

The SECRETARY submitted a letter of acknowledgment received from Lady Clouston, thanking the members of the Division for the kind letter of sympathy sent to her.

Drs. J. C. Orr and C. C. Easterbrook were unanimously elected Representative Members of Council for the ensuing year, and Dr. R. B. Campbell was elected Divisional Secretary.

Dr. R. Dods Brown was nominated as an Examiner for the Certificate in Psychological Medicine.

The following candidate, after ballot, was admitted to membership of the Association: William Blackley Drummond, M.B., C.M.Edin., F.R.C.P., Medical Superintendent, Baldovan Institution, Dundee; proposed by Drs. Campbell, Clarkson, and Keay.

Dr. D. K. HENDERSON read an interesting paper on "Catatonia as a Type of Mental Reaction," which was discussed by Drs. Yellowlees, Fraser, Hotchkis, and Ivy Mackenzie. (A copy of the paper will appear in the July number of the Journal.)

Dr. D. K. HENDERSON also showed three cases of organic brain disease (syphilitic), which were interesting from the point of view of onset, symptomatology, and course.

(1) A depressed, self-accusatory, vague hallucinatory state in a man, æt. 57, who had well-marked physical signs of *tabes dorsalis*. The points which seemed to warrant one in keeping the case separate from the usual case of general paralysis were (1) the age of the patient; (2) the content of the psychosis; (3) excellent preservation of memory; (4) retention of personality as evidenced by good insight and judgment; (5) on the physical side—relative intactness of speech and writing, and a negative Wassermann reaction both in the blood and cerebro-spinal fluid.

(2) A woman æt. 46, who was first admitted to the Glasgow Royal Mental Hospital in April, 1898, with acute hallucinosis. At that time she had certain physical signs indicative of *tabes dorsalis*. She made a good recovery, worked efficiently for four years, and then was re-admitted in 1902 in a euphoric, grandiose state, and with very well-marked signs of *tabes dorsalis*. At the present time she shows considerable mental deterioration, but her general health is well maintained, and the Wassermann reaction is negative both in blood and cerebro-spinal fluid. The initial state appears to have been a psychosis, not general paralytic picture, associated with *tabes*, but now the condition has progressed, and the case is one of tabo-paralysis.

(3) In contrast to the above two cases, this case is one of tabo-paralysis in which the *tabes* and the paralytic process developed coincidentally. The case, however, is now of eleven years' duration, the memory is splendidly preserved, and the Wassermann reaction is negative both in the blood-serum and cerebro-spinal fluid.

Dr. JANE ROBERTSON read an interesting paper on "The Higher Type of Mental Defective," which was discussed by Drs. Henderson, Clarkson, and Yellowlees. (A copy of the paper will appear in the July number of the Journal.)

A vote of thanks to the Chairman for presiding concluded the business of the meeting.

#### MENTAL AFTER-CARE ASSOCIATION.

##### REPORT OF THE COUNCIL (ABRIDGED).

*From January 1st to December 31st, 1915.*

THE Council of the Mental After-Care Association for Poor Persons Convalescent or Recovered from Institutions for the Insane again has pleasure in presenting the Annual Report.

The work of the Association, in spite of the war, has progressed satisfactorily, and the Council takes this opportunity of thanking those subscribers who have continued or, in one or two instances, increased their contributions, and also those who have rejoined in response to the appeals sent out early in the year. As it is impossible to hope to arouse much fresh interest during the war, and meetings are deemed inadvisable, the continued support of all donors is earnestly requested, and it is suggested that each subscriber might endeavour to secure one new subscriber of at least five shillings per annum. This would relieve the Finance Committee of their possible anxiety respecting loss of income formerly received from those who have found it necessary to retire from the list of subscribers.

The Council feel that this unique charity, which is doing work untouched by any other Association, should appeal to all those who have true philanthropy at heart. The cases are very sad, often exceptionally difficult, and many patients would have no possibility of relief from their perplexity or trouble but for the help of this Association. That the work is greatly appreciated by those for whom it is intended is abundantly proved by the willingness with which they endeavour to pay part, and sometimes the whole, of the expenses incurred in giving them their fresh start in life, and by the way in which those who have been previously helped, frequently of their own accord, when in happier circumstances, send donations to help other cases.

*Staff.*—The Council has the deepest regret in announcing that owing to ill-health, which has prevented Mr. Thornhill Roxby from taking an active part in the work of the Association for nearly fifteen months, he has felt it imperative to resign the Secretaryship of the Association, which he has held for twenty-eight years. Throughout the whole of that period Mr. Roxby has worked in the most indefatigable manner in the interests of the Association. In addition to the heavy routine work, he has gone to much expense of time and money in visiting distant asylums in the endeavour to interest the Medical Superintendent and others, in establishing local branches and in arranging local meetings. Much effort has also been expended in the visiting and inspecting in various localities of Cottage Homes, on the character of which so much of the success of the work depends. Mr. Roxby's self-sacrificing devotion in these and other ways has very materially contributed to the success of the Association. The Council, in accepting Mr. Roxby's resignation, tender to him their high appreciation of his work during so many years, and express the hope that, with restored health, he may continue to take part in the work, to the success of which he has so largely contributed.

The Staff, under the direction of Miss Vickers, who throughout the year has carried on the work of Secretary, has most successfully continued the activities of the Association, and has dealt equally successfully with the new work arising from the inclusion in the scope of our efforts of patients discharged on trial from asylums, and the increased inquiry work entailed by the arrangement in relation to the Adelaide Fund, alluded to elsewhere.

The Council has unanimously decided to appoint Miss Vickers to the Secretaryship vacant by the resignation of Mr. Thornhill Roxby, and is confident that from her long familiarity with the work of the Association, and the efficient way in which she has carried it on during his absence, they are fortunate in securing her services.

*Cases.*—During the past year applications on behalf of 379 persons were received; of these, 270 were women and 109 were men. This total is only 6 more than in 1914, but as 46 more women applied than in the preceding year, it seems likely that, had the conditions of the labour market been normal, there would have been a correspondingly large increase in the number of men helped. The result of the work has been very encouraging.

The finding of suitable occupations for persons who, although recovered, would probably have great difficulty in restarting in life, is one of the most important functions of the Association. The bestowal of a large amount of personal care and individual attention to each patient is necessitated, and careful investigation of the suitability of those with whom he is placed. The result of this part of the work is far greater than the mere supplying of temporary homes, clothing, or grants for maintenance and tools, important though these may be. The strongest possible evidence of the utility of this charity is shown not only in the comfort and aid given, but in the prevention of relapse, many who have had previous attacks remaining well since they have been under the influence of the staff of the Association.

Although only 379 were considered by the Council, this total does not at all represent the number dealt with, as a large number of old patients wrote to or called at the Office during the past twelve months, none of whom are included in the above total.

Although suitably restarted in various spheres of work, many also require and seek counsel from time to time. Advice is freely given enabling such patients to overcome their difficulties satisfactorily, and tending to prevent mental strain, which is particularly undesirable in the cases with which the Association deals.

*Conference with the L.C.C. Asylum Board.*—After some correspondence, it was arranged that a conference should be held at Spring Gardens, on Monday, November 25th, when Lady St. Heliers presided, and this Association was represented by the Chairman (Dr. Rayner), Dr. Percy Smith, Mrs. Marriott Cooke, and the Assistant Secretary. Mr. H. F. Keene, Clerk to the L.C.C. Asylum Committee, explained that the Trustees of the Queen Adelaide Fund wished to approach the Mental After-Care Association with a view to its co-operation with them to ensure a more useful distribution of that fund. It was suggested that in future this Association should be asked to visit all cases discharged from the L.C.C. Asylums, where there existed any doubt as to the advisability of a grant or as to its amount. It was felt that the wide experience of this voluntary Society would be useful in visiting and reporting on the home conditions of such cases, and although this will, it is hoped, eventually mean a largely increased scope of work, the Council at their next meeting unanimously agreed to adopt the suggestion.

It is hoped that this scheme will be in working order early in 1916.

*Vice-Presidents.*—During the year the Association lost a valued friend and supporter by the death of Mr. H. D. Greene, K.C., but the Council is glad to state that Mrs. H. D. Greene has kindly taken an interest in the work and promised to become an annual subscriber. Canon Gildea, D.D., a Vice-President, has also passed away.

*Council.*—The Council received with much regret the news of the death of Sir James Moody, for a very long time one of their number, who had taken much interest in the work from its earliest years. Miss M. G. Wilde, Poor Law Guardian (Kensington), has kindly consented to fill one of the vacancies.

A list of a large number of institutions from which cases have received assistance from the Association is appended, and the Report concludes with acknowledgments to various bodies for their support, including the Corporation of London and a number of the City Companies, several Boards of Guardians, mostly in the neighbourhood of the Metropolis, with a few more distantly located, and the Guild of Help; also some asylums where collections are regularly made on behalf of the Association, and a few parishes in which contributions from the offertory funds have been allocated to the same good object.

The Association serves a quite unique and beneficent purpose, which no other charitable organisation fulfils, and deserves wider and more general recognition from all those who have the welfare of the mentally afflicted at heart. Its President is the Earl of Meath, Dr. Henry Rayner its Chairman, with Miss Vickers as Secretary.

#### OBITUARY.

##### DR. C. S. MORRISON.

THE death of our late colleague while he had scarcely passed the prime of life occasioned the sincerest regret on the part of his medical brethren and of those of the public who had the privilege of knowing him. The following tributes to his worth on the part of friends who knew him well have already appeared in the local press, and we feel we cannot do better than reproduce them here:

"With great regret we record the death of Dr. Cuthbert Stanislaus Morrison, Medical Superintendent of the Hereford County and City Asylum, who, after an illness extending over several months, passed away on December 17th, 1915, at Clifton, Bristol, whither he had gone for the benefit of his health. Fifty-five years of age, he leaves a widow but no family, and for Mrs. Morrison in her bereavement the greatest sympathy will be evoked.

"The late Dr. Morrison was compelled to relinquish his duties at the asylum in July last owing to a complete breakdown in his physical condition, brought on by extra strain caused by additional work thrown upon him by the call for doctors for the war, coupled with a large transference of patients from Cardiff, also necessitated by the war, on account of the accommodation there being required for wounded soldiers. This influx occurred in May, and brought the total number of patients at Burghill Asylum up to nearly 600, of which some 70 were from South Wales. The reception of these patients and the work entailed in becoming acquainted with the nature of the individual cases naturally imposed much additional responsibility on the Superintendent, whose health had already become