

## OFFICIAL RECOMMENDATIONS.

On the motion of Dr. KEAY, seconded by Dr. YELLOWLEES, Dr. Turnbull was unanimously recommended as a member of the Council.

On the motion of Dr. HAVELOCK, seconded by Dr. TURNBULL, Dr. Carlyle Johnston was recommended as Examiner in Psychological Medicine, and also for the Nursing Certificate.

Dr. TURNBULL moved, and Dr. ROBERTSON seconded, that Dr. Bruce should become Secretary of the Scottish Division, and this was unanimously agreed to.

## PAPERS READ.

Dr. G. A. WELSH read a paper on "The Influence of Cerebral Disease on Intercurrent Physical Disease."

## INVERNESS ASYLUM.

Dr. KEAY showed and described the plans of recent additions to the Inverness District Asylum.

## CRIMINAL CASES.

Dr. L. C. BRUCE read a paper on "The Differentiation of Criminal, Dangerous, and Curable Patients."

## NURSING REPORT.

It was agreed to postpone consideration of this Report until next meeting.

## NORTHERN AND MIDLAND DIVISION.

The Spring Meeting was held at the Leicester and Rutland Asylum, Leicester, on Wednesday, April 3rd. Dr. Fletcher Beach presided, and there were also present—Dr. Stewart, Dr. Macphail, Dr. Kay, Dr. Powell, Dr. Mould, Dr. Millar, Dr. Hitchcock, Dr. Finch, Dr. H. M. Baker, Dr. Richards, Dr. Legge, and Dr. Crochley Clapham. Visitors—Dr. Pope and Dr. Astley Clarke, of the Leicester Infirmary.

## BUSINESS.

The HON. SEC. read the minutes of the previous meeting, which were confirmed.

The CHAIRMAN said the next business was to elect an Hon. Sec. in accordance with Article 28 of the Bye-laws.

Dr. CROCHLEY CLAPHAM said he was sorry to say that after holding the office since March, 1897, he felt called upon to resign, as he was leaving the northern part and was going to reside in Sussex. He thought it would be better to appoint a secretary who would be able to keep more in touch with the members of the division. He was sorry to be obliged to resign, and he expressed the hope that the division would be well served by his successor.

The CHAIRMAN said he was sure they would all agree with him in saying they were sorry to hear that their Hon. Sec., who had worked so well, was obliged to resign. Before they proceeded to elect another it would be their duty as well as pleasure to propose a very hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Crochley Clapham for the work he had done for so many years. He (the Chairman) would move that their best thanks be given to the Hon. Sec., and that the vote be entered on the minutes.

Dr. POWELL, in seconding, said they were very much indebted to Dr. Crochley Clapham for what he had done for the northern branch.

The resolution was carried with acclamation, and was briefly acknowledged by the Hon. Sec.

Dr. STEWART proposed that Dr. Hitchcock be elected Hon. Sec., remarking that he had attended most of their meetings and had taken a great interest in their proceedings.

Dr. KAY seconded, and the motion having been very heartily supported by Dr. Clapham, was carried unanimously.

Dr. HITCHCOCK thanked the meeting for the honour conferred upon him.

Dr. Stewart and Dr. Adair were nominated to fill possible vacancies on the Council.

It was decided that the next meeting be held at York on the last Wednesday in October.

Dr. ROTHSA Y STEWART read notes of "Two Cases of Insanity following Chorea" (see page 540), and of "A Case of Rodent Ulcer being treated by the X-rays."

Dr. ALFRED MILLER, in opening a discussion on the best means of collecting information regarding asylum administration, said: The subject which I am anxious to bring to your notice to-day is one on which I have spoken to some of the members of our branch, and as those with whom I have discussed the matter seemed to be of opinion that something of practical utility might possibly be evolved if the question were approached at one of our meetings, I decided to bring it forward to-day. Those who have been fortunate, or otherwise, to be elected superintendents at a somewhat early period of their career, have possibly been struck by their lack of knowledge of some of the most rudimentary points of administration, and have had to send out many circulars to their fellow superintendents seeking for information. I have been through this experience myself, and have received some caustic replies in my time. Apart from these little personal reasons I would suggest the establishment of some central channel for the purpose, call it a bureau of information, conducted by one of our members, who would receive the various queries, send copies to all superintendents, and receive the replies, which would then be tabulated and printed, and a copy sent to all superintendents who replied to the original circular. By this means a permanent record would be preserved, and much useful information which is now lost would always be at the disposal of any superintendent requiring it. There are some subjects on which we are constantly receiving circulars, *e. g.*, wages, leave of absence, dietary. These should be so tabulated in the annual reports that it would only be necessary to look through the various asylum reports to find all the information required. Were these subjects I have alluded to tabulated in a uniform way a great deal of time spent on sending out and receiving circulars would be saved. I do not think the cost of dealing with the matter in the manner I have suggested should prove excessive; the printing and posting of the necessary circulars would not be expensive, and in many cases the information supplied would be most useful.

The PRESIDENT said this was a most important subject. It seemed to him quite desirable that there should be a bureau through which they could obtain information that would save them a great deal of trouble in the way of sending out circulars. He would like to hear the views of the members on the subject.

Dr. KAY desired to know if Dr. Miller meant there should be a central office somewhere. If so, where would the funds come from; what was going to keep the central office going? He did not know if the small fee Dr. Millar suggested would be sufficient to cover ordinary postal and printing expenses. The idea was a very good one if it could be practically carried out, but it seemed to him that it would be difficult to get such an office as suggested.

Dr. HITCHCOCK said he could quite see the advantage that would accrue to the members of the association if such a scheme could be carried out, but, of course, the practical difficulty was how to get the money to establish the machinery for it. No doubt every asylum superintendent had in his possession practical notes on the working of the Lunacy Act, and matters of administration which would be of great value if they could be put into circulation. The notes, he suggested, might be started by one superintendent and then sent round to others, who could add what they had found valuable or useful in their experience. Then the notes could be duplicated and copies sent to each member.

Dr. CROCHLEY CLAPHAM said there was another way in which it might be done, namely, by starting a "Notes and Queries" column in the quarterly JOURNAL. They might arrive at a good deal of information that way, and anything supplied by way of answers in the "Notes and Queries" would remain on record.

Dr. POWELL said this was a matter which must arouse the interest of all asylum superintendents. They were almost constantly coming across matters in the management of asylums that they would like to know the opinion of other superintendents upon. They did not bother themselves by writing round, and they were consequently very often in the dark as to what had been done in a similar emergency at other places. He was quite sure that all present would agree

with him in saying that if it were possible to obtain such information, especially relating to matters of administration in asylums, it would be of immense value to them. There could be no question about that, but they must consider what would be the best method of bringing about such a thing. He could not possibly see how they were to have a central bureau for accumulating and circulating this information. He thought that they should get their brother superintendents to make more use of these divisional meetings for the purpose of comparing notes on such questions as Dr. Miller had referred to.

Dr. MACPHAIL said he fully endorsed the suggestion of Dr. Powell that they should make more use of those branch meetings, because one was bound to confess that in meeting with fellow superintendents they got a lot of useful information from each other. He gathered that Dr. Miller's suggestion had not so much to do with questions relating to the Lunacy Act as with matters of asylum administration. But the difficulty in carrying out the suggestion seemed to him to lie with the superintendents themselves. Dr. Miller told them that when he began life as a superintendent he was anxious to learn and willing to have an open mind. That was rather a rare type of medical superintendent. Many of those he was acquainted with knew far too much already, and this type of man would not be willing to take the trouble to get other superintendents' views. Most of them had had to work out their own salvation in these matters. How were they to get at the men—and there were a number of them—who when written to refused to give information? Of course, in some cases one received letters asking a lot of very foolish questions which could only be answered by a special knowledge of a particular district. He thought Dr. Miller's idea was a good one, and if a practical scheme could be thought out by which they could disseminate information on certain administrative points, he was sure they would all subscribe to it, and willingly pay a small fee. But he did not think there was a sufficient desire—certainly not amongst the men he knew—to have a bureau involving a salaried official and a certain amount of expense. At the same time, as Dr. Miller had started the idea he thought they ought to thank him for bringing it before them, and if at the next meeting he could put before them a practical scheme for certain definite points they would gladly welcome it, especially if it were such as they could ask their Secretary to undertake. At present Dr. Miller's proposal was too general.

Dr. LEGGE said he was not one of those superintendents who had nothing to learn. He confessed that points frequently arose with him that he would be very glad to have settled by somebody of more knowledge than himself. He thought it occasionally happened, too, that information came to him which would be of service to his fellow superintendents. For instance, there was one matter which had been brought home to him several times last year in a most unpleasant way. It was a point connected with the Lunacy Act. It did not appear to be generally known that, in transferring patients from one asylum to another, the reception order should be signed by the Visitors of the asylum to which the patient was going. On four occasions last year transfers were objected to by the Commissioners. In consequence of this he had to incur the responsibility of keeping patients in the asylum for several weeks although they were illegally detained. One objection which he could foresee to the proposed bureau was that it might have a tendency to set up an authority which might be appealed to by their committees to their own detriment as superintendents. But if they could have a central bureau which would afford information for themselves only he should certainly be very willing to support it, and would be very glad to use it himself. He was therefore strongly in sympathy with Dr. Miller's suggestion. Whether anything could be done through the medium of a supplement to the *JOURNAL* he did not know, but if the idea could be carried out in any practical way it would most certainly prove a valuable aid.

Dr. STEWART said he had sometimes thought it would be a very useful thing if by means of such a bureau as Dr. Miller suggested they could get information with regard to the attendants whom they might engage. Very frequently an applicant would tell them he had never been in an asylum before, but directly they set him to work it became obvious that he was already accustomed to the duties.

Dr. MOULD said the Commissioners did keep a register of attendants, and they stated that no one asked them for information on the subject.

Dr. MILLER, replying on the discussion, said he had not intended that this proposal should involve serious expense. So far as the cost was concerned he had presumed that, for the love of the thing, some member of the Association would undertake the work as they did the office of examining attendants, being simply recouped for out-of-pocket expenses. It was not his intention that the bureau should supply technical information on points of law. But there was a good deal of information that might be circulated on the subject of dietary and various other matters, and he still thought that the number of questions one was asked in a year on these points were not so great as to necessitate the keeping of an office and a staff. He thought it might be done easily by some member of the Association if the questions were restricted to *bond fide* matters of administration. So far as what Dr. Stewart had said was concerned, no doubt the same thing had happened to all of them. The safest way was to ask for a photograph when the application was made and send it to the nearest asylum to the town from whence the application came, and it was almost sure to be recognised. In conclusion, Dr. Miller said he would not mind undertaking the work of the bureau himself for twelve months to see whether the idea could be practically carried out.

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#### SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

The Spring Meeting was held at the Worcester County and City Asylum, Powick, on 22nd April, 1901.

Present: Dr. Benham, Dr. Morrison, Dr. Paterson, Dr. Millar, Dr. Braine-Hartnell, Dr. Turner, Dr. Aveline, Dr. Bubb, Dr. Suffern, Dr. MacBryan, Dr. Wilkinson, Dr. Veitch, and Dr. MacDonald.

Dr. Benham was voted to the chair.

The following gentlemen were elected members of the Association:—Joseph L. Baskin, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.Edin., L.F.P.S.Glasg., A.M.O., Devon County Asylum. Proposers: A. N. Davis, R. Stephens, and P. W. MacDonald. William E. Peck, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.Lond., A.M.O., Devon County Asylum. Proposers: A. N. Davis, R. Stephens, and P. W. MacDonald. D. M. MacRae, M.B., C.M., A.M.O., Wilts County Asylum. Proposers: J. I. Bowes, J. L. Gordon, and P. W. MacDonald. R. B. Smyth, M.D., B.Ch., Senior A.M.O., Gloucester County Asylum. Proposers: F. H. Craddock, J. G. Soutar, and E. W. Henley. George Potts, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.Edin., A.M.O., Dorset County Asylum. Proposers: P. W. MacDonald, J. Davison, and A. Davidson. John M. Ahern, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.Ireland, A.M.O., Warneford Asylum, Oxford. Proposers: J. Neil, P. W. MacDonald, and A. Davidson.

#### OFFICIAL RECOMMENDATIONS.

Dr. BRAINE-HARTNELL proposed and Dr. BENHAM seconded that Dr. MacDonald be asked to continue his appreciated work as Hon. Sec. Carried.

Dr. MacBryan proposed and Dr. AVELINE seconded that the name of Dr. Rutherford be submitted for election to the Council. Carried.

Dr. MACBRYAN proposed and Dr. TURNER seconded that Dr. Braine-Hartnell and Dr. Aveline be elected to fill the vacancies on the Committee of Management.

Dr. AVELINE proposed and Dr. MACBRYAN seconded that the October Meeting be held at Bath.

#### ASYLUM DIETARY.

The discussion on Dr. Turner's paper was resumed.

#### DISCHARGE OF PATIENTS.

Dr. Braine-Hartnell read a paper on this subject, which was fully discussed.

#### VOTE OF THANKS.

Dr. Benham expressed the thanks of the members present to Dr. Braine-Hartnell for his courteous and hospitable reception of the division.