

the urinary toxicity being always in inverse ratio to the digestive troubles. As regards the condition of the blood, Voisin and Petit made bacteriological investigations, and in two cases found a small short bacillus with rounded ends which they are inclined to regard as analogous to the "micrococcus eclampsiaë" described by Emile Blanc in cases of puerperal convulsions. However, it is admitted that the observations made are too few to be conclusive.

As regards treatment there is but little to note. The substitution of an organic phosphated product for mineral phosphorus under the name of *osséoneurone*, is favourably commented on from the therapeutic point of view, and cases illustrating its beneficial use are appended. Injection of artificial serum is also well spoken of, in conjunction with frequent and prolonged bathing at 32° C. For excitable epileptics a solution of potassium bromide with nitrate of pilocarpine has been found useful by Voisin.

Briefly, we may summarise Voisin's views as to the causation of epilepsy thus: (1) heredity is in most cases the predisposing factor, and (2) toxicity of the blood is the exciting cause. (3) Structural abnormalities are exceptional.

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### PART III.—NOTES AND NEWS.

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#### MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

##### ANNUAL MEETING.

The fifty-sixth annual meeting of the Association was opened in the College of Medicine, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on Thursday, July 29th, 1897, Dr. W. J. Mickle, retiring President, in the chair.

The PRESIDENT having announced that Dr. Percy Smith desired to retire from the General Secretaryship, and having thanked Dr. Smith for his services, and expressed the regret which the Association felt at his retirement, the election of officers for the ensuing year was proceeded with, the following being elected:—

|  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| <i>President-Elect</i> . . . . .                   | A. R. URQUHART, M.D.           |
| <i>Treasurer</i> . . . . .                         | H. HAYES NEWINGTON, M.R.C.P.E. |
| <i>Emeritus-Treasurer</i> . . . . .                | J. H. PAUL, M.D.               |
| <i>General Secretary</i> . . . . .                 | ROBERT JONES, M.D., F.R.C.S.   |
| <i>Registrar</i> . . . . .                         | J. B. SPENCE, M.D.             |
|  | H. RAYNER, M.D.                |
| <i>Editors</i> . . . . .                           | A. R. URQUHART, M.D.           |
|  | CONOLLY NORMAN, F.R.C.P.I.     |
|  | E. GOODALL, M.D.               |
| <i>Auditors</i> . . . . .                          | E. B. WHITCOMBE, M.R.C.S.      |
|  | T. SEYMOUR TUKE, M.B.          |
| <i>Divisional Secretary for Scotland</i> . . . . . | A. R. TURNBULL, M.B.           |
| <i>Divisional Secretary for Ireland</i> . . . . .  | OSCAR WOODS, M.D.              |

|   |   |                           |
|---|---|---------------------------|
| <i>Divisional Secretary for South Western Division</i>        | } | P. W. MACDONALD, M.D.     |
| <i>Divisional Secretary for South Eastern Division</i>        |   |                           |
| <i>Divisional Secretary for Northern and Midland Division</i> | } | E. W. WHITE, M.B.         |
|   |   |                           |
|   | } | W. CROCHLEY CLAPHAM, M.D. |
|   |   |                           |

*New Members of Council:*

|  |   |
|--|---|
| C. E. HETHERINGTON, M.B.                 | ALFRED TURNER, M.D.                         |
| JAMES M. MOODY, M.R.C.S.                 | LANCLOT W. ROLLESTON, M.B.                  |
| G. BUTHERFORD MACPHAIL, M.D.             | A. D. O' C FINEGAN, L.R.C.P.I., <i>vice</i> |
| P. MAURY DEAS, M.B.                      | E. D. O'Neil, M.D.                          |
| WILLIAM R. WATSON, L.R.C.S. & L.R.C.P.E. |   |

## ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

On the motion of Dr. NEWINGTON, seconded by Dr. A. R. URQUHART, Dr. Jules Morel, Corresponding Member of the Association, Commissioner in Lunacy, and Medical Superintendent of the State Asylum at Mons, Belgium, was cordially accepted as an Honorary Member of the Association.

Dr. G. Buschan,\* of Stettin, and Dr. P. Nücke,† of Hubertusberg Asylum, Leipzig, were elected Corresponding Members.

The following were elected as Ordinary Members:—James Fielding, M.D., Victoria University, Canada, M.R.C.S.Eng., L.R.C.P.Edin., Medical Superintendent, Bethel Hospital, Norwich; proposed by William C. Hills, R. Percy Smith, and Maurice Craig. Neish Park Watt, M.B., C.M.Edin., Resident Medical Officer, Ticehurst House, Ticehurst, Sussex; proposed by H. Hayes Newington, R. Percy Smith, and Maurice Craig. Philip George Mould, M.R.C.S.Eng., L.R.C.P.Lond., Clinical Assistant, Bethlem Royal Hospital, S.E.; proposed by R. Percy Smith, Theo B. Hyslop, and Maurice Craig. Reginald Jeffery Millard, M.B., Ch.M.Sydney, Junior Medical Officer, Callam Park, Sydney; proposed by George H. Savage, George E. Miles and R. Percy Smith. David Hunter, M.A., M.B., B.C.Cantab., Pathologist, County Asylum, Whittingham, Lancashire; proposed by Frank Perceval, C. T. Street, and H. Rooke Ley. George Mathieson, M.B., C.M. (Glasgow), Senior Assistant Medical Officer, County Asylum, Stafford.

## TREASURER'S REPORT.

The TREASURER (Dr. Newington) presented the balance sheet duly signed by the accountant and auditors as follows:—

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDITORS.

We, the auditors, have carefully gone over the items of income and expenditure for the year ending December 31st, 1896.

We have examined and compared the vouchers with the entries in the books and have found all correct.

The only matter to which we desire to draw attention is the writing off of a serious sum owing by members who have been removed from the Association. This, however, was duly authorised by the Council.

T. OUTTERSON WOOD.  
E. B. WHITCOMBE.

June 10th, 1897.

The TREASURER said, apart from the matter to which attention had been drawn by the auditors, there was very little to remark. The satisfactory finan-

\* Dr. Buschan is the editor of the *Centrablatt für Anthropologie*, is a practising physician in Stettin, and is especially known by his contributions on Basedow's disease.

† Dr. P. Nücke, since 1889, has been chief physician of the Hubertusberg Asylum, near Leipzig. His literary contributions are very numerous, several being in antagonism to Lombroso's extreme theories.

**REVENUE ACCOUNT—January 1st to December 31st, 1896.**

| Dr. | Expenditure.   | £ s. d. | £ s. d.          | Income.  | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | Cr.              |
|-----|--|---------|------------------|--|---------|---------|------------------|
| To  | Journal, Printing, Publishing, Engraving, Advertising and Postage ...      | 547     | 17 6             | By Dividends ...                                   | ...     | ...     | 9 6 7            |
| "   | Examinations, Association Prizes, and Clerical Assistance to Registrar ... | 72      | 2 2              | " Sale of Journal ...                              | 204     | 2 4     |                  |
| "   | Petty Disbursements, Stationery, Postages, &c. ...                         | 36      | 12 6             | " " Handbook ...                                   | 46      | 0 0     |                  |
| "   | Annual, General, and Divisional Meetings ...                               | 96      | 7 8              | " Advertisements ...                               | 19      | 1 6     | 269 3 10         |
| "   | Rent of Premises at 11, Chandos Street, and care of Office, &c. ...        | 45      | 15 0             | " Fees, Certificates of Psychological Medicine ... | 59      | 17 0    |                  |
| "   | Audit and Clerical Assistance ...  | 6       | 6 0              | " " Proficiency in Nursing ...                     | 79      | 2 9     | 138 19 9         |
| "   | Miscellaneous ...  | 26      | 10 6             | " Subscriptions ...                                | ...     | ...     | 511 7 0          |
|     | Balance ...  |         | 831 11 4         |  |         |         |                  |
|     |  |         | 97 5 10          |  |         |         |                  |
|     |  |         | <u>£928 17 2</u> |  |         |         | <u>£928 17 2</u> |

**BALANCE SHEET—31st December, 1896.**

| Liabilities.                                |     | £ s. d. | £ s. d.          | Assets.   |     | £ s. d. | £ s. d.          |
|---|-----|---------|------------------|---|-----|---------|------------------|
| Journal Account, balance of ...             | ... | 42      | 17 4             | Lloyd's Bank :—Bankers ...                        | ... | 103     | 13 8             |
| Petty Disbursements Account, balance of ... | ... | 5       | 9 2              | New Zealand Stock.—£3½ % value at this date, £105 | ... | 326     | 10 3             |
| Meetings Account, balance of ...            | ... | 3       | 19 1             | Sales Account, balance ...                        | ... | 143     | 14 4             |
| Rent Account, balance of ...                | ... | 10      | 0 0              | Subscriptions Account, balance ...                | ... | 70      | 7 0              |
| Miscellaneous Account, balance of ...       | ... | 3       | 5 11             | Gaskell Fund Account, balance ...                 | ... | 2       | 19 7             |
|   |     |         | 65 11 6          |   |     |         |                  |
| Balance :— Balance on 1st January ...       | ... | 528     | 18 0             |   |     |         |                  |
| Add : Balance of Revenue Account ...        | ... | 97      | 5 10             |   |     |         |                  |
| Increase in value of New Zealand Stock ...  | ... | 0       | 12 6             |   |     |         |                  |
|   |     |         | 626 16 4         |   |     |         |                  |
| Deduct : Subscriptions written off ...      | ... | 45      | 3 0              |   |     |         |                  |
|   |     |         | 581 13 4         |   |     |         |                  |
|   |     |         | <u>£647 4 10</u> |   |     |         | <u>£647 4 10</u> |

Examined and found correct.

June 10th, 1897.      T. OUTTERSON WOOD, }  
                                  E. B. WHITCOMBE, } *Auditors.*

H. HAYES NEWINGTON, *Treasurer.*  
 E. WOODINGTON, *F.C.A.*

XLIII.

57

**Statement of the Gaskell Memorial Fund at the Annual Meeting, July 29, 1897.**  
(Brought on from p. 789, *J.M.S.*, Oct., 1896.)

|  | £   | s.  | d.  | 1895. | Balance in hand | ... | ... | ... | £   | s.  | d.  |     |     |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| July 27. Prize (1895), Dr. Macnaughton | ... | 25  | 0   | 0     | ...             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 26  | 17  | 0   |
| Jan. 23. Davison and Jones*            | ... | 4   | 1   | 6     | ...             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8   | 19  | 0   |
| Mar. 20. Grover, Humphrey, and Son†    | ... | 9   | 18  | 6     | ...             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8   | 19  | 0   |
| May 30. A. Wyon‡                       | ... | 21  | 0   | 0     | ...             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 23  | 7   | 1   |
| Balance ...                            | ... | 8   | 2   | 1     | ...             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
|  |     | £88 | 2   | 1     |                 |     |     |     | £68 | 2   | 1   |     |     |
| 1896.                                  |     |     |     |       |                 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Aug. 10. Registrar's Expenses          | ... | 1   | 7   | 8     | ...             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8   | 2   | 1   |
| Fees, Dr. White                        | ... | 2   | 2   | 0     | ...             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Dr. Mercier                            | ... | 2   | 2   | 0     | ...             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Prize (1896), Dr. Dawson               | ... | 30  | 0   | 0     | ...             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
|  |     | ... | ... | ...   | ...             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 1897.                                  |     |     |     |       |                 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Jan. 2. A. Wyon                        | ... | 5   | 5   | 0     | ...             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| July 24. Fees, Dr. White               | ... | 2   | 2   | 0     | ...             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Dr. Mercier                            | ... | 2   | 2   | 0     | ...             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| July 29. Prize (1897), Dr. Bond        | ... | 80  | 0   | 0     | ...             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Balance ...                            | ... | 4   | 5   | 7     | ...             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
|  |     | £79 | 6   | 3     |                 |     |     |     | £79 | 6   | 3   |     |     |

H. HAYES NEWINGTON, *Treasurer.*

\* Expenses of reinvestment of capital.  
 † Law charges for appointment of fresh Trustees.  
 ‡ Charges for Die for Medals (£10 10s.) and the Medals for 1895 and 1896 (£5 5s. each).  
 § The reinvestment of capital in New Zealand 34 per cent. Inscribed Stock has increased the yearly income from £35 16s. to £46 14s. 2d.  
 ¶ Medal for 1897.  
 ¶ This sum was withdrawn from the Deposit Account to meet the cost of reinvestment of capital, law charges, and the preparation of the Die.  
 N.B.—The Deposit Account on June 30, 1897, stood at £83 7s. 6d.

cial position of the Association shown at the date of the balance sheet had been duly maintained, and he saw every sign of increased prosperity. He made the usual statement as to the Gaskell Memorial Fund.

Dr. CLOUSTON, in moving the adoption of the report, asked the Treasurer if it would be convenient for him to give in future a statement of the items both of expenditure and of income of the previous and current years on the same page. The TREASURER having promised to consider this, Dr. CLOUSTON congratulated both him and the Association on the favourable character of the report.

Dr. MERCIER, in seconding the adoption of the accounts, asked if the increase of £60 in the *Journal* expenses was warranted by increased circulation, and made enquiry in regard to increase in the size of the *Journal*.

Dr. URQUHART answered that the *Journal* had been considerably increased in size, and a larger number printed, owing to increase of sales and of members.

Dr. YELLOWEES pointed out that £138 19s. was derived from examination fees, and without that item they would be very materially on the wrong side. He believed this source of income would be a diminishing quantity.

The PRESIDENT—May I point out that the examination costs are £72, and without them there would still be a balance of £66. If gentlemen would only pay up their subscriptions, we should do very much better. (Laughter.) The auditors reported that we lost £45 in the year under consideration in respect of failures to pay subscriptions. He thought they should strengthen the hands of the Editors in excluding useless material. It was not the quantity but the quality they liked to see in the *Journal*. (Hear, hear.) If the Editors would insist upon the abbreviation of some contributions, probably the expense of printing would be less and the value of the return not diminished.

The report was then put to the meeting and adopted.

#### PRESENTATION TO DR. BEACH.

The PRESIDENT—A very pleasing duty devolves upon me of presenting to our late hon. general secretary, Dr. Fletcher Beach, or rather our hon. general secretary once removed—we have lost one to-day—this illuminated address voted to him by the Association. I am sure you will all agree with me that the zeal and ardour with which he pursued his duties for many years as general secretary merits our thanks to him, and that we, in losing him, lose a most faithful and most efficient officer of the Association. His work in connection with the general meetings was always very great, having had to perform duties now subdivided. The address only expresses in a mild and ineffective way our obligations to Dr. Beach. (Applause.)

Dr. FLETCHER BEACH said—I have to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the members of the Association very heartily for your kindness in presenting me with this address. It is one which I hardly expected to receive—in fact, when first brought before my notice I was overcome with astonishment that I should have such a thing presented to me. The work of the general secretary, although very hard, is very pleasant, for it brings one in contact with all the members of the Association, whom one had always regarded with esteem and respect, and which one not in an influential position would not come in contact with. I have made many friends, not only amongst the older members of the Association, but the young ones also. If anything could add to the pleasure I have in receiving this address, it is to receive it from your hands, whom I have for many years regarded with much esteem. (Applause.)

#### THE GASKELL PRIZE.

The PRESIDENT next presented the Gaskell Prize to Dr. Bond, and remarked that, although members have usually presented themselves for examination, it has not always been bestowed. It was established fourteen or fifteen years ago, and had not been bestowed oftener than once every two years,

which shows that the prize was not lightly given away. He continued—We all know Dr. Bond's expert clinical work, and notice he is not too ready to draw conclusions upon insufficient basis, that he does not take "the bit in his teeth" and run away. Those who always find what they seek are not reliable. Dr. Bond is one of another sort; we welcome him amongst our scientific workers, and he has now attained higher rank by obtaining this medal. (Applause.)

#### NURSING CERTIFICATE.

Dr. MERCIER brought forward the proposed amended regulations for the training and examination of candidates for the certificate of proficiency in nursing and attending on the insane.

#### Training.

1. A probationary period of three months is required to be served before an attendant is considered to have formally begun training.
2. Except as hereunder provided, every attendant must be trained for not less than three years (including the probationary period) before he can be examined. The three years must be complete on or before the date of the examination.
3. Any person who possesses a certificate of competence in nursing from a hospital or infirmary connected with a medical school, and having a system of training nurses, may be admitted to the examination for the nursing certificate of this Association after a residence of two years in an asylum. Provided that such candidate shall have had at least one year's residence in such hospital or infirmary, and shall conform to all the regulations for admission to such examination save only in the matter of length of residence and training in an asylum.
4. In cases of an exceptional character in which a person has had large experience of nursing the insane, but has been unable, through no fault of his own, to comply precisely with the regulations governing the admission of candidates to the examination for the nursing certificate, application may be made to the registrar to lay the circumstances of any such case before the Council, which may, in its discretion, order that such candidate be admitted to the examination. Provided that every such application be accompanied by a recommendation from a member of the Association, and by evidence that the applicant has had experience of nursing in an asylum.
5. The system of training required by the Association consists of—
  - a. Systematic lectures and demonstrations by the medical staff. At least twelve lectures, each of one hour's duration, must be given in each year of training, and no attendant will be admitted to examination who has not attended at least nine lectures in each year.
  - b. Clinical instruction in the wards by the medical staff.
  - c. Practical instruction under the head and charge attendants in nursing and attending on the insane, to be arranged at the discretion of the medical superintendent.
  - d. Study of the Handbook of Nursing issued by the Association. Other books may be used in addition, at the discretion of each superintendent.
  - e. Periodical examinations, the nature and frequency of which are left to the discretion of the superintendent; but one examination at least shall be attended each year.
6. The scope of the training must be such as to impart a knowledge (1) of the main outlines of bodily structure and function, sufficient to enable attendants to understand the principles of nursing and to render "first aid," especially with regard to the accidents and injuries most liable to occur among the insane; (2) of the general features and varieties of mental disorder; (3) of the ordinary requirements of sick nursing, and especially of the requirements of nursing and attendance on the insane.\*

\* For particulars see the Syllabus of the examination.

*Examinations.*

7. The candidate shall obtain from the registrar a schedule, which shall be filled up and signed as required, and returned to the registrar at least four weeks before the examination. The registrar shall not admit to the examination any candidate whose schedule does not comply in every respect with these regulations. The certificate of training in the schedule shall be signed by the superintendent, or in his absence by the acting superintendent, with the consent in the latter case of the President.

8. If, between the time of the signing of such certificates as are required by the schedule and the time of the examination, the candidate should be guilty of misconduct such as, if committed before the signing of such certificates, would have precluded the granting thereof, such misconduct shall be at once reported to the registrar, and by him reported to the President. On such report the President may, if he thinks fit, order that the examination of a candidate be postponed; in which case he shall inform the Council at its next meeting both of the fact and his reasons for thus acting. The Council shall consider the matter, and may order that the candidate shall be refused admittance to the ensuing or any examination; and in that case shall give notice to the registrar, who shall be empowered to return the examination fee, and shall take such steps as will in his judgment carry out the order of the Council.

9. Examinations for the purpose of granting certificates of proficiency to successful candidates will be held by the Association under the following conditions:—

- a. Examinations will be held twice yearly—on the first Monday in May and the first Monday in November.
- b. An examination will be held at every asylum in which there are candidates.
- c. The examinations will be partly written, and partly *vidæ voce* and practical, the questions in each part being confined to the subjects in the syllabus.
- d. The papers will be set by the examiners of the Association appointed under Article LXXVI.
- e. The examinations will be conducted as follows:—The written examination, which must not exceed four hours in duration, will take place on the days fixed, under the supervision of the superintendent, who is responsible for the observance of the regulations.
- f. The written answers will be examined by two examiners in nursing, appointed by the Council for this purpose.
- g. The *vidæ voce* and practical examinations will be conducted by the superintendent (or in his absence by the acting superintendent, with the consent of the President) and an assessor, within fourteen days of the written examination.
- h. The assessor will be the present or past superintendent, or the acting superintendent, or a senior assistant medical officer of not less than five years' standing, of another asylum, and must be approved by the President of the Association.
- i. Candidates must satisfy the examiners in both departments of the examination.
- k. The superintendent shall send to the registrar a list of successful candidates after each examination.

*Certificates.*

10. Certificates of proficiency will be granted under the following conditions:—

- a. The certificate will be in the form appended.
- b. The certificates will be dated, will bear consecutive numbers, will bear the seal of the Association, and will be issued by the registrar.

- e. The certificate will be signed by the examiners in nursing, by the examining superintendent and his assessor, and countersigned by the President and registrar.

*Register.*

11. A register of candidates who have passed the examination shall be kept by the registrar of the Association.

12. In case of misconduct on the part of the holder of a certificate, a superintendent (or, in private nursing, any member of the Association cognisant of the circumstances) shall at once transmit a report of the circumstances to the registrar, who will lay the same before the Council for consideration. The Council will, if it thinks fit to do so, direct the registrar to erase the name of the delinquent from the register.

13. Superintendents and other members of the Association, on engaging attendants who profess to be on the register, shall satisfy themselves that such is the case by enquiring of the registrar.

*Fees.*

14 Each candidate is required to send 5s. with the schedule to the registrar. In case a candidate fails to pass the examination, he will be admitted to a subsequent examination on payment of a fee of 2s. 6d. for each such examination.

15. These regulations shall apply to all attendants who present themselves for examination after October 31st, 1899.

Dr. MERCIEP said—Some men are born great, some attain greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them. I stand to-day in the latter predicament. The report which has been circulated is the report of the Educational Committee, and the proper person to move the reception of the report is the chairman of that committee. The chairman is present; but, with that sensitive modesty so characteristic of his nation, he declines the task, and prefers that I should take the responsibility of moving the reception of these amended regulations. At the last annual meeting, as you have heard from the minutes, a motion was passed, referring the whole question of the nursing examination to the Educational Committee. That committee has carefully considered the matter, and its report is before you to-day. It will be in the recollection of members that at the last annual meeting—I will not say that statements were made—but hints were dropped, innuendoes were thrown out, and there was a general atmosphere of rumour that the nursing examinations were not conducted as they ought to be, and that in certain cases certificates were given which ought not to have been given. Very careful enquiries have been made by the Educational Committee, and the result is practically this, that we have been unable to obtain any evidence whatever in corroboration of those rumours. (Hear, hear.) I think we shall be justified in following an historical precedent, and in regarding evidence which is not forthcoming as non-existent. Nevertheless, it is very desirable that these examinations should be above suspicion. They ought to be conducted so as to make it impossible in the future that such doubts should arise in regard to them; and these rather stringent regulations have been drafted with the view of placing such doubts in the future outside the bounds of possibility. The chief alterations that have been made are three. In the first place, the period of training has been raised from two years to three years. That is a very important alteration indeed. In fact, all the alterations are of the very greatest importance. They will have a great and far-reaching influence upon the future of the nursing examination, and I beg to commend them to the very best and most careful consideration of this Association. In fact, I am doubtful whether, in so small a meeting as this, we should come to any final determination at all. (Hear, hear.) There are many superintendents throughout the country who will want their views represented before this matter is finally settled. Before the regulations were settled in committee there was an influential minority opposed to some of the alterations, and this minority included our



registrar, who is in a better position to judge of their expediency, who is more closely in touch with both candidates and teachers, and whose judgment is entitled to more weight than any member of the Association. While the curriculum is raised from two to three years, the examination is remodelled so that in future there shall be two examiners in nursing, who shall examine all the written answers of every candidate throughout the kingdom. In this way the written examinations will be entirely removed from all control by the persons who have trained the nurses, and a uniform standard would prevail throughout the whole country. That, again, is a very large and serious innovation—an innovation so large and serious that there are doubts in the minds of competent judges as to whether it will be found practicable. The number of candidates—between 400 and 500 annually—would give a serious amount of work to two examiners, who could be expected to undertake the work only if they were remunerated. In order to obtain that remuneration, it was proposed to raise the fee from 2s. 6d. to 5s., and that was the third important alteration in the regulations. These amended regulations will undoubtedly increase the difficulty of obtaining the certificate, and will correspondingly increase its value. It is very advisable that the value of the certificate should be upheld and increased. It is very important that the conditions for obtaining this certificate should be so regulated as to raise the standard of efficiency among attendants to the highest attainable degree, but we must be careful that that standard should not be raised to such a degree as to be prohibitive—so that we should not get in the future as many attendants as have been in the past competing for this certificate. These regulations are the work of a body whose humble servant I am, and it would not become me to cast a doubt upon their wisdom, nor do I desire to do so, but I wish to emphasise their importance, so that before their adoption or non-adoption they will have the most careful and complete consideration. On the last occasion these regulations for the nursing certificate were taken up one by one, and amendments were introduced as the Association thought fit. I move that the report be received, and, having done so, I leave entirely in the hands of the Association their adoption or rejection or modification. At the same time I cannot help expressing my opinion that so small a meeting as this is scarcely competent to arrive at a final decision upon this very important question. (Applause.)

Dr. R. PERCY SMITH seconded the reception of the report.

Dr. TURNBULL moved that the report be received, and that the proposals in it be adjourned for further consideration, and suggested that the Association should also authorise the remission of the report to the divisional branches for further consideration, which, in each district, would elicit views towards a proper decision.

Dr. WOOD seconded the proposal of Dr. Turnbull.

Dr. CLOUSTON—The secretary of each division should be authorised to attend and report to the general meeting what his division has done in the matter.

Dr. URQUHART—I wish to point out, as a corrective of Dr. Mercier's figures, that the number of candidates for the nursing certificates of the Association was 637, and if, two examiners had to go over 637 papers every year, it meant such a vast amount of work that some statistician would be required to figure out the time occupied in hours, days, and weeks.

After some debate on a point of order, Dr. YELLOWLEES expressed himself in favour of raising the fee to 5s., and of the appointment of two, or, if necessary, four, examiners to decide on their own questions.

The CHAIRMAN—It has been moved and seconded that the report of the Educational Committee be received.

This was put to the meeting and carried.

Dr. CLOUSTON asked Dr. Wood how the extension to three years would affect the alliance to the Royal British Association of Nurses. He agreed with Dr. Yellowlees that two years was sufficient for their nurses' certificates,

and feared that the three years might be deterrent. He continued—I agree that the fee is of no moment; half-a-crown would not be a difficulty. I believe those of us who have had to conduct examinations from the beginning are unanimous that there should be an independent authority, who does not know the nurses—(hear, hear)—and so strong would I put that point that if our examiners were superintendents of asylums I should hesitate to allow them to examine the papers of their own nurses, and introduce a sub-section that in regard to their asylums they should be referred to the chairman and secretary of the Association.

Dr. CUTTFERSON WOOD—I am not a member of the Educational Committee, and therefore have no reason to give way to the proposed extension of the period from two to three years. The question has been asked me by Dr. Yellowlees and Dr. Clouston as to the effect the training for an additional year would have in the affiliation to the Royal British Nurses' Association. Now, the conditions under which we proceed is, first of all, that the nurses hold the certificate of this Association. If they cannot obtain that with two years' practice they should never be a certificated nurse at all; but, in addition to the two years necessary for her certificate, she must have been three years at asylum work; so that a nurse who has been three years in asylum service, and having the two years' certificate, would be qualified to join the Royal British Nurses' Association. It would not help the nurses, according to our present scheme, to raise their period of probation to three years, nor would it stand against them if their training for our certificate only takes two years, for we cover that by having three years' service. (Applause.)

Dr. POWELL—After that expression from Dr. Wood, I should very strongly urge that the term "two years" remains as at present. I am perfectly sure it will debar a very large number of nurses and attendants from attempting to go into the examination if it is prolonged for three years.

Dr. RORIE said it would be a great improvement in the system of examination to have regular examiners appointed having no knowledge of the persons under examination, only the papers before them. With regard to the term, the way nurses prepare for this examination is little better than mere cramming. They read up the society's books, but don't know much more about nursing. I should therefore be inclined to the prolonged system of three years instead of two years. When it was proposed first that a certificate should be granted to nurses, it was on the understanding that there would be a class of nurses raised to a much higher standard than the other nurses, while it was clearly understood that many nurses, for want of education, might remain uncertificated—the certificates were intended for a higher class of nurses. I should, under all the circumstances, be in favour of separate examiners and the period of probation extended to three years.

Dr. URQUHART—I should like to lay one thing before the Society which seems a defect in this report, the absence of any distinct indication that a mental nurse undergoing the period of training has to pass part of that time amongst the sick, the bodily sick and the acute cases in each asylum. (Hear, hear.) One had hoped that it would have been part and parcel of the amended regulations, and I think we should direct the special attention of the committee to this matter in discussing it to-day. I support Dr. Turnbull's motion for the adjournment of this subject, because, although the Educational Committee has given great attention to it, we are not privileged with Dr. Spence's assistance on this occasion. He has given so much assistance and care to the perfecting of this examination, that really he ought to make known his mind upon the whole matter before we come to any conclusion. I don't think Dr. Mercier has had sufficient credit for the way he has worked for the Educational Committee in season and out of season, and I hope, if we find any little fault, or what appears to be omissions, that Dr. Mercier will take note of them and bring them before the Committee, if they have not received that attention which they seemed to deserve.

After further discussion on points of order,

The PRESIDENT—The amendment is as follows: "That the further discussion of the report be adjourned with a view to allow divisional meetings to consider the changes, and that the secretaries be asked either to attend or report the general feeling of their branches, and that the Educational Committee report also on the matter to the next annual meeting."

This was put to the meeting and declared adopted by the large majority of the members present.

#### THE SECRETARY AS A MEMBER OF COUNCIL.

Dr. CLOUSTON moved—"That the secretary of the Educational Committee for the time being be an *ex-officio* member of Council." The Council, he said, had felt the need of having the secretary as one of their number.

Dr. RAYNER seconded, and the motion was adopted.

#### PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

Dr. NEWINGTON presented the report of the Parliamentary Committee, which set out the proposed clause dealing with incipient and non-confined insanity as drafted by a joint sub-committee of the Association and the British Medical Association. He also explained the representations made to the Commissioners in Lunacy in regard to the Lunacy Bill by a deputation which waited on them on June 16th, which were as follow:—

Sect. 2.—The committee suggest that, in view of the great inconvenience to petitioners and to all who are concerned in the validity of an order arising from a want of accurate information as to what Justices are specially appointed under the Lunacy Act, it would be well to provide for the drawing up a complete list of such Justices, and their addresses, from the returns now directed to be made to the Commissioners, under sub-section 3 of this clause. Such list should be procurable on application by all who may be interested.

It is further suggested that the appointment of such Justices should run from January to December of the year subsequent to the Autumnal Sessions at which the appointments have to be made.

Sect. 5.—The committee deprecates the prohibition against a licensee signing a medical certificate in support of a petition for an order for reception into any other licensed house, on the principal ground that the public will thus in many cases be deprived of skilled opinion. It further deprecates the similar prohibition against a licensee making an application for an order. Under these circumstances a licensee in the case of mental disease occurring in his own family, would stand alone in being debarred from undertaking that responsibility which his interest and his duty as a citizen cast upon him.

(This section (5) was altered in the Bill so as to meet the objections.)

Sect. 23.—The committee, while fully appreciating the principle of assured pensions as adopted by this section, deprecates the scale on which such pensions are calculated, unless provision is made for a minimum addition of years for the purpose of computing the pensions, on the ground that nothing has been shown to impair the deliberate opinion expressed by the Select Committee of the House of Commons (1860).

"It would further seem desirable to reduce the time at which committees of visitors may grant superannuation allowances to their medical officers. Their duties are so peculiar, and such painful consequences are known to result from incessant intercourse with the various forms of this distressing disease, when prolonged for many years, that your committee believe that it would tend to greater efficiency of service, if the period of service, which stands at present at 20 years, were reduced to 15."

The committee desires to emphasise the fact that on this report of the Select Committee, the minimum period of service was reduced from 20 to 15 years, and it feels justified in claiming that the placing of asylum officers on the same footing as Poor Law officers is an abandonment of the principle then laid down.

In the event, however, of the views of asylum officers not meeting with full recognition, the committee submits the following clause, as meeting to some extent the justice of the case.

Sub-section proposed to be added to section 23:—

“(b) As regards every officer of an asylum whose duties ordinarily lie, and for a period of 25 years have lain, in attendance, medical or otherwise, on patients in an asylum, 50 years shall be substituted for 60 years, and 25 years shall be substituted for 40 years, and 55 years shall be substituted for 65 years, in clause 2 of such last-mentioned Act.”

(The pension clauses had been removed from the Bill at the time of report.)

Sect. 32.—The committee suggests that, as it has been found in some cases that no sufficient protection is conferred by the Lunacy Acts or any other Act, or by Common Law, on persons who, through mental infirmity arising from arrest of mental development, are incapable of managing their affairs—section 116 of the principal Act—which it is proposed to amend by this section, should be further amended by the insertion in sub-section 1 (D) of the following words, after the words “arising from.”

(The addition recommended was made in the Bill.)

The recommendations relating to pensions (section 23) received cordial approval from the Commissioners, who authorised the deputation to make known the fact that they have been and are entirely in favour of compulsory pensions.

With regard to section 29, imposing fresh penalties for misstatements, the committee reported to the meeting that it regretted the increased stringency of the provisions, and the appearance in full of all the penalties prescribed; but that it did not feel that it was in a position to offer efficient opposition.

After considerable discussion, in which Drs. Clouston and Yellowless strongly animadverted on the suggested clause, to provide for early treatment, as drawn up by the committee, it was announced that the Lunacy Bill had been withdrawn on the previous evening (July 28th).

It was then agreed to receive the report and thank the committee, and that the Parliamentary Committee should be appointed as follows:—Dr. Fletcher Beach, Dr. G. F. Blandford, Dr. D. M. Cassidy, Dr. T. S. Clouston, Dr. E. M. Cooke, Dr. J. G. McDowall, Dr. C. Mercier, Dr. H. H. Newington, Mr. H. R. Ley, Dr. Conolly Norman, Dr. Evan Powell, Dr. G. H. Savage, Dr. J. B. Spence, Dr. A. H. Stocker, Dr. R. Percy Smith, Dr. A. R. Urquhart, Dr. J. Wigglesworth, Dr. Yellowless, with power to add to their number.

#### EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE.

Dr. CLOUSTON—The Educational Committee has no report to make. We have circulated the syllabus, which most of the members have seen, and it has been given to the various examining boards on the subject of insanity, and it has been extremely well received.

#### *Syllabus of the Subject of Insanity.*

I. General Symptoms and Signs of Insanity. Mental Competence. Fitness to be at Large.

II. Causes of Insanity.

III. Forms of Insanity. 1. States of Weak-mindedness: *a.* Idiocy and Imbecility; *b.* Dementia. 2. States of Stupor. 3. States of Depression. 4. States of Exaltation and Excitement. 5. States of Systematised Delusion and Hallucination. 6. Impulsive and “Moral” Insanity. 7. General Paralysis.

IV. Chief Accessories of Insanity. 1. Suicidal Tendency. 2. Homicidal Tendency. 3. Refusal of Food. 4. Degraded and Perverted Habits.

V. Association of Insanity with Developmental Periods; with the Reproductive Function in its various Phases; with Epilepsies and Convulsive States; and with other bodily conditions.

VI. Morbid Anatomy.

VII. Certification of the Insane and other Medico-legal Aspects of Insanity.

## HANDBOOK COMMITTEE.

"The Committee reports that it has decided by a large majority of votes that it will be desirable to adhere as closely as possible to the lines of the present edition, though this will not exclude suitable improvements and additions. The Committee accordingly submits a recommendation that this course should be taken."

Dr. NEWINGTON reported that the edition of the Handbook was exhausted, and it was necessary to have some more. The question had been before the committee, and the substance was in the memorandum; but the question for this annual meeting was whether the present edition of the Handbook was to be a regular upheaval, or the same book with improvements. The committee distinctly recommended that it be authorised to reproduce the book again with suitable improvements, so as not to throw away all the good work put upon it in years past. (Hear, hear.) The people who made it deserved consideration, but, perhaps, not much; the people who bought the book—9,000 copies—had to be thought of; and then the publishers had to be considered—they had dealt with them very loyally, and the production of a new book would be a considerable expense to them, and incidentally to the Association. He moved the adoption of the report, and also moved that the committee be directed to reproduce the book again as a further edition, with certain amendments and improvements, as may seem suitable to them, short of anything like a radical change.

Dr. POWELL seconded.

This was agreed to, and on the motion of Dr. CLOUSTON the committee were reappointed.

## REPORT OF THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

"Your committee begs to report that a catalogue of books by subjects is required, and when this is done a printed catalogue for circulation among the members will have to be made. There are several important works which are published quarterly or monthly in the library, and these should be bound, so that access to them may be facilitated.

"We estimate the sum of money required for these purposes as follows:—  
1. Catalogue of books (subjects), £10; 2. Printing of catalogue, £10;  
3. Binding, £25; 4. Incidental expenses, £5; Total, £50.

"The books at present in the library are in good order and well preserved.

"We ask to be reappointed.

"HENRY RAYNER.

"FLETCHER BEACH.

"H. J. MACEVOY."

The report was received and adopted, with the exception that the allowance was made £40, instead of £50. The committee was reappointed.

## HACK TUKE MEMORIAL.

The Hack Tuke Memorial Committee are prepared to hand over to the Medico-Psychological Association the sum of about £350 to be vested in trustees, the annual income derived therefrom to be expended in maintaining and increasing the library, of which Dr. Hack Tuke's gift to the Association has proved so valuable a nucleus.

Dr. BEACH, for the Hack Tuke Memorial Committee, reported that they were prepared to hand over about £350, the annual income to be spent upon the library.

## COUNCIL'S REPORT.

The SECRETARY submitted the following report of the Council:—

"The Council, in accordance with a resolution passed at the annual meeting in 1896, presents the following report: Since the last annual meeting there have been elected 51 ordinary members, one of whom, however, subsequently withdrew, and there are proposed for election at this meeting six ordinary members. If these are elected, the total addition to the list of ordinary

members in the year will be 56. Besides these, one corresponding member (Dr. Morel) is proposed for election as an honorary member, and two additional corresponding members are proposed, making a total of new members of 58. Against this increase the Council have to deplore, in the first place, the deaths of 10 members, viz., Sir B. W. Richardson and Dr. Lockhart Robertson (hon. members), and Sir J. C. Bucknill, Dr. Langdon Down (of Normansfield), Dr. Marsh (of Lincoln), Dr. Miles (of Kilkenny), Dr. Jamieson (of Aberdeen), Dr. Compton (of Norwich), Dr. Barton (of Wadsley), and Dr. H. E. Blandford (of Croydon), ordinary members. By the deaths of Sir J. C. Bucknill and Dr. Lockhart Robertson the Association has sustained the loss of two members who had both held the offices of General Secretary, Editor of the *Journal*, and President, who had shed lustre on the Association, and whose names were widely known and revered abroad as well as in this country. In Dr. Langdon Down the Association also loses a member of great eminence, and one who took a warm interest in the affairs of the Association. Five gentlemen have resigned their membership for various reasons. Lastly, there is much cause for regret that the names of nine members had to be removed from the register, after due notice, for non-payment of subscriptions. Deducting these 24 names, there remains a net increase of membership of 34, bringing the total numbers of membership to—Ordinary, 506; honorary, 39; corresponding, 12; total, 557, as compared with 523 when the register was last printed.

"The annual meeting in 1896 was held in London, under the presidency of Dr. Julius Mickle, and was well attended, many interesting papers and discussions being communicated.

"General meetings have been held in November, 1896, in London, in February, 1897, at the Borough Asylum, Nottingham, where the Association was hospitably entertained by Dr. Evan Powell, of the Borough Asylum; and in May, 1897, in London. At all these meetings the papers and other communications were of great value. In addition to these the usual divisional meetings have been held. The programme provided for the present annual meeting does not fall behind that of previous meetings.

"The Council have had under discussion during the year the question of the re-edition of the Handbook for instruction of nurses and attendants, and the question of the desirability or otherwise of the admission of certificated nurses and attendants to the membership of the Royal British Nurses' Association. Upon the former matter a report is presented to the annual meeting, and the latter is still under consideration.

"At the February meeting of the Council an application was received from 60 members residing in the Northern and Midland Districts, for the formation of a Northern and Midland Division of the Association, which was acceded to, Dr. Crochley Clapham being appointed Divisional Secretary *pro tem*.

"A similar application was received from 68 members residing in the Eastern and Metropolitan Districts for the formation of a South-Eastern Division, and was acceded to, Dr. Ernest White being appointed Divisional Secretary *pro tem*.

"The two additional Divisional Secretaries become official members of the Council.

"Both these divisions have subsequently held meetings.

"The Council feels that these additional divisions cannot fail to increase the scientific work done by the members of the Association, while affording more frequent opportunities for the meeting of members, which is so necessary in an association whose members are separated by long distances.

"The Council felt that some mark of the appreciation by the Association of the valuable work done by Dr. Fletcher Beach, the late hon. general secretary, in carrying out the arduous duties of the secretaryship for a period of seven years should be shown, and it was therefore decided that an illuminated address should be presented to him at the annual meeting.

"The Council considers that the secretary of the Educational Committee for the time being should be an *ex-officio* member of the Council.

"The suggestion as to the necessity for some alteration in the regulations governing the management of the examinations for the nursing certificate, which was referred to the Educational Committee at the last annual meeting, has been under consideration on several occasions during the year, and a report has been prepared, suggesting several modifications in the rules, with the view of raising the standard of training and examination, and providing further safeguards against the granting of the Association's certificate to insufficiently qualified persons. The question of the regulations for the conduct of the nursing examination for attendants in the Colonies was referred to the Educational Committee, and it is still under consideration.

"During the year 743 candidates (males 357, females 391) entered for examination for the nursing certificate. Of this number 637 (males 299, females 338) were successful; 79 (males 44, females 35) were referred; 32 (males 14, females 18) withdrew; and the result of the examination of two candidates from Cape Colony has not yet been received.

"Twelve candidates were examined for the professional certificate granted by the Association, and it was suggested to one of these gentlemen that he should come up again for examination on another occasion.

"In connection with the valuable Gaskell Prize, which is open annually to competition, the Council have decided that the examiners shall have power to award a second prize whenever, in their opinion, there are two candidates of sufficient merit, and that this second prize be given from the unawarded funds of previous years."

On the motion of Dr. PERCY SMITH, seconded by Dr. CLOUSTON, the report was adopted.

This concluded the business meeting.

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#### AFTERNOON SITTING.

##### MEMBERS PRESENT.

T. W. McDowall, T. S. Clouston, H. Hayes Newington, H. Rayner, R. Percy Smith, Fletcher Beach, W. Julius Mickle, A. R. Urquhart, J. T. Callcott, E. Powell, David Bower, A. R. Turnbull, Walter Smith Kay, D. Yellowlees, T. Outterson Wood, R. L. Rutherford, G. Hare Philipson, James Rorie, J. Tregelles Hingston, A. W. Campbell, Frank A. Elkins, C. Hubert Bond, Margaret C. Dewar, J. W. Eastwood, W. F. Robertson, Bedford Pierce, T. Seymour Tuke, James Rutherford, J. G. McDowall, J. Carlyle Johnstone, R. D. Hotchkiss, James R. Whitwell, Sir James Crichton Browne, Crochley Clapham, W. L. Ruxton, G. Stevens Pope.

At the afternoon sitting the PRESIDENT (Dr. T. W. McDowall) took the chair. After thanking the members, for the honour they had conferred upon him, in appropriate terms, he moved a vote of thanks to the retiring President (Dr. Mickle).

This was carried with acclamation.

The PRESIDENT then moved that an address be presented to the Queen, expressing the congratulations of the Association on the attainment of the sixtieth year of her reign.

This motion was also carried with acclamation.

The PRESIDENT next alluded sympathetically to the loss the Association had sustained by the deaths of Sir John Bucknill and Dr. Lockhart Robertson. Their personal characteristics were well known. He would refrain from speaking at length upon their professional eminence, and the many debts the Association lay under to those gentlemen, if only for what they did in the early years of the Association. They would all remember how Sir John Bucknill worked, and how he started their *Journal*. (Applause.) He was an energetic and determined man, and an efficient editor. The two gentlemen were bound up with the history and the advance of their Association as