

IRISH DIVISION.

THE SPRING MEETING of the Irish Division was held on April 6th, 1922, at Hampstead and Highfield Private Mental Hospitals, by the kind invitation of Drs. H. and W. Eustace.

Dr. H. Eustace presided.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

A letter of thanks was received from Dr. Colles, K.C., acknowledging the resolution passed at last meeting and sent to him.

The resignation of Dr. Hetherington, of Londonderry, was accepted with regret.

The meeting next proceeded to elect an Hon. Secretary and two Representative Members of Council. Dr. L. Gavin and Dr. W. N. Eustace were named scrutineers, and the Chairman declared that Dr. R. R. Leeper was re-elected Hon. Secretary and Drs. H. R. C. Rutherford and P. O'Doherty were elected Representative Members of Council for the ensuing year.

The meeting next proceeded to elect an ordinary member of the Association, and, on a ballot being taken, Patrick Daniel Sullivan, F.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.Irel., Medical Superintendent, Verville, Clontarf, Dublin, was elected an ordinary member.

The following dates were fixed for the meetings of the Division for the ensuing year:

Summer Meeting to take place at Mullingar Asylum on July 6th, 1922 (*if circumstances permit*).

Autumn Meeting, November 30th, 1922.

Spring Meeting, April 26th, 1923.

Dr. H. R. C. RUTHERFORD proceeded to read his communication on "The Nature of the Psychopathic Inheritance."

The paper was discussed by all the members present. Dr. H. M. EUSTACE gave his experiences of the treatment of the insane by thyroid extract as originally carried out at Morningside Asylum by the late Sir Thomas Clouston.⁽¹⁾ All of the speakers congratulated Dr. Rutherford upon the good results he had achieved and for the very interesting communication he had brought before the meeting. Dr. RUTHERFORD having replied to the various points raised by the speakers, a cordial vote of thanks to Drs. H. and W. Eustace for their kindness and hospitality in entertaining the Division was passed unanimously.

PARLIAMENTARY NEWS.

April 11th, 1922: Ex-service patients in West Ham Asylum.—Mr. LEONARD LYLE asked the Minister of Pensions to state the actual maladies from which the 61 ex-service men now in West Ham Asylum were suffering; whether there was any hope that they might eventually regain their normal condition; whether they were periodically examined to that end; whether any of them were disabled; if so, how many; whether they were local men; if so, how often were their relatives allowed to see them; if not, would he have them transferred to a place nearer their own home; and whether any of them were untraced.—Sir A. MOND replied: There are at present 55 service patients in the West Ham Mental Hospital whose cases may be classified as follows: dementia præcox 23, melancholia 11, mania 4, delusional insanity 6, general paralysis 5, epilepsy 3, secondary dementia 3. About 20 per cent. of these men may be expected to recover, and all cases are periodically examined. Two of the patients are disabled and both are local men. Relatives are allowed to visit on any day, and there is only one case in which no relatives can be traced.

April 12th, 1922: Discharges from asylums.—Mr. ROBERT RICHARDSON asked the Minister of Health whether, in the matter of dealings with applications for the discharge of patients from asylums, the question was decided by the local visiting committees sitting fortnightly at the asylum and in touch with its inmates, or whether any influence was exercised in this respect by the central London County Council Committee sitting at Arundel Street; and what were the functions pertaining to the latter body.—Sir A. MOND replied: Under the L.C.C. (General Powers) Act, 1915, all the duties of a visiting committee under the Lunacy Acts,

(¹) The method was devised by Dr. L. C. Bruce.—Eds.