

provisions of the Act; that the necessary amendments had been drafted and were now in the hands of the Secretary of the Conference.

The meeting was then adjourned and members were kindly entertained to lunch at the hospital. After lunch, on the motion of Dr. D. Fraser, the Directors of the Aberdeen Royal Mental Hospital and Dr. Dods Brown were cordially thanked for the arrangements made in connection with the meeting and for their kind hospitality.

On the meeting reassembling, Dr. T. C. Mackenzie invited the Division to hold the Spring Meeting at the Inverness District Asylum. Dr. Mackenzie was thanked for his invitation, and it was unanimously agreed that the Spring Meeting take place at Inverness in May.

Dr. A. GREIG ANDERSON read, by invitation, a paper on "Encephalitis Lethargica," reviewing the history and literature of the disease, and incorporating his clinical observations of the cases which had occurred in the Aberdeen area. The paper was discussed by Drs. ROSS, McRAE, HENDERSON, DODS BROWN and Prof. ROBERTSON, and was illustrated by the clinical demonstration of a case of Parkinsonian syndrome following encephalitis.

Dr. DODS BROWN presented a case of Dementia Præcox with marked reactions of several years' standing and recovery following surgical operation; and Dr. ANNANDALE a case of Involutional Melancholia with an unusual group of symptoms of organic nervous disease. Both cases led to an animated discussion.

Time did not permit of Dr. Craig's paper on "Fractional Test-meals in Certain Types of Mental Disorder" being read.

Before and after lunch members were conducted over the Hospital by Dr. Dods Brown and his assistants, and after the meeting Dr. and Mrs. Dods Brown kindly entertained members to tea.

A dinner was held in the evening in the Athenæum Restaurant, and was well attended.

IRISH DIVISION.

THE AUTUMN MEETING of the Irish Division, Medico-Psychological Association, was held at the Royal College of Physicians, Kildare Street, Dublin, on Thursday, November 6, 1924, Dr. M. J. Nolan, President, M.P.A., in the Chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed by the Chairman.

Letters were read from the Local Government Board in reply to the resolution sent to that body at the last meeting.

The following candidate was balloted for as an ordinary member of the Association and was duly elected:

RICHARD DOMINICK BRENNAN, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., N.U.I., Assistant Medical Officer, District Mental Hospital, Waterford.

Proposed by Dr. A. FitzGerald, and *seconded by* Dr. O'C. Donelan and R. R. Leeper.

The meeting next proceeded to consider the position of the Irish Division as regards the registration and training of mental nurses in Ireland. After a long discussion and consideration of the reply to the letter and resolution forwarded to the Government by direction of the Division at the Spring Meeting, the following resolution was proposed by Dr. Mills, seconded by Dr. Gavin, and passed unanimously, and a copy was directed to be sent to the Local Government Board of the Free State:

"That this meeting received with much regret the intimation conveyed in the letter of the Ministry of Local Government of July 1, 1924, stating that, if an opportunity occurred when five years' duration of the existing Nursing Council's existence had expired, the Government would possibly see their way to appoint a representative of the mental specialty of the medical profession to a position as member of the Council.

"The Irish Division, M.P.A., wishes to point out to the Government that the most important work of organizing their examinations, etc., will occur within the current five-year period, and begs to request that the granting of representation to those most directly concerned in the training of mental nurses be reconsidered. Under the regrettable circumstances that direct representation

cannot be given at present to the Medico-Psychological Association, the Irish Division hopes that full consideration will at least be granted to whatever representations may be made by the Advisory Committee nominated from the members of this Association by the General Nursing Council of Ireland to represent it, and that *no* action may be taken by the General Nursing Council, vitally affecting the interests of mental nurses and their training, or mental hospital administration, without the knowledge of the Advisory Committee requested by the Government (as represented by the General Nursing Council) to act as advisory members to the General Nursing Council."

The meeting wished to express its decided opinion that under no circumstances should the standard of education or examination for mental nurses be lowered in this country from that of the Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain and Ireland, and set out in its syllabus and *Handbook*.

The meeting next proceeded to appoint all the attending members, together with Dr. J. O'Connor Donelan, as a Committee to be called together by the Hon. Secretary to enable him to deal with any matters of urgency affecting the interests of mental nurses and nursing, and to obtain a plebiscite of the Irish members *re* the possible appointment of examiners, and if occasion arose in the near future, to deal with any action taken by the General Nursing Council for Ireland.

By the kind invitation of Dr. Keene, the Spring Meeting is to be held at the Stewart Institution, Chapelizod, on Thursday, April 2, 1925.

THE MANOR INSTITUTION, EPSOM: SOME COMMENTS ON ITS FIRST TWO YEARS.⁽¹⁾

By THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.⁽²⁾

The Manor Institution (1,003 beds) commenced to function as one for the care of mental defectives on January 3, 1922, and this article is an attempt to describe some of our methods following a suggestion that this institution has been run on somewhat different lines to most others of its kind.

It should be stated at the outset that we have no children of the very lowest grade, except in the school, which circumstance accounts for our being able to claim that 100 *per cent.* of the patients are employed usefully. It has been our ambition to extend to the boys and girls as much freedom as possible with a view to culturing them to live as near as can be the lives of normal individuals. Some of the features that appear to strike visitors are that children, or adults, go about unattended, that there are open doors and gates, no walls, etc., or other obstacles to running away, and the association and meeting of the sexes is as occurs in the outer world.

This, I suppose, is all true to a certain extent, and of necessity increases the responsibility of the staff, and requires a detailed knowledge of the individual characteristics and careful organization. In some cases the meeting of the sexes occurs as the result of structural arrangements, but in others it is intentionally allowed, *e.g.*, the object of a workshop containing both sexes is that boys who are unable to fend for themselves, *i.e.*, the paralyzed and simpletons, etc., who are apt to get bullied and knocked about, are found to be mothered, well cared for, and encouraged to work in girls' workshops; at the weekly dance, which has now become the most popular form of entertainment, boys and girls not only dance but are allowed to sit and talk together if so disposed, as opposed to the old institution idea of the two sexes sitting on opposite sides of the hall. With a well-placed staff there can be no risks, and the behaviour is most orderly. This arrangement adds greatly to the enjoyment, and without doubt has done much to encourage interest in personal appearance—even many of the most slovenly being observed to take infinite pains in this respect—and a normal regard for respectable behaviour in the presence of the opposite sex. At present smaller boys are being trained with a hope that they will one day take their place in the orchestra, which, for the time being, only consists of staff. It is now really excellent, and, without doubt,

⁽¹⁾ Reprinted from *Studies in Mental Inefficiency*, April 15, 1924, by kind permission of the Editor and the Author.

⁽²⁾ Dr. Edward Salterne Littlejohn.