

Part IV.—Notes and News.

THE ROYAL MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

QUARTERLY MEETING.

The Quarterly Meeting of the Association was held at No. 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London, W. 1, on Thursday, February 28, 1935, the President, Dr. Daniel Rambaut, occupying the Chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting, having already appeared in the Journal, were taken as read and approved.

OBITUARY.

The PRESIDENT announced, with regret, that since the last meeting the Association had lost three members by death: Dr. René Semelaigne, an honorary member, Sir Maurice Craig, and Dr. H. T. S. Aveline, Medical Superintendent of Somerset and Bath Mental Hospital at Cotford.

Dr. PERCY SMITH said it was with great sorrow he learned of the death of his old friend Sir Maurice Craig. Sir Maurice was born in 1866, and died on January 6 last, and was therefore in his 68th year. The speaker's first association with him was when he came to Bethlem Royal Hospital as resident student, Sir George Savage being then resident physician, and he, Dr. Percy Smith, assistant medical officer. Subsequently, when the speaker succeeded Sir George Savage in that institution, Craig became junior assistant medical officer, under Dr. Hyslop, and was senior assistant medical officer in 1898. When Dr. Percy Smith left Bethlem to go into private practice as a consultant, Craig became senior medical officer under Dr. Hyslop, but after a time Sir Maurice left to enter consulting practice, in which he was very successful. He was, for a time, Lecturer in Mental Diseases at St. George's Hospital, and subsequently filled a similar post at Guy's Hospital, which was his own original medical school. Sir Maurice Craig took the Gaskell Gold Medal for psychological medicine in 1900. During the war he was a Lieutenant-Colonel in the R.A.M.C., and served abroad. Subsequently he was associated with the speaker and others in Lord Knutsford's Hospital for Officers. He was also Examiner in Psychological Medicine in the Royal College of Physicians, London, and the University of Cambridge. He gave the Bradshaw Lecture before the Royal College of Physicians in 1920, and the Maudsley Lecture of this Association in 1922. He wrote an excellent text-book on psychological medicine, and made many contributions to the literature on that subject, including articles in the *Practitioner* and the *Encyclopædia Britannica* on neurasthenia, psychasthenia and other subjects. For some time he was Treasurer—following Sir George Savage—of the Mental After-Care Association, and subsequently succeeded Dr. Percy Smith as Chairman of that Council, until his first illness, which interfered very much with his activities. Sir Maurice was also Chairman of the National Council for Mental Hygiene, and was President of the Section of Mental Disorders at the centenary meeting of the British Medical Association in 1932.

Sir Maurice first met his wife, Lady Craig, in the Island of Sark, where the speaker used to go for his summer holidays. She was Miss Brock. Lady Craig survived him, and he left a son and two daughters; one of the daughters was a medical student at Edinburgh University.

Some four years ago, as members were aware, Sir Maurice had an illness which

necessitated an operation. He recovered from that, and seemed to be himself again, until his last illness, which was a very long and trying one. For several months he was in a nursing home in London, where the speaker was able to visit and inquire after him. At length he was moved down to his home at East Preston, Sussex, where he passed away.

A memorial service was held at Grosvenor Chapel, London, and it was largely attended by members of the medical profession and old friends.

Members present rose in silence as a tribute to the memory of the departed members.

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING.

The PRESIDENT reported that at the meeting of the Council held that morning the following business had been transacted :

Travelling expenses of examiners and coadjutors.—The Council decided to revise a minute passed at the Council meeting of November, 1933, and to pay a settled amount of 3d. per mile as travelling expenses.

Sterilization.—It is proposed to hold a debate on this question, particularly in regard to the Brock Report, later in the year.

The Journal.—The Research and Clinical Committee raised the question of a more frequent issue of the Journal. The Editors will confer with the Committee on the matter.

The Mental Health Services Committee issued a Report recommending that the Association should oppose any endeavour to abolish the present statutory powers of the Mental Hospital Committees. They also recommended a general policy of procedure. It was decided to approach the British Medical Association with a view to ascertaining to what extent they would support this Association in its action.

A "live" nurses' register.—It was reported that the Mental Nursing Advisory Committee had gone into the question of the Registrar keeping a "live" register. The Council agreed to take legal advice on the matter.

Occupation therapy.—Four delegates have been appointed to meet the Mental Hospitals Association to discuss the question of occupation therapy for mental patients.

The Royal Sanitary Institute have asked for a representative to attend the Public Health Congress, which will be held from July 15 to July 20.

The PRESIDENT asked that a representative be chosen from this present meeting. The Congress would be held at Bournemouth.

Dr. WORTH said the Association would like to send a representative to this Congress, which was an important gathering. He asked whether Dr. Helen Boyle would agree to go.

Dr. HELEN BOYLE said it had not been her intention to attend the Congress, but if members wished her to represent the Association she would be pleased to do so.

It was agreed to appoint Dr. Helen Boyle to the representation.

The May meeting.—The PRESIDENT intimated that the next quarterly meeting would be held on May 16th, committees meeting on the 15th.

The Annual General Meeting.—This had been arranged for the week commencing July 1. Owing to the Royal Jubilee Celebrations, visiting members to London were advised to book the accommodation required well in advance.

The Medico-Psychological Society of France.—This body had asked that a delegate from this Association should be appointed to attend the Centenary Celebration of Magnan, which is to be held at 4.30 p.m. on May 27 next. The PRESIDENT asked that this be left in the hands of the Secretary.

This was agreed to.

Harvey Memorial.—The Council have agreed to subscribe five guineas to the William Harvey Memorial Fund to complete the Harvey Tower, Hempstead Church, Essex.

Preliminary examination for nurses.—Owing to the Jubilee celebrations, it has been decided to hold this examination on Tuesday, May 7, instead of May 6.

Departmental Committee on Cost of Hospitals.—It was reported that oral evidence had been given before this Committee by Drs. Worth, Turner and Skottowe. The Committee were pleased with the report which had been sent to them. A few queries had arisen, but they had been dealt with.

The PRESIDENT invited the meeting to show approval of the various motions which he had read out.

This was done.

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBER.

Dr. Douglas McRae and Dr. Kimber acted as scrutineers. The following was unanimously elected :

GUIRDHAM, ARTHUR, B.A., B.M., B.Ch., D.P.H., Assistant Medical Officer,
Brentwood Mental Hospital, Essex.

Proposed by Drs. W. G. Masefield, T. D. Power and A. C. Sinclair.

THE PROPOSED "LIVE" REGISTER.

The PRESIDENT remarked that as there were a few minutes to spare before leaving to hear the Maudsley Lecture, he would like to hear a little discussion on the so-called "live" register, as some members might not quite know what was meant. It had been suggested that the Association's Registrar should keep up to date a register of all mental nurses. What was called a Register had always been kept, i. e. a list of all candidates who passed their examinations. In the case of medical men a "live" register meant that candidates who passed their examinations had to keep in touch with the Registrar, telling him that they were still alive, and still wished to be kept on the Register. To keep such a record would mean an enormous amount of additional work. There were 34,000 names on the Register of the Association. In order to commence to keep a "live" register it would be necessary to ascertain the whereabouts of those 34,000 nurses; many of these were now dead, and many female nurses were married, and had ceased to take any interest in their profession. Even if it were possible to get into touch with every live person he saw no benefit in doing so to the individual nurse, or to the Association as a whole. If anyone wished for a mental nurse and felt doubtful about the one recommended, application could always be made to the Registrar.

After giving careful consideration to the matter he recommended that a "live" register be not kept. He did not think it would justify the extra work implied; and to attempt to extort any sum of money each year from certificated mental nurses would be a breach of the conditions under which the examinations were held.

Those were his ideas on the subject. A prominent member of the Association had other ideas, and thought members should support such a register as was proposed. In any case such a register could not be complete for some years. To do this it would be necessary to ask for a return from all institutions concerning nurses, though perhaps not still in the service of the institutions. There would have to be an advertisement in the nursing papers, telling of the proposal, and inviting all who had the Association's certificate to communicate with the Registrar. In the Council meeting it was said this might not be legal, and the General Nursing Council might attack the Association on these grounds, and therefore it was necessary to ascertain the legal position before doing anything in the matter.

Dr. DOUGLAS McRAE said that there were a good many members who saw no use for such a "live" register; it would be particularly interesting to hear the arguments of those who desired the change.

Dr. G. W. SMITH (Hon. Treasurer) remarked that the prime agitator for the change in the character of the Register was Dr. Menzies, and his main supporter had been himself (Dr. Smith). The reason behind it was simple. The Association

met with many representatives, particularly the General Nursing Council, when the Association tried to establish its claim as an examining body for the registration of its certificated nurses on the National Register. Dr. Menzies argued—and, the speaker thought, justly—that if the Association was going to establish its claim before the General Nursing Council or the Ministry of Health or Parliament, one of the first questions asked would be, “Have you a Register of your certificated nurses which is of practical use?” The answer to that, at present, must be “No”. But if the Association were to have a “live” register, namely, one in regard to which one could say, “This person is alive and in the active pursuit of her profession or calling”, and could say there existed the machinery for keeping in touch with them, he thought that further attempts at receiving recognition for the certificate in mental nursing would be more successful. The Association could not at present claim to possess such a “live” register, such, for instance, as the Medical Register, for some years; but by pursuing some policy with that object, and beginning now, it was possible that in ten years such a dependable register would be in working order.

Dr. W. F. MENZIES said he only wished to add a word concerning the cost of a “live” register. It would not give the Registrar any more work, because a lay assistant could be obtained, whose remuneration would be paid for by the payment of a shilling a year by those who desired to remain on the Register.

Dr. SMITH added that not all the members could remember all the provisions of the Bye-laws and the Charter. After the discussion that morning at the Council meeting it became clear that it was provided in the Bye-laws that the Registrar should keep a register of nurses who had achieved the certificate for mental nursing; further, it was stated that the Registrar had the power to strike off that register the name of any person who was found unsuitable. There was no necessity, he submitted, to take legal opinion, since the points in controversy were covered by the Charter and Bye-laws.

Dr. DOUGLAS McRAE said his contention was that there existed no machinery which enabled the Registrar to strike out anyone's name. However many names were struck off the Register, the certificate could not be taken from those who held it. Armed with it they could go about the country doing their work unperturbed.

Dr. SMITH replied that the object would be to get their nurses incorporated in the Register of the General Nursing Council, and if the Association's certificate qualified them for entry on to the National Register, striking any off the Association's list would strike them off the other also.

Dr. McRAE said that would require legal action and sworn evidence, giving the defendant the opportunity to appear.

Dr. KIMBER thought it was doubtful whether at any time this Association's certificate would be recognized by the General Nursing Council. There was evidence that the number of nurses taking the Association's certificate was increasing, but so was the number taking the General Nursing Council's examination. He thought it was a pity to propose putting into motion expensive machinery for starting a “live” register, since the future was so problematical.

Dr. MASEFIELD suggested that however futile the present register might be, any nurse whose name was not on the list and who called herself, or himself, a registered nurse was liable to a penalty.

The PRESIDENT: No.

An adjournment was then made to the Royal Society of Medicine building to hear the Maudsley Lecture.

THE MAUDSLEY LECTURE.

The Maudsley Lecture was delivered, in the Barnes Hall of the Royal Society of Medicine, by Dr. LEWIS C. BRUCE, *M.C., F.R.C.P.E., M.P.C.*

The PRESIDENT, in introducing the lecturer, said that Dr. Lewis Campbell Bruce, since the beginning of this century, had been recognized as one of the most

brilliant and original minds in Scottish psychiatry. Many of those present had doubtless read his *Clinical Studies in Psychiatry*, and his article on "Insanity" in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*.

Dr. HENRY YELLOWLEES, in proposing a vote of thanks to Dr. Bruce for his lecture, said that as a small boy he knew Dr. Bruce as the then "Winston Churchill" of the specialty, one of the bright young men of Scottish psychiatry, who was "making things hum"; and he heard of Dr. Bruce later as a person who, in his spare time, turned out assistants year after year with the Gold Medal Thesis of Edinburgh University. The speaker was the first to break that sequence. He could tell long stories about Dr. Bruce's laboratory and the work done there, as well as about other aspects of the lecturer. There were only two things of which Dr. Bruce was incapable: one was an insincere word, the other an underhand action.

The address to-day, with its stirring appeal for communal research at the end, reminded the speaker vividly of the laboratory where work was done ten miles away from the nearest town, Perth, under difficulties of which those present had no idea. One night he, the speaker, went to the carpenter's shop, at an advanced hour, and watched, bewildered, while a small milled wheel was being fashioned by Dr. Bruce's own hands for the purpose of pulverizing bacteria. It was in that spirit that this wonderful work had been done. It was the speaker's experience there which taught him the difference between real research in the case of the man who had the mind for it, and some of the shoddy stuff which called itself research to-day.

He thought that the Scottish contingent had always been deservedly popular in their excursions to the quarterly meetings in London, and he thought that on the present occasion they could well say they had brought down with them the best brain in Scottish psychiatry.

He realized that it was for personal rather than professional reasons that he had been given the honour of acting as the mouthpiece of the audience in moving this vote of thanks to Dr. Bruce, who, in addition to being the scientist that he was, was his teacher and very honoured friend, and a great man.

Dr. DOUGLAS McRAE said it gave him a great pleasure to second the vote of thanks. His only claim to do this was that he believed himself to be Dr. Bruce's oldest living assistant. Dr. Bruce graduated before the 90's, and at the moment he was the doyen of the service, the oldest active member of it in Scotland to-day. It was obvious to those present, after listening to the lecture, and knowing the reputation of the lecturer, that, in spite of other duties, and in spite of his isolation in the country, he had kept up his spirit of industrious research. Dr. Bruce was the type of man whom the speaker would describe as one big mark of interrogation. In his passage through life he never saw a thing without wanting to know the why and the wherefore. There were many features in his character and his work that were a stimulus to others. No one in Scottish lunacy was more loved than Bruce by the men who had worked with him. One remark of the late Sir Thomas Clouston's was well worth repeating: "I do not know any man who has a nicer way of finding fault."

He welcomed the invitation to second this vote of thanks, as it was the first opportunity he had had of saying what he thought of Dr. Lewis Bruce. He left those possessing more scientific knowledge than he, the speaker, could claim to speak of Dr. Bruce's work.

The resolution was carried by acclamation.

Dr. LEWIS BRUCE briefly responded.