

for the assistant medical officers and the case folder system of note-keeping seemed of value.

The complete separation of administrative from clinical duties seen in several institutions was of interest.

The great use made of the services of psychiatrists and psychologists in varied spheres of the life of the community point to the realization in America of the necessity for mental hygiene.

Dr. G. G. PARKIN read a paper on "Some Observations on the Study of Blood-pressure in the Insane."

Altogether 1,338 observations were made on 115 male and 114 female patients, and for purposes of comparison included 174 on 27 attendants and 31 nurses.

Examples of most of the recognized forms of mental disorder were represented. The main feature of the results was that whatever the form of mental disorder, there was an immediate but usually transient rise in the systolic pressure in response to excitement or agitation.

Long-continued excitement or agitation tended to cause the systolic pressure to fall lower than it was in the quiet states.

Among other points of interest it was found—

That in cases of melancholia (where neither the history nor observation when in the hospital indicated any period of excitement) there was a higher systolic pressure as compared with cases in the depressed stage of manic-depressive insanity.

In two cases of melancholia with stupor the high systolic pressure readings of melancholia were raised still higher.

In all groups the diastolic pressure varied within much narrower limits than the systolic pressure.

The observations furnished no evidence of any necessary connection between blood-pressure and insanity, or that insanity caused a change in blood-pressure.

Both papers led to a very interesting discussion, in which several members took part.

A very cordial vote of thanks to Dr. Roy for his hospitality and for a most interesting day's programme was unanimously carried.

This concluded the meeting.

SCOTTISH DIVISION.

THE AUTUMN MEETING of the Scottish Division was held at Gartloch Mental Hospital, Gartcosh, on Friday, November 19, 1926.

There were 34 members present.

Dr. Hamilton C. Marr, the President-Elect, was called to the Chair.

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

The SECRETARY submitted letters from Dr. Kate Fraser and Lady Mott, thanking the Division for its kind letters of sympathy.

A letter was submitted from Dr. J. Keay regretting his inability to accept the additional office of Divisional Chairman. Dr. R. D. Hotchkis was unanimously elected Chairman of the Division for the remainder of the year, and at this point took the Chair.

The Business Committee was appointed, consisting of the nominated member of Council, the two representative members of Council, the Chairman of the Division, Dr. Crichton and the Divisional Secretary.

Dr. R. B. Campbell and Dr. Neil T. Kerr were nominated representative members of Council, and Dr. Wm. M. Buchanan Divisional Secretary.

The following candidates, after ballot, were unanimously elected ordinary members of the Association:

THOMAS TENNENT, M.B., Ch.B.Glasg., D.P.H., Assistant Medical Officer, Renfrew District Asylum, Dykebar, Paisley.

Proposed by Drs. R. D. Hotchkis, N. T. Kerr and W. M. Buchanan.

ALEXANDER REID MARTIN, M.B., B.Ch.Belf., D.P.M., Assistant Medical Officer, Gartloch Mental Hospital, Gartcosh.

Proposed by Drs. A. M. Dryden, M. Brown and W. M. Buchanan.

GORDON JOHN SMITH, M.B., Ch.B.Aberd., Assistant Physician, Royal Hospital, Morningside, Edinburgh.

Proposed by Prof. G. M. Robertson, Drs. W. M. McAlister and T. M. Davie.

The **DIVISIONAL SECRETARY** intimated that the revised arrangements for the **Final Examination in Mental Nursing of the General Nursing Council for Scotland** were working smoothly.

There was nothing further to report regarding the **Asylum Officers' Superannuation Act Amendments**.

Dr. **MALCOLM BROWN** read a paper on "The Age-Incidence of Syphilis in Asylum Practice," which was discussed by Dr. **HAMILTON C. MARR** and Dr. **D. K. HENDERSON**.

Members then broke up into groups and were shown over the hospital by Dr. **Dryden** and his assistants.

Members were entertained to lunch, after which Dr. **HOYCHKIS** expressed the cordial thanks of the Division to the **Glasgow District Board of Control** and to Dr. **Dryden** for the arrangements made in regard to the meeting and for their kind hospitality.

On the meeting resuming Dr. **A. R. MARTIN** and Dr. **MALCOLM BROWN** communicated a paper, read by Dr. **Martin**, on "The Treatment of General Paralysis by Tryparsamide," and Dr. **T. M. DAVIE** read a short paper on "Tryparsamide Therapy in General Paralysis." These papers were discussed by Drs. **DOUGLAS McRAE**, **D. K. HENDERSON**, **RAE GIBSON** and **McALISTER**.

Dr. **MARTIN** presented a case of general paralysis showing improvement following treatment by tryparsamide, and a case of general paralysis with focal symptoms. Dr. **ROBB** presented a case of encephalitis lethargica with the lesions more marked on one side.

A vote of thanks to the **Chairman** terminated the meeting, after which members were kindly entertained to tea.

IRISH DIVISION.

THE **AUTUMN MEETING** of the **Irish Division** was held in the **Royal College of Physicians of Ireland**, by the kind permission of the **President and Fellows**, on **November 4, 1926**.

Dr. **D. L. Kelly**, **Inspector of the Free State Mental Hospitals**, presided.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, approved and signed by the **Chairman**.

The meeting proceeded to consider the report of the deputation to the **Minister for Local Government & Representation upon the General Nursing Council**.

The members of the deputation, Dr. **D. L. Kelly**, Dr. **J. O'C. Donelan** and Dr. **R. R. Leeper**, **Hon. Sec.**, reported that they had been received by the **Minister for Local Government** and had urged the claims for representatives of the **Division on the General Nursing Council**. The Deputation had been received in a friendly spirit, and the **Minister** had recognized the justice of the claims, and had promised, when the occasion arose, to meet them.

The meeting then discussed the position of mental nursing in the **Free State**, and the **Advisory Committee** appointed by the **Division** to tender their services to the **General Nursing Council** were authorized to express the views of the **Division** fully to the **General Nursing Council** at their meeting, which was summoned for the following day, **November 5, 1926**.

It appeared that the arrangements for the holding of examinations in the **Free State** for the **Certificate of the General Nursing Council** had not been completed, and that no examinations for mental nurses had, as yet, been held.

The meeting next heard a paper by Dr. **ROBERT THOMPSON** on "The **Ætiology, Psychopathology and Treatment of Exhaustion and Paranoid States**."

Dr. **Thompson's** paper gave rise to an interesting discussion.

Dr. **J. O'CONNOR DONELAN** agreed with the statement of Dr. **Thompson** regarding the physical origin of many of the psychoses, and believed that further research would reveal other physical causes at present unknown. He did not agree with Dr. **Thompson** that the bromides were of such therapeutic value as suggested. In his experience the bromides, though often reducing restlessness, seemed to aggravate the depression and retard recovery. He still believed that there was a useful sphere for the administration of sulphonal. Years ago he had experimented with this drug and had found all round good results. It was slow in action, but induced prolonged sleep and had a soothing effect. He always, however, prescribed each dose separately as required, and did not approve of continuous