

Part IV.—Notes and News.

THE ROYAL MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

QUARTERLY MEETING.

THE usual Quarterly Meeting of the Association was held on Wednesday, May 16, 1928, at the House of the British Medical Association, Tavistock Square, London, under the Presidency of Dr. Hamilton Marr, F.R.F.P.S.

The Council met the same morning and the various Committees on the previous day.

THE MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting, having already appeared in the Journal, were taken as read and approved and signed by the President.

OBITUARY.

THE PRESIDENT said he now had the sad task of announcing the deaths of members, several of whom had departed since the last meeting.

Sir David Ferrier.

In the first place, a very famous Honorary Member of the Association died on March 19, namely, Sir David Ferrier. It was quite unnecessary for the speaker, to refer at all fully to the work and career of Sir David, as there would appear in the next issue of the Journal a memoir and portrait of him.

Dr. Landel Rose Oswald.

Another deceased member was Dr. Oswald, who was an ordinary member from 1890 to 1926. Dr. Oswald was formerly Medical Superintendent of the Royal Asylum at Glasgow, and died on March 24. For many years he, the President, was closely associated with him. Dr. Oswald was the most brilliant graduate in medicine of his year at Glasgow University, and all who came into contact with him had for him the greatest admiration. But Dr. Oswald also possessed great administrative powers, and those qualities which made the true gentleman. It was a great sorrow to hear of his death. Yet, after all, the end came as a great relief, as he endured much suffering in later years.

Dr. DONALD ROSS said that, as the President had already remarked, Dr. Oswald was a most brilliant student in Glasgow University, and he carried that brilliance throughout the remainder of his career. He was a man of great intellectual alertness and ability, and of a most virile personality; in addition, he was one of the ablest debaters this Association had ever had. It was, however, more particularly in personal relationships that one learned to appreciate Dr. Oswald. He was a very strict disciplinarian, yet no man could be more considerate towards assistants or be a more staunch friend in times of stress and trouble. During the last few years he had been absent from the Association's meetings, the reason being that he was laid aside by a painful and distressing illness. Those who knew Dr. Oswald respected him greatly, and, remembering his sufferings at the last, they could not help feeling relieved that he had now passed to his rest.

Dr. Alexander Simpson.

The next name was that of Dr. Alexander Simpson, who was an ordinary member from 1901 to 1927. Dr. Simpson, a Scotsman, was born and educated in Aberdeen. From 1901 to 1923 he was Medical Superintendent of the Lancashire County Mental Hospital, Winwick. A capable administrator, he was devoted to his profession and was regarded as the soul of honour and loyalty.

The following also have died, but the news of their death only reached us recently :

Dr. Alexander Lawrence.

Dr. Lawrence, who had been an ordinary member since 1870, died on November 23, 1926. He was Superintendent of the Cheshire County Asylum, Chester, from 1895 to 1910. He was a Banffshire man and sought his fortunes in England, and was 81 at his death. He was one of the few remaining members who joined the Association in the 70's. He was a great administrator, sportsman and naturalist, and was highly respected as a psychiatrist. He was beloved in Cullen, his place of birth, and in Chester, his adopted city.

Dr. J. W. Stirling Christie.

Dr. Christie, who had been an ordinary member of the Association since 1880, died on October 17 last. He was Medical Superintendent of the County Mental Hospital, Stafford, from 1887 to 1919. Of reserved disposition, his energies were entirely devoted to his hospital, over which he presided with skill and discernment.

Dr. Henry Albert Layton.

Dr. Layton was an ordinary member since 1883, and died on December 8 last. He was Medical Superintendent of the County Asylum, Bodmin, Cornwall, from 1897 to 1914. He was a dignified and able physician, greatly respected by all.

He, the President, moved that letters of sympathy be sent to the nearest relatives of the deceased members.

This was carried. Members rose in their places as a sign of their sympathy.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The PRESIDENT announced that the Annual Meeting of the Association would take place, under the presidency of Dr. Shaw Bolton, at Wakefield, on July 10, 11, 12 and 13.

H.R.H. PRINCESS MARY AND MENTAL NURSING.

The PRESIDENT proposed that Her Royal Highness Princess Mary, Viscountess Lascelles, should be awarded the Association's nursing medal in gold and the Certificate in Mental Nursing (Honorary).

This was unanimously approved amid applause.

THE REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

The PRESIDENT said he had to report on several matters which were discussed at the meeting of the Council which was held a few hours previously.

He was pleased to announce that Dr. Nathan Raw had been nominated President-elect of the Association. (Applause.)

Arising out of the Report of the Mental Nursing Advisory Committee to the General Nursing Councils, it had been arranged that the Scottish Section of the Committee should meet the General Nursing Council of Scotland; and it had been considered desirable that a similar meeting should be arranged, as soon as possible, with the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

Agreed.

Very interesting reports had been received from the ex-President on progress made in regard to Honorary and Corresponding Members' Certificates, the Bronze Medal, the issue of Past-Presidents' badges, the Gaskell Medal, and also the revision of the Bye-Laws. The Association was much indebted to Col. Lord for the work he was doing in these important matters. (Applause.)

Dr. G. W. B. James had been appointed official delegate to the Congress of French-speaking Alienists and Neurologists. Dr. Donald Ross and Dr. A. Walk would also represent the Association.

In connection with the Annual Meeting in July, invitations were being sent to the principal foreign psychiatric societies abroad, and the suggestion had been adopted that these invitations should be approved by the Governments concerned. The Council felt that not only should the Association welcome distinguished psychiatrists from abroad, but also that they should represent their Governments.

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS.

The President nominated Dr. Douglas McRae and Dr. W. M. Buchanan as scrutineers for the ballot of new members.

The following candidates were unanimously elected ordinary members of the Association, *en bloc* :

FINIEFS, L. A., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.Lond., M.D.Paris, Assistant Medical Officer, Three Counties Mental Hospital, Arlesey, Beds.

Proposed by Drs. L. O. Fuller, P. D. Hunter and R. Worth.

GALL, Major HERBERT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.Lond., Royal Army Medical Corps, Officer in Charge of "D" Block, Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley.

Proposed by Major W. L. Webster, and Drs. Thomas Beaton and F. E. Stokes.

STRECKER, HERBERT A. J., M.D., M.S., Priv.-Doz. Ment. Dis. Univ. Wurzburg; Hon Research Appointment to the Joint Board of Research for Mental Diseases, City and University of Birmingham; Hollymoor Mental Hospital, Northfield, Birmingham.

Proposed by Drs. F. A. Pickworth, T. C. Graves and K. A. H. Sykes.

ABD-EL-HAKEEM, MOHAMMED, Dipl. Med. and Surg., Cairo Med. Coll., D.P.M., Assistant Medical Officer, Mental Hospital, Abbassiya, Cairo, Egypt.

Proposed by Drs. H. W. Dudgeon, R. S. Miller and Mohamed el Kholy.

STATHAM, HUGH, M.B., B.C.Camb., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.Lond., Physician for Nervous Diseases, Royal Victoria and West Hants Hospital.

Proposed by Drs. Doris M. Odlum, J. R. Lord and R. Worth.

SHEPHERD, ANDREW, M.B., Ch.B.Glasg., Second Assistant Medical Officer, Hill End Mental Hospital, St. Albans, Herts.

Proposed by Drs. W. J. T. Kimber, E. D. T. Roberts and R. Worth.

BOYLE, ERIC PATRICK, M.B., Ch.B.Edin., Junior Assistant Medical Officer, Durham County Mental Hospital, Winterton, Ferryhill.

Proposed by Drs. G. F. May, M. A. Archdale and H. D. MacPhail.

PATTERSON, EDWARD CECIL, M.B., B.Ch.Belf., Fourth Assistant Medical Officer, Devon Mental Hospital, Blackadon, Ivybridge.

Proposed by Drs. R. Eager, W. Starkey and C. F. Bainbridge.

This concluded the Business Meeting.

An adjournment was then made to the Great Hall to hear the Maudsley Lecture.

Just prior to the delivery of the Maudsley Lecture Lt.-Col. J. R. Lord presented to the President Dr. J. Bresler, an Hon. Member of the Association since 1900.

Col. LORD said that Dr. Bresler was one of the foremost organizers of psychiatry in Germany, was editor of the *Psychiatrisch-Neurologische Wochenschrift*, and for 28 years had been a good friend to the Association and on several occasions given service of great value. (Loud applause.)

THE MAUDSLEY LECTURE.

The PRESIDENT said it was a special pleasure, a pleasure and honour combined, to introduce his former colleague, Sir John Macpherson, who had been selected this year's Maudsley Lecturer. Sir John needed no introduction to members of this Association, for he was a past-President and honorary member, in whose wise counsel the Association had stimulus and support. The older one grew, the more clearly one recognized that the path of psychological medicine was almost as narrow as the Pilgrim's Way. Sir John Macpherson had entered by the wicket gate into that path, and in the course of his journey he had come across many who might have stumbled and fallen by the way had it not been for his guidance, counsel and support. (Applause.) But there was one person he could never tolerate, and that was that mental gymnast, Ignorance, who got into the Way by a crooked, narrow little lane from the City of Conceit. All who designed to enter on the Pilgrim Way, in the entire sense of that term, found Sir John an able adviser and a friend. The Civil Services of this country said that a man grew old at a certain age, and must then seek an honoured retirement. The speaker considered, however, that Sir John Macpherson possessed the secret of perennial youth, as he refused to accept the dictum of the Civil Service, and went abroad, where he became the occupant of the first Chair in Psychiatry in Sydney University, a position which he held for five years in such a way as to confer dignity and honour

on all with whom he came into contact, and he laid the basis of sound psychiatric training in Australia.

And now members were gathered to-day to hear him speak on psychiatry and to learn from Sir John's long experience.

Sir JOHN MACPHERSON, C.B., M.D., F.R.C.P.E., then delivered the Ninth Maudsley Lecture on "The New Psychiatry and the Influences which are Forming it." Over 100 members and visitors were present.

Dr. J. G. SOUTAR said he had been asked to discharge what was to him a very pleasant duty, and what he was sure would receive the enthusiastic approval of everyone in the room, and not only in this room, but when the words of the lecturer found their way into print and were read, throughout the world. It was to voice an expression of high appreciation and very sincere thanks for this Maudsley Lecture. (Applause.) It had occurred to him, during its delivery, how great was the occasion when the occasion and the man came together. That coincidence in this case was, of course, of the highest possible value, and he thought that at this time, and during recent years, when so much valuable work had been done in different directions in psychology, some person was wanted who could bring together, in the way Sir John had done, the different lines of work on the subject. With his special equipment, which he had both by nature and in his philosophical, critical and sympathetic attitude towards the work, and by his long and varied experience, he had had the opportunity of bringing the theories which had necessarily been promulgated—some of them carried to extreme length—to the test of an experience, which was a valuable one.

This lecture, he felt sure, would be of the greatest possible importance and value in making psychiatrists realize how far they had gone, and in what respects they had gone wrong in the work they had been doing. It was also valuable because of the encouragement the Lecturer had given from his experience to much which the Association had been working at, namely, the proper attitude, or the proper balance, which ought to be held between the legal and the medical aspects in dealing with patients.

Dr. W. F. MENZIES said he seconded the vote of thanks to Sir John Macpherson with very great pleasure. Members knew that Sir John was a man of abysmal knowledge, also that he was an orator, therefore those who had heard this lecture were not disappointed. It had been a most charming lecture, and delivered with the greatest eloquence.

The resolution of thanks was carried by acclamation.

This terminated the meeting, after which members and their guests took tea together in the restaurant.

SOUTH-EASTERN DIVISION.

THE SPRING MEETING of the South-Eastern Division took place on Thursday, April 5, 1928, at the Royal Eastern Counties' Institution for Mental Defectives, Essex Hall, Colchester.

There were present, Lord Sandhurst and twenty-one other members.

On arrival members were welcomed by a Guard of Honour consisting of the School Companies of Guides and Scouts, an adult Company of Guides, the first male gymnasium team and the women's gymnasium team, suitable music being provided by the patients' brass band.

Short demonstrations of the methods of oral-manual training for lower-grade defectives by the Lower Boys' School, Guide drill and ambulance work by the adult company, drill dancing and singing by the Upper Boys' School were given in one of the class-rooms, followed by gymnasium displays by the women's and men's teams and semaphore signalling by the Upper Girls' School.

Members were afterwards hospitably entertained to luncheon by Dr. F. Douglas Turner, the Medical Superintendent.

Lt.-Col. LORD, in proposing the health of "Our Host," referred to the pleasure it gave to all of them to meet at an institution for mental defectives, and which was symbolic of the better provision which had recently been made within the Association for the study of mental deficiency and its definite recognition as an important and progressive branch of the Association's work.

The meeting was then held. Lt.-Col. J. R. Lord, C.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P.E. ex-President, presided.