

Part IV.—Notes and News.

THE ROYAL MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

QUARTERLY MEETING.

THE usual Quarterly Meeting of the Association took place at the House of the British Medical Association, Tavistock Square, London, on Thursday, November 20, 1930, the chair being occupied by the President, Dr. T. Saxty Good, *O.B.E.*, *M.A.*

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting, having appeared in the *JOURNAL*, were taken as read, and approved.

OBITUARY.

THE PRESIDENT said it was his painful duty to announce the death of an Honorary Member of the Association, Dr. Henri Colin, and of two Ordinary Members, Dr. Anna Laila Muncaster and Dr. Felix McCarthy. He asked Sir Hubert Bond to say a few words concerning the death of Dr. Colin.

SIR HUBERT BOND said he was quite ready to pay a tribute of sincere remembrance of the late Dr. Colin, but must do so briefly. Members would know the great things which Dr. Colin had done for the specialty, not only in France, but also in our own country, and therefore in the world. Those who had been privileged to meet Dr. Colin in this country, not once but several times, would always remember his geniality and his happy little ways, which did so much to bring about, not a *rapprochement*, for that was not needed, but a cementing of individual friendships between Frenchmen and Englishmen working in the specialty in the two countries. Dr. Colin's loss would be mourned over a very wide circle. More it was scarcely necessary to say at the moment, as doubtless a fitting obituary notice would appear in the *Journal of Mental Science*.

DR. REGINALD WORTH read the following appreciation of Dr. Muncaster: Anna Laila Muncaster died on September 26, 1930, at Maritzburg, from cerebral embolism, after a seven months' illness. Dr. Muncaster, who was Scottish by birth and education, graduated at Edinburgh University in 1909. After a varied hospital experience, she was concentrating on pathology when the outbreak of the Great War led her to abandon the laboratory and join the Scottish Women's Hospital Unit. With this unit she went to Serbia, and having assisted, in her medical capacity, in the hopeless defence of that country, she accompanied the Serbs on their terrible retreat across the Albanian mountains. Of what she suffered herself during that awful experience it was difficult to persuade her to speak, but her description of what the Serbs had endured from cold, hunger and disease was one which was not easily forgotten. When the Allied Forces rallied she went to Ostrovo, the only hospital near the front line, and from there to a dressing-station at Dobroveni, where her calm courage when operating under fire aroused the admiration of her staff and troops alike. At the conclusion of the war she returned to Scotland, and was on the staff of the Bangour Mental Hospital. Then she accepted an appointment in the Union Mental Service, and came to South Africa in 1922. She commenced her work in the Union at Valkenberg Mental Hospital, and afterwards went to the Alexander Institution, Pietermaritzburg Mental Hospital and Bloemfontein Mental Hospital. By her colleagues in the mental service she will long be remembered, both for her skill as a physician, and for her kindness to the younger members of the medical staff. By casual acquaintances she was regarded as somewhat cold and reserved, but her friends

and patients found in her a ready sympathy—devoid of sloppiness—a staunch loyalty, and a keen sense of humour.

Those present expressed their sympathy by rising in their places.

MATTERS ARISING IN THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL.

Dr. WORTH (Hon. Secretary) said that one matter which arose at the Council meeting was that the Association should support the Board of Control in respect of the new Commissioners' posts, which were being created. A small committee was appointed to interview the Board of Control on the subject.

A suggestion was also made that Counsel's advice be asked on some questions concerning the new Mental Treatment Act. It was expected that Counsel's fee for this would be about a hundred guineas.

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS.

The PRESIDENT nominated Dr. McGrath and Dr. Kimber as scrutineers for the ballot :

The following were unanimously elected ordinary members of the Association :
PAGE, WILLIAM ROBERT, B.A., M.B., Ch.M.Sydney, D.P.M.Lond., Hon. Psychiatrist, Sydney Hospital; Hon. Psychiatrist, St. Vincent's Hospital, Sydney: 221, Macquarie Street, Sydney.

Proposed by Drs. Andrew Davidson, Chisholm Ross and Alfred W. Campbell.

PATON, THOMAS, M.B., Ch.B.Glasg., D.P.M., Assistant Medical Officer, Brookwood Mental Hospital, Surrey.

Proposed by Drs. J. A. Lowry, R. N. B. McCord and Eric P. Boyle.

MACKENZIE, MYRA, M.B., Ch.B.Aberd., Assistant Medical Officer, The Lawn, Lincoln.

Proposed by Drs. Mary R. Barkas, J. Ivison Russell and William Fraser.
FISHER, JOHN WILLIAM, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.P.M., Temporary Assistant Medical Officer, Devon Mental Hospital; Sunny Cottage, Shaldon, near Teignmouth, S. Devon.

Proposed by Drs. R. Eager, C. F. Bainbridge and S. E. Martin.

RAE, JAMES BURNETT, M.B., Ch.B.Aberd., Hon. Physician in charge of the Department of Psychological Medicine, Croydon General Hospital; 82, Harley Street, W. 1.

Proposed by Drs. J. R. Lord, W. D. Nicol and G. F. Peters.

THE MAUDSLEY LECTURE.

Dr. J. R. LORD said that although many who were famous in law, medicine and science had been able to accept the invitation of the President and Council of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association and were present that afternoon, not a few, chiefly owing to this being a mid-week event, had found it impossible to come, and had sent letters of regret to that effect. Among them were the following: Sir Charles Briscoe, Dr. Izod Bennett, Dr. W. W. Rorke, Mr. Dougal O. Malcolm, Sir James Berry, Dr. Hutchison, Dean Inge, Mr. Owen Smith, The Clerk of the Inner Temple, Dr. J. L. Birley, The Secretary of the Law Society, Dr. E. A. Clegg, Dr. Hemingway Rees, Miss M. A. Payne, the Editor of the *Morning Post*, Sir James Purves-Stewart, Dr. Neill Hobhouse, Sir Wm. Mitchell Cotts, Sir Alan Anderson, Lord Riddall, Dame Louise McIlroy, Dr. A. D. Macpherson, Prof. Winifred C. Cullis, Dr. Dorothy Hare, Dr. Barrie Lambert, Sir Francis Acland, Lady Limerick, Mr. Montagu H. Cox, Prof. Lucas Keene, Dr. Leonard Browne, Mr. R. H. Curtis, Sir John Rose Bradford, Dr. F. N. Kay Menzies, Mr. T. G. Tibbey, Lord Southborough, Earl of Cranbrook, Miss Musson, Dr. R. G. Gordon and Prof. Francis R. Fraser.

The PRESIDENT said it was his pleasant duty to introduce the Maudsley Lecturer. He had only to say there was Scriptural authority for declaring "the truth is not in us." This certainly did imply that there was such a thing as truth. Men had sought from time to time to answer the question, "What is truth?" Who was more likely to answer them, if there were an answer, than a learned Judge who had to face the question daily in Court? And, of all our Judges, who was better qualified than the distinguished and highly esteemed Sir Henry McCardie? He called upon Sir Henry to deliver the Eleventh Maudsley Lecture on "Truth."

Sir HENRY McCARDIE then delivered the Maudsley Lecture (*vide* p. 4).

Dr. NATHAN RAW, C.M.G., in proposing a vote of thanks to the Lecturer, said that as a Past-President of the Association, it was his privilege to ask the company assembled to record their very hearty thanks to the Maudsley Lecturer. He was sure that all present had listened to a brilliant, human, witty and philosophical discourse in memory of Dr. Maudsley—a great physician and a great philanthropist. The memory of Maudsley would always be in safe keeping while the Association had a lecturer of the character of the present one. Sir Henry McCARDIE was a great ornament to the legal profession, and members knew that his sympathies were now and always had been with the medical profession. Sir Henry would forgive him saying he would have made an equally great physician or psychologist. To-day's lecture was based on long observation and experience in a very privileged position as a Justice, and he hoped members would have the pleasure of reading the lecture at leisure. On behalf of the Council he proposed that a very hearty vote of thanks be given to Sir Henry McCARDIE for having given this literary treat. (Applause.)

Sir ROBERT ARMSTRONG-JONES said he had been asked to second the vote of thanks to the learned Lecturer, the Hon. Mr. Justice McCARDIE, and he did so with very much pleasure. Truth had no creed, no country, no race. The seeker after truth, as the psychologist knew, was engaged in the highest human employment. The Law of Evidence, for instance, was based upon the search for truth, and the establishment of facts was a technical matter; it was an important and delicate process, and was quite properly subject to definite rules and principles. The great physician, like the great lawyer, had a passion for truth, and the Judge usually prepared the ground for his sober, considered and impartial judgment by placing his witnesses on their oath to speak the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. Sir Robert was not sure whether it was desirable or necessary that the doctor should always tell the whole truth. Was it right that, knowing, as psychiatrists did, the great influence of the mind upon the body, the doctor who diagnosed an inoperable cancer should tell his patient he had only a few more months or weeks to live? Dr. John Radcliffe bluntly told Queen Anne that her illness was nothing but "the vapours"—meaning hysteria—a piece of truthfulness that permanently consigned her care afterwards to other hands. The same physician had previously told William III that he would not exchange the King's swollen legs for his own, even if he received the Three Kingdoms in exchange; and he never was asked to visit the King again. It was the custom in those days to indulge in brutality of speech, and perhaps to confuse this with truth.

Sir Robert said he recently heard the Lecturer, in the midst of doctors, dilating learnedly upon the history of medicine, from Hippocrates and Galen to the present President of the Royal College of Physicians, and he had charmed and interested the present company again this afternoon. No one could have given an audience of psychiatrists more food for reflection than Sir Henry had done, and it would have delighted the great man who endowed this Lecture, and whom the speaker knew intimately, if he had been present. All were most grateful for the oration.

The PRESIDENT said he took it there was scarcely any need to put the vote to the meeting; he was sure it would be approved in the usual way.

The vote was carried by acclamation.

Sir HENRY McCARDIE, in reply, said he appreciated, most heartily, the kindly and all-too-generous words which had been spoken by Dr. Nathan Raw and Sir Robert Armstrong-Jones; both were very kind-hearted men to have done this. It had been a pleasure to come that day and deliver the address; and for the courtesy, patience and goodwill of the audience he could no other answer make than thanks, and thanks again. (Applause.)

SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

THE AUTUMN MEETING of the Division was held by kind invitation of the Committee of Management and of Dr. V. L. Connolly, M.C., at the Hampshire County Mental Hospital, Park Prewett, near Basingstoke, on Thursday, October 30, 1930.