sir James Crichton-Browne had been able to take my place on this occasion.

Lord Macmillan began by exemplifying the well-known physiological law of the summation of subliminal stimuli, and then he went on to explain the evolution of action: first you practise hard by imitation; this becomes a habit, and ends up by becoming an instinct. The rest of his discourse was an apologia for the professions, especially the medical profession. And I think he is, perhaps, not the right man to do it, because he does not show the worst of us. It is perfectly notorious that Lord Macmillan is gifted with a degree of fairness and a capacity for seeing the other side of every question with which he has to deal, that very few men in our day and generation possess. (Applause.) However, we sometimes like to think that we are bigger when we go out of the room than we were when we came into it, and I expect that will be our thought to-day.

Lord Macmillan began his educational life, I think I am right in saying, at Greenock Academy, a very famous old school which I used to hear about from my grandfather, who held one of the livings in that town, and his father was a most illustrious literary man as well as a clergyman, an LL.D. as well as a D.D. I think he made an error in not sending his son to my old school, Fettes. However, his son did his best to make up for that in later life by consenting to act on the Board of Governors. I sometimes wonder what would have happened if he had imbibed that awful public school spirit; he would have carried everything before him at Oxford, and he would either have been Master of Balliol or Archbishop of Canterbury. But, let us confess, he has done more good to mankind in his present position than he would have done in either of those professions.

In 1893, I think it was, Lord Macmillan took his M.A. at Edinburgh, with First-class Honours, and proceeded to the LL.B. Glasgow, and again was the most distinguished Bachelor of Laws of his year. In 1897 he was admitted to the Faculty of Advocates, and almost at once he established a reputation at the Scottish Junior Bar. He acted in many capacities; he was Editor of the *Judicial Review*, and took a particular interest in the Advocates' Library, and was

successful in getting it accepted, first by a report and then by the National Libraries Act, to be the National Library for Scotland. That was in 1925.

He took silk in 1912, and at once advanced to the front rank of King's Counsel. Since then he has been Chairman of innumerable committees of inquiry or Parliamentary commissions; the Royal Commission on Mental Disorders in 1924, the Shipbuilding Employers' *versus* Trade Unions in 1927, the Coal Disputes Commission, and so on, all characterized by this intense sense of fairness. Everyone in the country trusts Lord Macmillan; employers and workmen are equally satisfied with every judgment he gives. There has been no man in my seventy years of life who has held the confidence of both sides to the extent that he has.

Before this time there began that tug-of-war between England and Scotland for the possession of Lord Macmillan. He is one of those very rare examples of the Scotsman who has deserted his native heath and come to England. (Laughter.) But mark the difference. We come in the hope of gathering in the shekels; he came because he had already attained such a position that England demanded his services as being too great to be accommodated in Scotland. He was forced by circumstances to take up the larger field.

In 1924, as you know, he accepted the Lord Advocate's position on the specific condition that he should not act in any political way; and in 1930 came the crowning act of grace from His Majesty, and "Mr." Macmillan became Lord Macmillan of Aberfeldy, a Privy Councillor and a Lord of Appeal.

Lord Macmillan always took a great interest in our specialty, and the first degree he took was in mental philosophy; when he was still a young barrister I find he used to give lectures to students, on "Searches", where he pointed out how careful we should be when we put depressed cases to bed. In his "Provisional Orders" he points out that patients do not get enough pudding for dinner. He was always interested in "Conveyancing", and so he recommends that every hospital should have a motor 'bus to take the patients to picnics.

I do not want to criticize the 1924 Commission's Report, but I think that if he had used the whip more freely to his team we might have had something better than the present Section V of the Mental Treatment Act. Upon that, however, I will say nothing, but will conclude by asking you to pass a hearty vote of thanks to Lord Macmillan as an eloquent orator, a sympathetic leader and an astute judge. (Loud applause.)

Dr. HENRY DEVINE said: Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen—I do not conceive that it is the function or the duty of the seconder of a vote of thanks to delay you or our learned lecturer very long. But on such an occasion one should be absolutely sincere.

We have all listened this afternoon to a remarkable address, and one full of psychological insight, with the greatest possible interest. Every sentence Lord Macmillan uttered was illuminating. I think that the Committee responsible for appointing the Maudsley Lecturer have done very wisely in inviting from time to time distinguished members of other professions than medicine to address us. Though this is called a "popular" lecture, it is, in fact, a very learned discourse, revealing a profound insight into human nature which many of us psychiatrists might envy. The lawyer and the psychiatrist are very closely allied, since the members of both these professions are dealing with maladjusted individuals. Our methods of dealing with these maladjustments naturally differ from those of the legal profession, but in many cases the result is the same, since neither of us manages to cure in a considerable number of instances the mentally or morally distorted clients with whom we have to deal. (Laughter.)

Thank you very much indeed, Lord Macmillan; we have thoroughly enjoyed your address. (Applause.)

The vote of thanks was carried by acclamation.

LORD MACMILLAN, in reply, said: Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, I should like to say, in the language of your own craft, that the reaction of the particular specimen of the professional mind which has been exhibited on the platform this afternoon to your very cordial reception is one of deep appreciation. (Applause.)

#### SOUTH-EASTERN DIVISION.

THE SPRING MEETING of the South-Eastern Division of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association was held at Ticehurst House, Ticehurst, Sussex, on May 29, 1934.

During the forenoon members inspected the Hospital and Grounds. They were afterwards entertained to lunch. The loyal toast was followed by that of "Our Hosts", proposed by Dr. SERGEANT. Col. NEWINGTON replied.

The meeting then took place.

The minutes of the last meeting were taken as read, and confirmed.