

CONGRESS OF PSYCHIATRY AND NEURO-PATHOLOGY.

The Congress which met at the Hôtel de Ville, Antwerp, Sept. 7th, 1885, was initiated by the *Société de Médecine Mentale de Belgique*, of which it formed, in fact, a "Réunion extraordinaire." M. Oudart, the Inspector-General of Asylums in Belgium, was the Honorary President, the actual President being Dr. Desguin of Antwerp; President, Dr. Lentz (Tournai); Secretary, Dr. Ingels (Ghent); Assistant-Secretaries, Dr. Cuyllits (Brussels), and Dr. Jul. Morel (Ghent). The organizing Committee consisted of Drs. Heger, Lefebvre, Semal, and Vermeulen. Among the Honorary Presidents were Dr. Christian (France); Dr. Brosins (Germany); Dr. Benedict (Austria); Dr. Mierzejewski (Russia); Dr. Hack Tuke (England); Dr. Rutherford (Scotland); Dr. Eames (Ireland); Dr. Ramaer (Holland); Dr. Steenberg (Denmark); Dr. Sola (Argentine Republic).

The number who gave their adhesion to the Congress amounted to 180, but the number actually present did not exceed 70. The members were invited to assemble on the evening preceding the meeting at the hospitable house of the President, M. Desguin, who, throughout the Congress, presided over its deliberations with admirable fairness and courtesy.

On the first day of the Congress the members were received by the Burgomaster of Antwerp at the Hôtel de Ville, to whose welcome M. Desguin made a suitable response on behalf of the members. The address of the President opened the proceedings of the meeting. It was followed by communications, from many members, present or absent, including MM. Foville, Oudart, Benedict, Brosins, &c. They did not lead to much discussion. The paper by Brosins however, "On the Use of Alcohol in the Treatment of the Insane," elicited considerable remark.

The morning meeting of the second day of the Congress was devoted to the discussion of a paper by Dr. Lefebvre "On the necessity of International Statistics of the Insane being made on a common base." This led to an important debate, the practical result of which was the decision to appoint an international commission on the subject. Various papers of interest were read in the afternoon, including those of Drs. Christian, Lentz, Marique, and Ingels. Dr. Verriest, Professor in the University of Louvain, exhibited a case of somnambulism, a woman who passes through three stages of existence, and is alleged to live three distinct lives, the consciousness of each being separate from that of the others.

On the last day of the Congress, an animated debate took place on a communication made by Dr. Semal, of the Mons Asylum, on the relations between crime and insanity. Dr. Benedict contributed an able paper to the discussion, which was warmly received. A very interesting debate ended in the adoption of a few practical propositions which, it is to be hoped, will materially forward criminal research in prisons by competent men in every country.

A banquet closed the proceedings of a very successful Congress. Excursions were, however, made on subsequent days to Gheel, Mons, Tournai, &c.

In the next number of the Journal an abstract will be given of some of the important papers read at the Congress.

"AFTER-CARE" ANNIVERSARY.

BETHLEM ROYAL HOSPITAL, 2ND JULY, 1885.

Were present: Dr. John Ogle, who, in absence of Earl of Shaftesbury, was called to the chair, Lord Cottesloe, Dr. Clay Shaw (Hon. Treasurer), Dr. Norman Kerr, Dr. Savage, Dr. Seward, Dr. Fly Smith, Rev. F. H. A. Hawkins,

Rev. Fredk. Hall, Mrs. Curteis, Mrs. Ellis Cameron, Mrs. Hawkins, Mrs. Puttock, Miss Fleet, Miss H. J. Hawkins, Mrs. Savage, &c.

Lord Shaftesbury communicated to Dr. Savage his inability to preside. Apologies were read from Dr. Maudsley, Dr. Edgar Sheppard, Dr. Lockhart Robertson (by telegram), Capt. Maberly, Mr. Shaw Stewart, Bishops of London and Bedford, Sir W. H. Wyatt, Lord and Lady Brabazon, Miss L. Twining, &c.

An extract of a letter from Sir W. H. Wyatt was read, in which he said: "The effort to promote an 'After-Care' Home has my sincere sympathy, and I will with pleasure contribute to it when it is started. I believe, if judiciously managed, it may do much good. The great thing will be if those who work it can succeed in placing out in the world discharged patients who may have had a time of residence in the Home. If they are able to do this, I feel sure the Colney Hatch Committee will be able, from a charitable fund at their disposal, to work with and assist them."

Minutes of last meeting were read, and also brief reports of the "After-Care" meeting at the Mansion House, on 30th October, 1884; of the Ladies' occasional Committees; of the Bazaar at the Kensington Town Hall on the 19th and 20th of May; and of some cases to which relief was afforded.

The HON. SECRETARY called attention to the original resolution of 1879, with respect to the undesirableness, for the present, to form a distinct "Home." He also suggested: 1st. That only those convalescents from asylums should be receivable into Homes who were absolutely discharged, and not merely "on trial;" that (2ndly) ordinary convalescents, as well as mental, should be admissible, with priority of reception reserved for the latter class; (3rdly) that mental Homes might do "preventive" service; and he concluded by restating his conviction, expressed at two former anniversaries of the need, in interests of "After Care" Association, of a Secretary able to devote far more time and special attention to the objects of the Association.

Dr. D. HACK TUKE referred to his association with the original resolution of 1879, viz.: "That it was not desirable at present to promote a separate Convalescent Home." He remarked that at that time change of scene and air (in existing institutions), provision of clothing, &c., were contemplated. He did not wish to discourage the project of a separate institution, but was not £300 (the sum named in Dr. Shaw's estimate as the annual expense of a Home with four beds) a large yearly outlay for the maintenance of four convalescents?

Dr. SHAW observed that the accommodation for four inmates would be available for convalescents in *successive relays*.

Dr. NORMAN KERR considered that the actual commencement of work would elicit further help. He instanced the circumstance of his having advanced £6,000 in the establishment of a Home, which sum had eventually been repaid; and he suggested the expediency of registering the design under the limited liability provisions.

Dr. SAVAGE referred to the greater advantage under which convalescents recommenced life's duties after intermediate sojourn in a Convalescent Home. The change had the effect of partly effacing the remembrance of asylum life. He considered that the public would have more confidence in mental convalescents who returned to life's duties after residence in Homes. He desired that *mental* ailments should be regarded more in the same way as *physical* maladies, chest complaints, fractured limbs, &c. The success of the convalescent treatment at Whitley was instanced.

Mrs. ELLIS CAMERON alluded to the special and more than proportionate increase of funds in the past year, also to the liberal responses made to appeals, and to work which might be accomplished in a Home for mental convalescents.

Dr. CLAY SHAW made a statement of funds in the Hon. Treasurer's hands. He requested instructions for the disposal of the money, of which a portion had been given specifically for the promotion of an "After Care" Home. Either

authority should be given to recognise a home, or the money should be returned. "After care" was needed; outgoing convalescents were often assisted by the liberality of nurses. He remarked that a banking account had been opened—Union Bank, Argyll Street—and that some subscriptions were unpaid. He moved the resolution: "That it is desirable to recognize the principle of forming a distinct Home for the reception of females discharged 'cured' from lunatic asylums."

Eventually it was proposed by Rev. FREDK. HALL, and seconded, "That the report of the Treasurer, viz., 'That the estimated expense of a "Home" for four beds would be £300, of which amount five-sixths is either in hand or already promised,' leads this meeting to the belief that the time has now arrived for taking steps for actual work without further delay. That the under-mentioned be appointed a Sub-Committee to consider the practicability of the above resolution, and to report to a general meeting of this Society."

After votes of thanks to Dr. Savage and Dr. Ogle, the meeting separated.

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Obituary.

DR. EDWARD JARVIS,

An Honorary Member of the Association, was born in Concord, Mass., January 9th, 1802. He graduated at Harvard in 1826, and took his degree in medicine in 1830. He practised medicine two years in Northfield, Mass., five in Concord, Mass., and five in Louisville, Kentucky, with but moderate success. His tastes inclined him to the study of mental science and anthropology, and he lacked confidence in the effects of his remedies. He was early interested in the cause of education, and started public libraries in Concord and Louisville.

In 1836, while at Concord, he received an insane young man from Cambridge into his house for treatment, and, in a few months, he was well. Several other patients were afterwards received, and he thus became interested in the treatment of insanity, which specialty he resumed at his home in Dorchester, and continued for many years successfully. Dr. Jarvis was disappointed several times in obtaining the superintendency of certain insane asylums in Massachusetts, for which positions he brought the highest recommendations, and for which his tastes strongly inclined him. He felt these disappointments keenly, but was not deterred from pursuing his favourite studies as far as possible in the community at large.

He removed to Dorchester, Mass., in 1843, where he remained until his death. At about the time of this removal, his attention was directed to the apparently excessive amount of insanity among the free coloured population of the North, as indicated by the United States census of 1840. This excess had been used by Southern statesmen in Congress to show the probable effect of emancipation on the negro. Dr. Jarvis showed that the census was grossly in error in this respect. His aid was solicited in the preparation of the census of 1850, and, without official authority, he gave one-third of his time for three years to perfecting the reports. In 1874 Government acknowledged his claim by paying for his services. He was again employed on the censuses of 1860 and 1870, and became the leading authority on vital statistics, and was recognised as such at home and abroad.

In 1854 he was made a member of the Lunacy Commission to inquire into the number and condition of the insane in Massachusetts, and the Northampton Hospital was erected in consequence of their recommendations.

In 1843 he became a member of the Corporation of the School for Idiots in