

*March 31st.*—She had very little sleep and complains bitterly of acute pain in her right thigh and leg. Has been sick this morning. Temperature 100·4°. Pulse 110.

*April 1st.*—Patient's mental condition has shown marked improvement during the last week, and she now behaves like a reasonable being, though at times she inclines to her old habit of screaming without any apparent cause. The right limb is much swollen, hard, and painful when moved. Temperature 100·6°. Pulse 108.

*April 4th.*—Much better in every way. Right limb less swollen and not so painful. Temperature 99·6°.

*April 10th.*—Stronger and improving every day. Slight backache and pain in the right limb.

*April 26th.*—Limb bandaged and pillow removed. Mental condition much changed for the better. She is now obedient, contented, and remarkably quiet.

*May 5th.*—Quite convalescent. Temperature and pulse normal. Some stiffness remains in both limbs, which are still bandaged.

*February, 1894.*—The patient is in good health and is able to perform all her household duties.

*May 27th.*—Patient in perfect health, mentally and bodily.

#### OCCASIONAL NOTES OF THE QUARTER.

##### *The New Rules of the Medico-Psychological Association.*

After much discussion, and having passed through the searching ordeal of a Select Committee, the new Rules of the Association have been agreed to, and now await the passing of the minutes at the annual meeting to be formally adopted.

The question with regard to the admission of ladies as members of the Association has been settled, and although the proposal to admit them was carried by a large majority, there were strong opinions expressed against it. Other societies, however, having shown the way, there was no reason why ladies should be excluded, provided they were registered medical practitioners, and were prepared to carry out the objects of the Association. The admission of ordinary members seems to be duly safeguarded, although it would have been better to have made it compulsory for the names of all candidates proposed for election to have come within the purview of the General Secretary.

The chief feature of the new Rules is the creation of Divisions, and this is decidedly a step in the right direction.

There can now be no difficulty in a body of members in any part of the United Kingdom being constituted a Division, and making their wishes known to the Association by communicating with the Council direct through their Divisional Secretary. Rule XXV. states that "Upon the application of a *sufficient number*\* of members, the Council may constitute a new Division in any locality of the United Kingdom or the Colonies," and this, we take it, will amply meet the wishes of many of our members living in outlying districts, and it is hoped that the banding of members together in districts will be the means of encouraging scientific work. The Divisional Secretaries will be officers of the Association, and consequently *ex-officio* members of the Council.

The duties of the various officers are regulated by the rules. The President will preside at all meetings (at which he is present) of the Association, of its Divisions, and of the Council. He shall interpret the rules, and his decision shall be final. The duties of the Treasurer have greatly increased of late, and he is now empowered to engage the services of a professional accountant to assist him in the preparation of the accounts. His power of spending is limited, and he must pay all monies received for the use of the Association into a separate banking account in the name of the Association. Formerly it was the custom for the Treasurer only to read the balance-sheet at the annual meeting, and make any verbal remarks upon it, and answer any questions. In future he will have to present a report at the annual meeting, while the Auditors, after examining his accounts, must also prepare a report "showing the financial position of the Association, and the balance in the Treasurer's hands, and making such suggestions as may seem expedient." Their report "shall be printed and presented to the annual meeting of the Association, and shall be published in the next ensuing number of the Journal," so that there will be two reports upon one balance-sheet. Formerly the signature of the auditors on the balance-sheet, with any remarks they wished to make, was deemed sufficient. The duties of the General Secretary are onerous, and many members thought that his expenses of locomotion might have been awarded him, as he is bound to attend all meetings of the Council and of the Association (except, of course, Divisional meetings) wherever and whenever they may be held.

\* We think the rule would have been improved by making it on the application of a definite number of members.

A new official appears in the shape of the Registrar, who "shall have the management of the business and arrangements of, and carry on all correspondence with the Certificates in Psychological Medicine, the Gaskell Prize, the Prize Dissertation, and the Certificates of Proficiency in Nursing and Attending on the Insane." We are glad he is empowered to employ clerical assistance for this work, which is by no means light.

There seems a probability that the Council provided for in the rules may be found too large and cumbersome, for besides the eight officers fixed there are to be divisional secretaries, and an editor or editors of the Journal, which will make it not less than twelve in number, and in addition there are to be eighteen other members of the Association, so that there will be a Council numbering some thirty members at least (of whom six only shall form a quorum) for an Association of, say, four hundred and fifty members. According to Rule IV. "the Council shall delete the name of any member of the Council who shall not have attended at least one meeting of the Council during the year," and Rule V. makes it the duty of the General Secretary to inform each member of the Association before the annual meeting the number of attendances of each member of Council at the Council meetings during the past year, so that we may take it there will be pretty full meetings of the Council in future in consequence of the above-mentioned penal clause and the publicity given to the number of attendances. With regard to the voting power given to the members of the Association in the selection of the officers and Council by Clause 7, each member, whether present at the annual meeting or not, is given the opportunity of recording his vote, and thus having a voice in the selection of members of Council, so that it is now left more in the hands of the members generally than was formerly the case. In the case of the election of the officers, he must be present at the meeting to record his vote. All ambiguity respecting meetings is now cleared up; they are defined under Rule I. as being of four kinds—"Annual, General, Divisional, and Special," and notices of all meetings other than special shall be sent, with the list of names of candidates for membership, to the Editor of the Journal in time for publication, "*if possible.*" We trust it will not be the rule, but the exception, to take advantage of the "*if possible.*" It cannot but be a matter of congratulation

that the regulations which are in future to govern the proceedings at meetings are now clearly laid down according to rule. The chaotic condition of things so frequently observed at meetings in the past can now be avoided by a simple application of the rules.

The convening of the annual meeting will, under Rule III., be left in the hands of the General Secretary. The date has to be fixed by the President and Council not less than two months previously, and then the Secretary at the earliest possible date shall issue the notices to each member of the Association. "The earliest possible date" is controlled by Rule II., which states that the notices shall be sent out "*not less than one month*" before the date fixed for the meeting, but if any member wishes to bring any business forward at an annual meeting, by Rule V. he must give notice in writing to the General Secretary "*six weeks beforehand*," which means that he must give notice a fortnight before he knows when the meeting has to be held! A strong feeling exists that if the annual meeting had been definitely fixed for the last week in July or the first week in August much uncertainty would have been avoided, and private arrangements could have been made long beforehand by members wishing to be present. Almost all associations of a similar character have adopted such a rule, with signal success, and any wide departure from such an arrangement cannot but affect the attendance of members; while giving the option of either week would be convenient. The business to be taken at an annual meeting is laid down by Rule VII. We notice under Section 4 "report of the Treasurer," but no mention whatever is made of "the report of the auditors," which, under Rule XIV., "shall be printed and presented to the annual meeting of the Association, and shall be published in the next ensuing number of the Journal;" and as this "report of the auditors" has, we presume, been instituted to exert a controlling influence over the Treasurer's accounts, its omission has been probably due to an oversight.

With regard to general meetings, which are to be convened by the General Secretary, we observe that he must give notice to each member *fourteen days* before the date of the meeting, but if a member desires to bring forward any business, he must give notice in writing to the General Secretary *three weeks before*, that is, a week before he has had official notice that a meeting is about to be held.

Members should especially note that they may discuss a resolution brought before a general meeting without submitting it to the President or Council, even though it has been decided by the President or Council that the vote upon it "shall only be taken at an annual or special meeting called for that purpose." The General Secretary is empowered by Rule XXI. to convene a special meeting, and send to every member a notice thereof, though he is not bound to give notice any definite time beforehand. So that members may receive notice to-day of a meeting to be held to-morrow.

It seems a pity that a code of rules numbering altogether only 110 should have been divided up into five chapters, averaging but 22 rules in each. It would probably have been simpler to have numbered the rules straight through, from Rule I. to Rule CX. For the rule referring to any subject the chapter must first be found and then the number of the rule, bearing a similar number to one in five other chapters, must be quoted. Seeing that the book of rules has no index, this becomes at times somewhat perplexing.

Taken as a whole, we consider a great improvement has been effected, and that great credit is due to the Rules Committee, notably its Chairman, Mr. Whitcombe, for the labour they have bestowed.

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*Regina v. Sherrard.* By GEO. H. SAVAGE, M.D., F.R.C.P.

It is thought best that the annotation on this subject should rather take the form of a personal communication than an editorial, and therefore I purpose setting before the readers of the Journal the chief points in the case which need special consideration.

I may say at once that very many physicians in general medical practice have written or spoken freely on the importance of the case as far as the future conduct of similar cases is concerned. Briefly, Dr. Sherrard has had for some time a medical home, more of the medical boarding house nature than anything else, and into this house he has received from several of the London consultants in lunacy patients who appeared to them to be in the borderland of insanity. In such cases Dr. Sherrard has had considerable