

and quoted two cases in which marked benefit followed the continuous application of hot-water bottles to the abdomen.

10. Dr. Thos. Johnstone read a paper on "Dementia Præcox."

In the discussion which followed Drs. Pierce, Middlemass, and Eurich took part, and Dr. Johnstone replied.

11. Dr. Menzies read a paper entitled "Some Points connected with Tuberculosis in Asylums" (see page 548).

Drs. Trevelyan, Pierce, Stewart, Eurich took part in the discussion which followed, and Dr. Menzies replied.

After the meeting members dined at the Royal Station Hotel, and a party next day went on an excursion to Ripon and Fountains Abbey.

IRISH DIVISION.

The Spring Meeting of the Division was held at the Stewart Institution, Palmerstown, Dublin, by the kind invitation of Dr. Rainsford, on Tuesday, May 9th.

Before the meeting the visitors were taken round the institution, and saw the patients at work in the school, some of the cases being demonstrated. Dr. Rainsford then entertained the members at luncheon.

The chair at the meeting was taken by Dr. Rainsford, and there were also present Drs. C. Norman, M. J. Nolan, C. E. Hetherington, R. R. Leeper, T. Drapes, H. M. Eustace, R. A. L. Graham, J. Mills, and W. R. Dawson (Hon. Sec.). Letters regretting inability to attend were received from the President of the Association and Dr. Molony.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read, confirmed, and signed, the Hon. Secretary reported shortly with reference to the instructions which he had received at that meeting.

J. Cotter, L.R.C.P.E., L.R.C.S.E., L.F.P.S.Glas., Senior Assistant Medical Officer, Down District Asylum, Downpatrick (proposed by Drs. M. J. Nolan, C. Norman, and W. R. Dawson), was unanimously elected an ordinary member.

Dr. W. R. Dawson was re-elected Divisional Secretary for the ensuing year, and Messrs. M. J. Nolan and T. Drapes were elected Representative Members of Council. Dr. R. A. L. Graham was recommended to the Education Committee as Examiner.

It was decided to request the President to sanction the alteration of the date of the summer meeting of the Division from July 5th to July 6th, and to ask Dr. Harvey to allow the meeting to be held at Clonmel Asylum. Failing this, the arrangement of the place of meeting was left to the divisional Hon. Secretary.

No further recommendations with reference to the Statistical Tables were made, but the Hon. Secretary was directed to call the attention of the Statistical Committee to such of the previous recommendations of the division as had not apparently been dealt with.

A resolution with reference to the election of a President-elect, in consequence of the late Sir J. Sibbald's resignation, having been passed, Dr. Nolan proposed, and Dr. Eustace seconded the following, which was unanimously adopted:—
"The members of the Irish Division are of opinion that it would be to the advantage of the Association that the Annual Meeting should be changed from July to an earlier month, say May."

The following resolution was passed unanimously on the proposal of Dr. Nolan, seconded by Dr. Mills:—"That the members of this division desire to express their sympathy with Dr. O'Neill in his recent sad bereavement."

COMMUNICATIONS.

1. Dr. F. E. RAINSFORD then read the following "Note on the Stewart Institution."

Gentlemen,—The Stewart Institution, which for the first time is honoured by your visit, has but a short and comparatively uneventful history. Its existence is due to the want long felt in Ireland for some institution into which imbeciles

capable of improvement might be admitted, and in which efforts to develop any latent mental powers existent might be tried.

The Census return of 1861 stated that the large number of 7033 idiots existed in Ireland, being in a proportion of 1 to 825 of her population. Of this large number no less than 5675 were 'at large,' 934 were in the workhouse, 403 were housed in various county asylums, and 21 were in prison.

Feeling that this state of things was a disgrace, the late Dr. Geo. Hugh Kidd, of Dublin, aided by a number of leading gentlemen, took steps for having this great want supplied, and, after public meetings were held, a Committee was appointed to obtain subscriptions. It was considered that less than £20,000 would be inadequate to found a suitable institution and to maintain it efficiently, but the Committee were able to collect little more than a third of this sum, and the fulfilment of the project seemed for a time very doubtful.

At this juncture of affairs the late Dr. Stewart came forward and secured a donation of £4000, payable at his death, besides making over his interest in a well-established private asylum at Lucan, the profits arising from which were to help to maintain and carry on the imbecile institution.

This offer was, needless to say, accepted by the Committee, and they were soon able to enter on the work.

Owing to this the Institution not merely got its present name, but acquired what I may describe as its double-barrelled character, viz. an institution for the training and education of imbeciles, and a hospital for the reception of patients mentally affected. The profits of the latter department are devoted to the upkeep of the imbecile institution.

The Committee, after accepting this offer, acquired premises in Lucan in close proximity to Dr. Stewart's asylum. They were fitted up to accommodate thirty-five cases, and in July, 1869, the institution now known as the Stewart Institution was opened with twelve recently-elected cases.

At the outset the Committee was fortunate in securing the services of the late Dr. Pim to superintend their new institution. It is not for me to dwell on the value of Dr. Pim's work here. I can only say that it was characterised by judgment, keen administrative power, and marked ability, and for almost thirty years he devoted all his time, talents, and abilities to the welfare of his patients. The Institution which to-day you have visited is indeed a monument of his work, and of him truly may it be said 'Si quaeris monumentum circumspice.'

After carrying on the Institution at Lucan for some years under great difficulties owing to unsuitability of premises, the Committee became the purchasers of Palmerston House and grounds.

The adaptation of these premises demanded an outlay of a considerable sum of money, and for the time being only two thirds of the accommodation designed was completed. In 1879 the institution removed from Lucan to its new quarters.

The demands for admission continuing to increase, as soon as sufficient funds were collected to warrant the step, the Committee lost no time in setting to work to complete the building, but funds were hard to get, and many years elapsed before the complete building as you see it to-day was in full swing.

Great credit is due to the devotion and keen business ability shown by the Managing Committee, assisted by the able Secretary, Mr. O'Neill, who for over thirty years has, with liberality tempered by prudence, managed its finances, and now to-day we are in the proud position of being able to say that we have the entire building in full work and practically free from debt.

Since it was first opened 466 imbecile children have been admitted. Of this number 129 died in the Institution, 234 were discharged, and we have to-day 103 inmates remaining in the Institution.

Of those discharged a large percentage were so dealt with, their term of election having expired, or they were considered unsuitable, but a fair proportion were removed so much improved that they were in a position to earn a livelihood, or else to be so useful in their home that their presence was desirable. One, after a stay here of eighteen years, was promoted to be an attendant, and has for four years discharged his duties with great efficiency.

As may be imagined in a building so far removed from the city one of the great difficulties which the Managing Committee had to face was that of providing a good

water supply. For some years here the only water supply was derived from the river or from some underground tanks erected by Lord Donoughmore, supplemented by some spring water which frequently failed. Negotiations were entered into with the Waterworks Committee of the Corporation, and after considerable trouble and expense, we were provided with a special main, which runs from the Vartry main at Island Bridge. The height at which the building is placed renders a supply during the day so uncertain that we have to rely on a night supply into tanks, situated just under the roof of the building, for all our drinking and cooking water.

As, however, in case of fire, this supply would be useless owing to want of pressure, we have recently completed an underground tank capable of containing 36,000 gallons of water fed from the main. By the aid of a small Tangye steam pump we are able to utilise this supply for the purpose of assisting the normal supply by night, or when this fails, of filling all our Vartry tanks in a short time.

We have, in addition, about 40,000 gallons of surface water stored in three underground tanks erected by Lord Donoughmore, available in case of fire, or capable of being pumped by the steam pump through the building to supplement the supply usually obtained from the river, and which is used for working the lifts and for flushing the closets.

We have our own gas main direct from Dublin, and so are usually well lighted.

The industrial side of our work is naturally limited by our numbers.

Bearing in mind that we have only fifty-seven male inmates, of whom about thirty are practically unable to do anything, it will readily be seen that the number available for any specialised manual instruction is very limited, when the multifarious duties connected with the cleaning of a large institution with a limited staff have been discharged. We are, however, able to get a good many fibre mats made during the year, some tweed woven, and a good deal of small repairs in the tailoring and carpentering departments done.

Nearly the entire upkeep of the grounds around the institution, exclusive of the farm, is done by the boys, while the girls do a good deal of work in the laundry and kitchen, in addition to knitting, sewing, and darning. It would, of course, be very pleasant to be able to show well-arranged workshops in various trades, presided over by skilled artisans, and supplied by boys learning their respective trades; the cost would, however, be far beyond our resources, and we have to rest content with trying to get the inmates to do some sort of work, however small and insignificant, believing that all work has its value as mental exercise, and that to teach any one of them to do anything, say to polish a brass tap, is to have done something towards his mental betterment.

2. Dr. R. A. L. GRAHAM then contributed an account of a "Case of General Paralysis, complicated with Syphilitic Meningo-myelitis," which was illustrated with microscopic preparations, photo-micrographs, and lantern slides. It will appear in a later number of the JOURNAL.

3. Dr. T. DRAPES read a paper on a "Case of Brain Tumour," illustrated with naked-eye and microscopic preparations. It also will be published later.

4. Dr. Nolan showed naked-eye specimens from four cases of pathological hearts of various kinds in insane patients.

I. *Ruptured Heart and Chronic Melancholia.*

Notes.—M. F—, a "flowerer," æt. 81 at time of death,—May 4th, 1904—was admitted to Downpatrick Asylum on December 9th, 1871. Well-marked family history of hereditary tendency to insanity.

For many years patient suffered from melancholia of a mild emotional type with paroxysmal acute fears of being murdered. There was nothing very remarkable in her habits beyond the fact that she was an inveterate chewer of paper, and she insisted that it was absolutely necessary for her to "chaw" in order "to prevent the blood pumping out through her mouth from its source inside her stomach." She indulged in reminiscences of paternal perfection and pride of home, which gave rise to a whimpering emotionalism resulting in copious tears for her long departed parent. She was noted as a great eater.

On May 4th, 1904, she made a good tea, after which she went to the lavatory, returned thence to her seat in the day-room, and immediately expired.

Post-mortem examination.—Thickening of all cranial bones, atheroma of cerebral vessels, and atrophy of grey matter. Other organs, with exception of cystic kidneys,

healthy. Aorta very atheromatous. Pericardium distended with sero-sanguineous fluid, and recent blood-clots. Heart covered and infiltrated with an excess of fat—a rupture a quarter of an inch in length in centre of left ventricle.

II. *Dissecting Aneurysm of Aorta and Hallucinatory Melancholia.*

S. N—, house-keeper, æt. 70 at date of death—January 29th, 1904,—was admitted to Downpatrick Asylum on August 17th, 1898, suffering from acute melancholia with refusal of food. She was much disturbed by disagreeable gustatory and auditory hallucinations, and was, at alternating intervals, acutely excited and depressed. Later she became more uniformly silent, rarely speaking except in monosyllables. She was also disinclined to active exercise, preferring to sit knitting or sewing.

On January 29th, 1904, she suddenly became very pale, and complained of great pain about region of her heart. This was at 3 o'clock p.m. Her pulse failed rapidly, and she finally sank at 6.15 o'clock, three hours and a quarter after onset of acute pain.

Post-mortem examination.—All organs except heart apparently healthy. No macroscopical lesion of brain.

In the heart the mitral valve was thickened and shortened; the left ventricle much hypertrophied. Very extensive atheroma of the whole length of the aorta, with numerous nodules and ulcerated patches. At the junction of the ascending part of the arch of the aorta, with the loop of the arch, there was a large rupture of the intima and media, through which the blood passed and travelled down between the media and outer coat, and so formed a *cul-de-sac*, which extended low down as the cœliac axis. This pouch was filled with laminated clots. Followed towards the heart the blood dissected the intima and media from the outer coat of the loop of the arch, and from the ascending limb to its root where the external coat ruptured into the pericardium, which contained some sixteen ounces of partly coagulated blood. The heart was laden and infiltrated with fat.

III. *Patency of Foramen Ovale, and Paroxysmal Mania.*

J. Mc—, æt. 59, admitted to Downpatrick Asylum, January 2nd, 1905, and died February 26th, following.

Patient was suffering from partial paraplegia of four years' duration. He was unable to pass water. The immediate cause of his committal was an assault on his wife because of her refusal to pass a catheter for him. He had a loud blowing diastolic murmur in the aortic area—this murmur was conducted towards the apex. His lungs were œdematous. On February 23rd, 1905, he had a syncopal attack from which he never fully rallied. He sank on the morning of February 26th.

Post-mortem examination.—Marked grey atrophy of frontal lobes. Spinal column the seat of tubercular disease in lumbar region, in which situation it had exercised pressure on the cord, which it flattened for a considerable length. The heart was much hypertrophied, the mitral valve thickened. A very patulous condition of the foramen ovale was also evident.

IV. *Cardiac Hypoplasia with Patulous Foramen Ovale and Congenital Mental Deficiency.*

T. T—, æt. 8 years 9 months; admitted June 10th, 1903.

The child suffered from congenital mental deficiency without epilepsy. Generally quiet and silent; at times he gave way to fits of unprovoked violence—biting, spitting, kicking, and snorting. His speech was imperfect, and there was wasting and loss of power in all his limbs. At intervals he tried to beat his head with his hands. His habits were dirty. He suffered from otitis media, and later developed *tabes mesenterica*. The abdomen became enlarged and tympanitic; he had diarrhœa with thin offensive stools streaked with bright red blood at times. There was little fever, but extreme wasting and debility.

Post-mortem examination.—Brain anæmic; convolutions large, regular, and flat; no macroscopic lesion. Lungs emphysematous. Intestines attenuated; no marked tuberculous lesions. A circular ulcer with sloughing base and hard, raised, everted edges one inch in length was found about one and a half inches from anus.

Heart very small, pale, and flabby, showing general hypoplasia. The foramen ovale was very patent, suggestive rather of a deficiency of substance than of mere want of approximation of the edges.

Dr. NORMAN thought the first case particularly interesting, and considered that the rupture was probably due to atheroma of the coronary artery, one branch of which was as hard as bone, and was probably blocked further on. In his own practice he had seen two cases of rupture of the heart, and one in which the heart was greatly thinned owing to occlusion of the coronary artery.

A hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Rainsford for his kind hospitality was then passed on the proposal of Dr. DRAPES, seconded by Dr. NORMAN, and Dr. RAINSFORD having responded the proceedings terminated.

DOWN DISTRICT ASYLUM.

PRESENTATION TO DR. NOLAN.

The Committee of Management of Down District Lunatic Asylum, after the transaction of the business of the monthly meeting in April last, paid a signal compliment to Dr. M. J. Nolan, the esteemed Resident Medical Superintendent.

The members of the present Committee, elected three years ago, in conjunction with the members of the Committee for 1899—1902, to mark their appreciation of the efficient manner in which Dr. Nolan has conducted the asylum since his appointment to the position of Resident Medical Superintendent close on twelve years ago, made him the recipient of a congratulatory address and gold watch, and Mrs. Nolan an autograph silver salver. On the watch were inscribed, outside the case, crest, motto, "Justa Sequor," and monogram; inside, "Presented to Dr. M. J. Nolan, R.M.S., Down District Asylum, by the Committee of Management, 1899—1905." On the salver, below the crest, etc., was inscribed, "Presented to Dr. and Mrs. Nolan by the Committees of Management, Down District Asylum, 1899—1905, as a token of their esteem."

The Chairman said that they were no doubt all aware that it had been arranged to make some acknowledgment to Dr. Nolan of the great zeal and capacity which he had shown in conducting the affairs of the asylum during the time the Committee had been in office. Colonel Sharman-Crawford and Mr. Russell had been deputed to carry out the idea, and he now requested the former gentleman to read the apologies, and Mr. Russell to read the address. He might, perhaps, be permitted to say that, as the oldest member of the Committee, he could testify to the steady improvement which had been carried out in almost every department of the asylum since Dr. Nolan became Medical Superintendent.

Mr. Andrews, speaking in the name of the Committee, said that, having had the privilege of acting as treasurer for the presentation, he wished to say that he had never been associated with any object or acted as treasurer in any case in which contributions were sent in so cheerfully and so pleasantly as in this case. Each member who wrote expressed the general indebtedness to Dr. Nolan, and the great pleasure that the donor had in forwarding his contribution.

The Chairman having made the presentation, Dr. Nolan assured the Committee how much he was touched by their great kindness—kindness so unexpected, so unanimous, so spontaneous, that it was a reward such as he could not think he deserved.—*The Down Recorder*, April 22nd, 1905.

OBITUARY.

SIR JOHN SIBBALD, M.D., F.R.C.P.Edin.

By the death of Sir John Sibbald, President Elect of the Medico-Psychological Association, ex-Commissioner in Lunacy for Scotland, psychiatric medicine has lost one of its foremost and wisest exponents.

In the end of 1904 an affection of his throat appeared, which quickly assumed a serious character, and permitted no hope of ultimate recovery. He faced the issue