

to know. Dr. Keay's case was that of a man who had inflammation in the glandular system, which ended in blood poisoning. Now, adolescence is a mark of health, and he could not see that in the matter of clearness anything was gained by the term "insanity of adolescence."

Dr. ROBERTSON read a paper on "Reflex Action of Automatic Speech."

Dr. TURNBULL expressed the thanks of the meeting to Dr. Robertson for his paper.

The members dined together at the Edinburgh Hotel¹ after the meeting.

The next Scottish Quarterly Meeting will be held on the second Thursday of March, 1888, in Glasgow.

IRISH MEETING.

The Quarterly Meeting of the Medico-Psychological Association was held in the Richmond Asylum, Dublin, on December 1st, 1887. There were present: Dr. Duncan (in the chair), Dr. Patton (Dublin), Dr. J. Molony, Conolly Norman, F.R.C.S.I., Dr. Myles, Dr. Cope, E. M. Courtenay, M.B.

William Thornley Stokes, Esq., M.D., Visiting Surgeon, Swift's Hospital, proposed by CONOLLY NORMAN, F.R.C.S.I., seconded by JOHN MOLONY, M.D., was duly elected a member of the Association.

Dr. COURTENAY stated that, having at the last annual meeting handed in his resignation of the post of Irish Secretary, he was requested to continue in office until an appointment could be made. He was then directed to obtain the sense of the Irish members as to the name of the candidate they would select to be laid before the general meeting for appointment. He, therefore, proposed Mr. Conolly Norman as the most fitting selection, if for no higher reason as the superintendent of the largest Irish asylum, and as living in the Metropolis.

Dr. PATTON seconded the resolution, which was agreed to.

Dr. COURTENAY begged to call the attention of the meeting to the Bill introduced during the last Parliamentary Session to amend the Superannuation Act at present in force in Irish asylums. The Bill had not only been introduced, but had passed through the House of Commons, and had only been stopped by having no seconder in the House of Lords. The object was to introduce a scheme of superannuation very much in conformity with that in force in English County Asylums, and to this no one could object, except in so far that the pension given was so large, and the period of service so short, that in England, where it was necessary that pensions should be ratified at Quarter Sessions, the award made by Asylum Committees was nearly always sent back to them, and the unfortunate pensioner was satisfied to take a very small part of what he was entitled by law. But what he had to object to, and what was the interest of every one connected with Irish lunatic asylums to oppose, was a clause stating that pensions should be granted at the will of Boards of Asylum Governors, "and not otherwise." It was unnecessary for him to point out, without going into any political discussion, that the management of asylums would undoubtedly in a few years be thrown into the hands of men of very different feelings to those who at present are appointed governors of asylums, and that it would undoubtedly occur that men holding office in asylums would at the end of their years be thrown out, without being granted the pension they had looked forward to as the support of their old age. He, therefore, considered that this was a subject of importance to every Irish superintendent. He had attempted to have it opposed in every way in his power in the Commons, in which he was ably supported by Dr. Nugent; but the passing of the Bill was kept so quiet that it had only been heard of before the third reading, and was only thrown out of the House of Lords as it had no seconder. He, therefore, considered that some action should be taken to amend the Bill during the next Session.

Mr. CONOLLY NORMAN concurred with Dr. Courtenay. In his opinion the clauses of the proposed Bill absolutely excluded men in the

position of medical superintendents from any chance of pension. The very fact of so large an amount as two-thirds of their pay, and allowance being allowed them after fifteen years' service, would cause Boards of Governors at once to reject any claim to pension in their case. An attendant might by chance be given £40 a year on retirement, but the chances of a physician obtaining £400 from a board, constituted as public asylum board, would be, after a few years, if the power of refusing was left to them, simply hopeless.

Dr. DUNCAN suggested that a petition be drawn up to the Chief Secretary, praying that the Bill be taken into consideration by the Government as to whether they would not insist on retaining the power of having some voice in the superannuation of their own officers.

Dr. COURTENAY seconded the proposition, which was agreed to.

PELLAGRA.

In the neurological Section of the annual gathering of German Naturalists and Physicians, held at Wiesbaden, Sept., 1887, Dr. Tuczek, of Marburg, presented an able and elaborate report on the nervous disturbances witnessed in Pellagra, of which we hope to make further use, but in the meantime it may be stated that Dr. Tuczek based his report on a study of Pellagra in northern Italy, which he had made during the months of April and May, 1887. About three hundred and fifty patients had come under his notice, and eight autopsies. Amongst the psychoses observed in Pellagra, melancholia stood first, and in particular the variety named melancholia with stupor. In respect of other cerebral symptoms, *e.g.*, vertiginous attacks and twitchings, like those seen in cortical epilepsy, Dr. Tuczek was able to confirm the statements made by numerous Italian writers on Pellagra. He was also able to confirm the observations on cord symptoms, *viz.*, paræsthesias, motor and sensory palsies, vaso-motor disturbances. Of three hundred cases he found the knee-jerk exaggerated in two-thirds of the number; the exaggeration amounted to the most intense form of patella clonus in some of the cases. In twenty-three of these cases there was ankle-clonus as well, and in general, exaggeration of the tendon reflexes of the upper limbs, also more or less distinct of the other symptoms of spastic spinal paralysis. In seven cases the knee-jerk was wanting; in none of these cases was there ataxy. In the remaining cases there was either diminution, or no essential change in the tendon reflexes. Difference in the liveliness of the knee-jerk on the two sides was frequently observed. The author showed in photographs the chief types of psychosis in Pellagra, also the skin-affections. He showed, by means of preparations, the trophic lesions of the tongue; and he then discussed the post-mortem appearances in Pellagra. In all eight cases there were degenerative affections of the spinal cord, in two cases of the posterior columns only; in the other cases combined disease of the posterior columns, and of the hinder portions of the lateral columns. Preparations were shown. The clinical and anatomical investigations speak in favour of the toxic theory, which points to the prolonged use of diseased maize. Dr. Tuczek drew attention to the analogous toxæmias, Ergotism and Lathyrism, and laid stress on the point that, as in other forms of toxæmia, so in "Maidismus" or the "Maidic psycho-neurosis" the nervous disturbances were not exactly progressive.

AMERICAN PROBLEMS OF PSYCHIATRY.

[Having admitted Dr. Kiernan's paper into our Journal (July, 1887), we consider it only fair to place the following criticism on record which appears in Mr. Wines's "International Record of Charities and Correction." *Audi alteram partem.*—Eds.]