

PART IV.—NOTES AND NEWS.

MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

GENERAL MEETING.

A General Meeting was held at the Rooms of the Association, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, on Thursday, November 19th, under the Presidency of Dr. Julius Mickle.

The following were elected as Ordinary Members :—Reginald L. Langdon-Down, M.B., B.C.Cantab., M.R.C.P.Lond., Normansfield, Hampton Wick. George Fletcher Collins, M.B.C.S.Eng., L.R.C.P.I., D.P.H.Cantab., Resident Medical Officer, Ticehurst House, Sussex. James M. Rutherford, M.B., C.M. Edin., Assistant Physician, Royal Edinburgh Asylum, Morningside. James Charles Martin, L.R.C.S.I., L.M., L.R.C.P.I., Assistant Medical Officer, District Asylum, Letterkenny. Charles G. Cassidy, M.B. Edin., Assistant Medical Officer, Grahamstown Asylum, South Africa. S. Mallannah, M.B., C.M. Edin., Medical School, Hyderabad, Deccan, India. Richard Ambrose Coles, M.B., C.M. Aberd., Corsley, Warminster, Wilts. Alan Charles Turner, M.B.C.S.Eng., L.R.C.P.Lond., 79, Gordon Road, Ealing. James Henry Horton, M.B.C.S.Eng., L.R.C.P.Lond., Assistant Medical Officer, The Priory, Roehampton, S.W. Eric France, M.B., B.S. Durh., Assistant Medical Officer, Northumberland County Asylum, Morpeth. William Eushton Shortt, M.B., B.S. Durh., M.B.C.S.Eng., L.R.C.P.Lond., Assistant Medical Officer, City Asylum, Gosforth, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Dr. MERCIER read a paper on "Medical Retardance."

Dr. C. H. BOND read notes on "Further points in the relation of Diabetes to Insanity."

Both these papers with relative discussions will be printed in the next number of the Journal, and members will kindly note that Dr. Mercier's paper will come up for discussion at the Annual Meeting of 1897.

The members dined together after the meeting at the Café Royal, Regent Street, at 6.30 p.m.

MEETING OF THE IRISH DIVISION.

A meeting of the Irish Division was held at Londonderry Asylum on August 11th. There were present Dr. Conolly Norman (in the chair); Drs. Hetherington and Ruttledge (Londonderry), Finegan (Mullingar), Oscar Woods, Hon. Sec. Letters of apology for non-attendance were read from Drs. Moore (Letterkenny), Patton (Dublin), Lawless (Sligo), and others.

Much disappointment was expressed at the small attendance of members, and after some discussion it was decided that every effort should be made to induce both Superintendents and Assistant Medical Officers to attend the meetings held once a year at the asylums. With so many Assistant Medical Officers as there are in Ireland at present there should be no lack of material for original work. Some discussion took place as to the best asylum to select for the next place of meeting, and the Secretary was requested to communicate with the Superintendents of Clonmel, Ballinasloe, and Waterford, and, if possible, arrange for a meeting at one of these asylums.

The Hon. Sec. reported the result of the discussion which took place in London with regard to the examination for the Nursing Certificates. The Chairman and others approved of what had been done, and believed if the examination papers could in future be forwarded to medical examiners, to whom a power of veto could be given, that uniformity of examination would be secured.

Dr. RUTLEDGE (Londonderry District Asylum) read a paper on "Photography as an Aid in the Diagnosis of Mental Disease." He conclusively showed the value of this method of recording the various conditions of insane patients. He referred to the difficulty of describing a face, an attitude, a gesture, and claimed for photography that it conveyed a tenfold more truthful conception of the condition. Dr. Rutledge also showed the value of being able to preserve in permanent form these pictures for the purposes of study and comparison. He held that by this method of observation we are able to roughly classify cases and follow each out to the ultimate issue. There was also the great advantage of future workers having access to graphic delineations, which give vigour and reality to the formal case books. Dr. Rutledge concluded by demonstrating the simplicity and cheapness of modern photography; and showed a large collection of most interesting photographs of the patients in the Londonderry Asylum, mostly taken by himself, developed by the head attendant, and printed by one of the nurses.

Dr. HETHERINGTON read notes of a case of cervical caries (see page 102).

The afternoon was spent in the wards, when Dr. Hetherington gave demonstrations on several interesting cases.

MEETING OF THE SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

A meeting of the South-Western Division was held on the 20th October, at Fisherton House Asylum, Salisbury, by kind permission of Dr. Finch. The chair was occupied by Dr. Mickle (President), and there were also present Dr. Corbin Finch, Dr. E. Finch, Dr. Benham, Dr. Wade, Dr. Manning, Dr. Fox, Dr. Davidson, Dr. McBryan, Dr. Stewart, Dr. Brunton, Dr. Stratton, Dr. Cardale, Dr. Boddie, Dr. Briscoe, Dr. Macdonald (Hon. Secretary), and Dr. Lee (as visitor).

NEW MEMBERS.

The following new members were elected:—Andrew Davidson, M.B. and C.M., Senior Assistant Medical Officer, County Asylum, Dorchester; William Boddie, M.B., C.M., M.A., Assistant Medical Officer, Fisherton House Asylum, Salisbury; Henry J. Cardale, M.B. and C.M., Assistant Medical Officer, Fisherton House Asylum, Salisbury; C. R. Stratton, F.R.C.S.Ed., etc., Medical Visitor, Fisherton House and Laverstock Asylums.

THE NEXT MEETING.

The HON. SECRETARY announced that he had received from Dr. Soutar, Gloucester, an invitation for the members of the South-Western District of this Society to meet next (spring meeting) at Barnwood House.

On the motion of Dr. STEWART, seconded by Dr. BRISCOE, it was unanimously decided to accept Dr. Soutar's invitation, and it was left to the Secretary to arrange the most convenient day.

Dr. J. F. BRISCOE read a paper on "Constipation in the Insane." He defined the term in its various senses and gave an account of the processes involved in normal digestion. Dr. Briscoe then pointed out how constipation is increased and auto-infection set up by voluntary opposition to defæcation, and detailed the symptoms arising—such as mental apathy, irritability, perverted moral feelings, melancholia, suicide, mania, etc., which, if not cured, could certainly be considerably relieved by Epsom salts, the emperor of purgative medicines. He held that ordinary constipation is a troublesome and intractable symptom of insanity, owing to the insensibility and torpor of the whole system. Dr. Briscoe showed how the defective elimination of fæcal putrid products favours absorption and the intoxication of the ultimate constituents of the nervous system, giving rise to mental aberration. He further held that there is a tendency on the part of some physicians not to devote sufficient attention to the functions of the digestive organs and their chemical reactions; and emphasised the facts of recoveries from mental diseases owing to complete evacuation of the bowels. Dr. Briscoe showed that constipation in the insane