

that the operation would prevent the certification of the patient, but in spite of that operation it had been necessary to certify the patient. That patient's mental condition, instead of being improved by the operation, became definitely more acute, with the development of definite delusions of unworthiness connected with the nature of the operation performed.

Dr. A. HELEN BOYLE (Hove) remarked that two difficulties met one in regard to the question of the induction of abortion as a preventive measure in patients who had had attacks of insanity connected with one or more previous pregnancies. Firstly that abortion was in itself a disturbing event, and might be followed by mental trouble as at delivery at full term and for much the same reasons. Secondly there was in many cases a definite mental conflict aroused by the interference with pregnancy, most women having a feeling of guilt in regard to it, even though they might greatly have desired it to be done.

Dr. G. W. SMITH and Dr. NOEL SERGEANT also gave their experiences.

Other members, in informal conversations, expressed their disapproval of abortion as a preventive measure in recurrent cases of mental disorder.

The PRESIDENT, in concluding the discussion, said that if the views on this subject expressed by various speakers at that meeting were representative of the views of the Association, then he thought it might go forth that in the opinion of the Association the weight of evidence told definitely against the growing practice of inducing abortion for the prevention of mental disorders, and that those practitioners who favoured it might be unwittingly doing harm to the social organism. Fear of exposure, shame, depression, even misery following the breaking of the moral law should not be confused with the symptoms arising from the disordered mind; such were the reactions of the normal mind—in fact were direct evidences of it. He was glad he had been instrumental in bringing the subject before the notice of the Association, for he saw great danger ahead for both the profession and the community unless some authoritative opinion in the matter was forthcoming and heed given to it.

Members were then entertained to tea at the kind invitation of Dr. Robinson, and this concluded a most instructive and enjoyable meeting.

#### SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

THE SPRING MEETING of the Division was held, by kind invitation of Dr. T. S. Good and the Committee of Visitors, at the City and County Mental Hospital, Littlemore, Oxford, on Thursday, April 28, 1927.

Twenty-seven members were present at the business meeting. Letters of apology were received from the President (Lt.-Col. J. R. Lord), Lt.-Col. E. Goodall, Drs. Eager, Peachell, Rutherford, Barton White and others.

Dr. J. G. Soutar was voted to the Chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Dr. W. Starkey was elected Divisional Secretary, and Drs. R. Eager and J. G. Soutar Representative Members of Council. Drs. W. F. Nelis and T. S. Good were elected members of the Committee of Management in place of Drs. N. R. Phillips and J. Rutherford, who retire in rotation.

The date of the Autumn Meeting was fixed for Thursday, October 27, 1927, the place to be arranged by the Divisional Secretary.

A circular letter from the General Secretary *re* proposed Clinical Meetings was read and discussed. The meeting expressed its general approval of the suggestion, but decided that any further action should be deferred until after the May meeting of Council.

The CHAIRMAN referred to the suggestion made at the last Quarterly meeting of the Association that a Vice-President should be appointed for each Division, who should also be Chairman of the Division. He was strongly in favour of the proposal, and urged that, if approved at the General Meeting, such would be in the interest of the Division.

During the morning members were given the opportunity of inspecting the whole of the Institution, and saw many features of interest, including an exhibition of work done by the patients.

The members and visitors, who included the Chairman of the Visiting Committee and several members of the consulting staff, were most hospitably entertained to lunch in the recreation hall.

After lunch a clinical meeting was held, at which over forty were present. Dr. STEWART showed: (1) A case of cerebral syphilis with unusual complications; (2) a case of progressive muscular atrophy. Dr. DAVIES JONES showed (1) a case of acromegaly and (2) symbolic drawings by a case of delusional insanity. Dr. T. S. GOOD showed three cases of encephalitis (hyperkinetic form), and suggested that many cases admitted as examples of confusional insanity, or as the acute phases of dementia præcox, were really post-encephalitic in origin.

All these cases gave rise to discussion, and the meeting was a most interesting and instructive one.

Dr. and Mrs. Good afterwards entertained the members to tea, and were accorded a hearty vote of thanks for their hospitality.

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#### NORTHERN AND MIDLAND DIVISION.

THE SPRING MEETING of the Division was held, by the courtesy of Dr. J. I. Russell and the Committee of Visitors, at the North Riding Mental Hospital, Clifton, York, on Thursday, April 28, 1927, at 2.15 p.m.

Twenty members and four visitors were present. Letters of apology were received from the President (Lt.-Col. J. R. Lord) and others.

The members had an opportunity of being shown over the hospital and laboratory in the forenoon, and also saw many examples of the patients' handicrafts.

Dr. Russell entertained the members to lunch, and a cordial vote of thanks was moved by Dr. Bedford Pierce and carried unanimously.

Dr. Russell was voted to the Chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

The death of Dr. E. S. Simpson, of Beverley, was sympathetically referred to by Dr. M. A. Archdale, and it was agreed that the Secretary should send a message of condolence to his widow.

Dr. J. B. Tighe was elected Secretary to the Division in succession to Dr. J. R. Gilmour, who had resigned.

Drs. H. Dove Cormac, N. Macleod and M. A. Archdale were elected Representative Members of Council.

The meeting agreed to take no action with regard to applying for powers under Bye-law 26.

Dr. ARCHDALE then proposed that a clinical centre should be formed at Newcastle, and Dr. MIDDLEMISS brought forward a similar motion regarding Leeds. A prolonged discussion took place upon the whole question of the formation of centres throughout the Division. It was considered very desirable that these local committees should be established, but it was finally agreed to postpone any action until some general scheme had been formulated by the Association.

Dr. LOUIS MINSKI then gave a paper on "Endocrine Therapy," which was discussed by several of the members present.

Dr. J. A. GILFILLAN read a paper on "Environmental Factors in Mental Diseases." In this he traced the influence of environment in the causation and development of various groups of symptoms and delusions. He gave an account both of his observations in mental hospitals and also of several cases he had observed and noted while in a prisoners' camp in Germany.

Dr. W. FRASER read a paper on "Blood-Sugar Estimation" in several groups of mental illness.

It was left to the Secretary of the Division to fix the place and date of the Autumn Meeting.

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#### SCOTTISH DIVISION.

A MEETING of the Scottish Division of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association was held at Stirling District Mental Hospital, Larbert, on Friday, June 10, 1927.

There were 23 members present.

Dr. R. D. Hotchkis, Divisional Chairman, occupied the Chair.

The minutes of the last Divisional Meeting were read and approved, and signed by the Chairman.