

SOUTH-EASTERN DIVISION.

THE AUTUMN MEETING of the South-Eastern Division was held at 11, Chandos Street, on October 6th, 1915.

Among those present were Drs. F. Beach, A. H. A. Boyle, H. E. Haynes, G. H. Johnston, E. S. Pasmore, G. E. Shuttleworth, J. G. Soutar, J. Stewart, T. S. Tuke, and J. N. Sergeant (Hon. Divisional Secretary).

Expressions of regret at inability to be present were received from several members.

The meeting of the Divisional Committee was held at two o'clock.

The General Meeting was held at 2.30 p.m., Dr. Fletcher Beach in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting, having been printed in the Journal, were taken as read and confirmed.

It was decided to arrange for the Spring Meeting to be held at 11, Chandos Street, on Friday, April 28th, 1916.

SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

THE AUTUMN MEETING of the above division was held, by kind permission of Dr. MacBryan, at 17, Belmont, Bath, on Friday, October 22nd, 1915.

The following members were present: Drs. Bartlett, Norman Lavers, Nelis, MacBryan, Macdonald, Rutherford, Soutar, and Aveline, who acted as Hon. Div. Secretary.

Dr. Macdonald was voted to the Chair.

Dr. Blachford having intimated that it was quite impossible for him to undertake any outside work until after the war, and that he would be very glad to be relieved of his duties as Hon. Div. Secretary, Dr. Bartlett, Medical Superintendent of the Exeter City Asylum, was nominated in his place.

Drs. Norman Lavers and G. S. Pope were nominated as Representative Members of Council.

The following candidate was elected a member of the Association: Dr. Hamilton Marie Grigsby, L.R.C.P.S.E., etc., 79, Victoria Road, Southsea. (Proposed by Drs. Devine, Steen, and Patterson.)

It was left to the Acting Hon. Div. Secretary to fix a place for the Spring Meeting to be held on Friday, April 21st, 1916.

The question of granting medical certificates to asylum patients coming under the provisions of the National Insurance Act was then discussed by the meeting, and the suggestion that a certificate of disability on admission, and a certificate of ability, if required, on discharge (if recovered), should be all that is necessary, was approved, and it was *resolved* to forward to the secretary of the Parliamentary Committee a draft certificate, embodying these recommendations.

The Hon. Secretary was requested to convey to Dr. Morrison the sympathies of the members present, and to express their hope of his speedy recovery from his illness.

SCOTTISH DIVISION.

A MEETING of the Scottish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association was held in the Royal College of Physicians, Queen Street, Edinburgh, on November 19th, 1915.

Present: Lieut.-Col. Keay, Drs. Dods Brown, Cruickshank, Easterbrook, Kerr, McKenzie, G. M. Robertson, Ford Robertson, Watson, and R. B. Campbell (Divisional Secretary).

Lieut.-Col. KEAY occupied the Chair.

Before taking up the ordinary business of the meeting, the Chairman referred in appropriate terms to the great loss which the Association and the Specialty of Psychiatry had sustained since last meeting through the death of Sir Thomas Clouston, a distinguished physician, an authority on mental diseases, and a former President of the Association. Dr. G. M. Robertson, in endorsing the Chairman's remarks, paid a further tribute to the late Sir Thomas Clouston, and referred to the active and kindly interest which he had always taken in the affairs of the Division. It was unanimously resolved that it be recorded in the minutes that the

members of the Scottish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association desire to express their deep sense of the loss sustained through the death of Sir Thomas Clouston, and their sympathy with the members of his family in their bereavement. The Secretary was instructed to transmit an excerpt of the minute to Lady Clouston.

The minutes of the last Divisional Meeting were read and approved, and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

Apologies were intimated from Drs. John Fraser, Carlyle Johnstone, Turnbull, Oswald, Hotchkis, Alexander, McRae, Shaw, Ross, and Crichtlow.

The Business Committee was appointed, consisting of Drs. Carlyle Johnstone, G. M. Robertson, Kerr, Orr, and the Divisional Secretary.

Drs. J. H. Orr and C. C. Easterbrook were nominated by the Division for the position of Representative Members of Council, and Dr. R. M. Campbell was nominated for the position of Divisional Secretary.

The following two candidates after ballot were admitted to membership of the Association:

(1) David Kennedy Henderson, M.D. Edin., Senior Assistant Physician, Royal Asylum, Gartnavel, Glasgow. (Proposed by Drs. Oswald, G. M. Robertson, and Campbell.)

(2) Charles James Lodge Patch, L.R.C.P. and S. Edin., Assistant Medical Officer, Renfrew District Asylum, Dykebar, Paisley. (Proposed by Drs. Hotchkis, Campbell, and Gostwyck.)

Dr. FORD ROBERTSON read an instructive and interesting paper on "Some Examples of Neurotoxic Bacterial Actions." He maintained that the part played by bacteria in the causation of disease was much more extensive than was generally believed, and that the infective agents that produced the most prevalent forms of disease were those that were more or less generally distributed, such as, for example, the pneumococcus, *Bacillus coli communis*, and *Streptococcus pyogenes*. As a means of determining the relation of common bacteria to morbid conditions in the human subject, animal experiment was of little value; the method of focal reaction and therapeutic immunisation had, on the other hand, proved capable of determining many of the questions at issue. Evidence had been collected that served to show that very many forms of mental disease were dependent upon bacterial action; the infective conditions were, for the most part, those that were commonly found in other patients; the mental disturbances were the expression of an individual reaction, consequent upon an inherent tendency to fix toxins in the cortical nerve cells. Some bacterial toxins were specially prone to exercise a neurotoxic action. Cases were cited illustrating the neurotoxic action sometimes manifested by various species of streptococcus, the bacillus of influenza, diphtheroid bacilli, and bacilli of the coli-typhoid group. In cases of mental disease the infected conditions were often complex; this fact rendered their bacteriological investigation difficult, but it did not necessarily prevent the successful application of therapeutic immunisation.

Drs. G. M. ROBERTSON and CRUICKSHANK afterwards discussed the paper.

Dr. CRUICKSHANK also read an interesting paper on "The Cholesterol Content of the Serum in Mental Diseases" (see p. 168).

A vote of thanks to the Chairman for presiding concluded the business of the meeting.

No dinner was held after the meeting.

IRISH DIVISION.

THE AUTUMN MEETING of the Irish Division was held on Thursday, November 4th, at the Royal College of Physicians, Kildare Street, Dublin.

Present: Drs. Drapes, J. A. Greene, Redington, Dawson, Lawless, Rainsford, Eustace, and Dr. Leeper (Hon. Secretary).

Dr. Drapes having been moved to the chair, the minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed.

A letter of apology for unavoidable absence was read from Dr. Oakshott, of Waterford.