

November 7th (Mon.): Psychoanalysis—general theory of Freud—psychology of dreams.

November 15th: Mental conflict—repression—symptom formation—abreaction—transference.

November 22nd: Transference and suggestion—theories of Jung and Adler.

November 29th: Theories of McDougall, Myers, Rivers, and others of the British School.

December 6th: Nature of Personality—psychotherapy and ethics—conclusion.

PARLIAMENTARY NEWS.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

June 28th, 1921: Mental patients.—Sir A. SHIRLEY BENN asked whether the next-of-kin of private patients in mental institutions, including the next-of-kin of ex-service men, were informed by the lunacy authorities that they possessed the privilege conferred upon them by Section 71 of the Lunacy Act, 1890, of directing the discharge of the patient, provided he could not be proved to be dangerous and unfit to be at large.—Sir A. MOND assumed the reference to be to Section 72. As regards private patients generally, this provided for the discharge of the patient by the person on whose petition the reception order was made. As regards ex-service men, he recalled the answer he gave on June 16th to the effect that when a patient was sufficiently recovered to raise the question of his discharge, he was informed of the legal position.

July 6th: Married persons in lunatic asylums.—The HOME SECRETARY was unable to state, in answer to a question by Mr. Rendall, how many married persons there are in the lunatic asylums in England and Wales, and how many of these had been certified for over five years, but he promised to try to get the information.

August 3rd: The administration of asylums.—Dr. McDONALD asked if the attention of the Minister of Health had been called to a publication by Dr. Montagu Lomax containing grave charges of inhumanity in the administration of our asylums, and as these charges were specific and the alleged inhumanity was inferred rather than witnessed by Dr. Lomax, would he cause inquiries to be made as to their truth in order to relieve the anxiety of many of the public who had relatives confined in these institutions.—Sir A. MOND replied that his attention had been called to the statement in the book. The visiting committee of the asylum at which Dr. Lomax was employed as *locum tenens*, and to which he evidently referred, had already been asked by the Board of Control for their observations; as soon as these had been received he would consider what further action was necessary.

August 5th: Service patients in mental institutions.—Col. WEDGWOOD asked the Ministry of Pensions how it happened that, in default of any authority possessed by him to intervene in matters coming within the scope of the Lunacy Acts, a medical officer from pensions headquarters joined in the visits paid by the Lunacy Commissioners, and was invited to report on the mental condition of service patients in county asylums; and would he, in view of the admitted irregularity of such procedure, take steps to put an end to unauthorised decisions emanating from pensions officials, where such intervention was directed to the release of ex-service men from unjustified detention.—Mr. MACPHERSON replied that the medical inspector of his department, who, by the courtesy of the Board of Control, visited mental institutions in which ex-service men were under treatment, did not intervene in any way in matters coming within the Lunacy Law, but acted solely in the interests of "service patients" as pensioners. On the particular occasion which he understood that Col. Wedgwood had in mind it was known to the Board of Control that the Ministry inspector was about to visit the hospital, and they took the opportunity of availing themselves of his opinion on the case. Such opinion was in no sense a decision, nor was there any irregularity in the procedure of obtaining or furnishing it. The arrangements for the visiting of asylums by a Ministry official were in the best interests of ex-service men, and it was, moreover

one which was considered and approved by the recent Departmental Committee of inquiry.

August 11th; Vaccine treatment of lunacy.—Mr. GOULD asked whether the attention of the Minister of Health had been drawn to the articles in the press in reference to the cure of lunacy by vaccine injections; whether he was aware of the allegations that many potentially healthy-minded persons were needlessly confined in an asylum because of the lack of proper curative treatment; and whether he would initiate an investigation into the Lunacy Laws and asylum administration with the object of making such treatment available to the mentally afflicted confined in asylums.—Sir A. MOND said he had seen the article. There was no obstacle to the use of vaccine in any case in which that form of treatment was considered suitable by the medical authorities of an asylum. He had under consideration the question of possible reforms in lunacy administration and treatment.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the 'Journal of Mental Science.'

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—Most of your readers have been interested in Dr. Lomax's "*Experiences of an Asylum Doctor*" and the comments of various newspapers on its contents.

On pages 126-7 Dr. Lomax refers to Section 283 of the Lunacy Act 1890 and purports to quote this section. But he omits entirely sub-section 3, and quotes sub-section 4 (which can only be read in connection with sub-section 3) as sub-section 3.

Starting with a fallacy he devotes a considerable space of the chapter on "asylum food" to an assertion that a visiting committee may under this section increase the ordinary rate of maintenance in order to devote the excess to the upkeep and repair of the institution, while neglecting the food and personal requirements of the patients. Anyone who has a working acquaintance with the Lunacy Acts knows that this is not the case.

Yours faithfully,

H. F. KEENE.

13, ARUNDEL ST.,
STRAND, W.C. 2;
October 21st, 1921.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

Annual General Meeting.—First week in July, 1922, at Edinburgh.

Quarterly Meetings.—November 22nd, 1921; February 23rd, 1922; May 25th, 1922.

South-Western Division.—October 28th, 1921, at Bristol Mental Hospital, Fishponds, Bristol; April 28th, 1922.

Scottish Division.—November, 18th, 1921, at Edinburgh.

Irish Division.—November 3rd, 1921; April 6th, 1922; July 6th, 1922.

NOTICES BY THE REGISTRAR.

Nursing Certificates.—The next examinations will be held as follows:

Preliminary November 7th, 1921.

Final November 14th, 1921.

Attention is drawn to the rule that the written examinations must commence not later than 10 a.m.

The new handbook for mental nurses will not be ready until early in 1922.

The Preliminary Examination (*i.e.*, the first of the First Examinations under the New Regulations), to be held in May, 1922, will be according to the syllabus of the present Preliminary Examination.