

JAMES McLAUGHLAN JOHNSTON, M.B., Ch.B.Edin., Assistant Medical Officer, Mental Hospital, Westgreen, Dundee.

*Proposed by Drs. W. Tuach Mackenzie, N. T. Kerr and W. M. Buchanan.*

JAMES GRAY, M.B., Ch.B.Edin., Junior Assistant Medical Officer, District Asylum, Inverness.

*Proposed by Drs. T. C. Mackenzie, W. McWilliam and W. M. Buchanan.*

The SECRETARY reported that the Business Committee had met on March 30, 1928, and considered the reference with regard to Divisional Clinical Meetings, and made the followings unanimous recommendations :

1. That Scotland be one area for Divisional Clinical Meetings.
2. That Divisional meetings in future be held quarterly at hospitals, instead of biannually as at present, so that the additional two meetings might be almost entirely clinical in character.
3. That Medical Superintendents be asked to present clinical material at meetings.
4. That Medical Superintendents be asked to encourage their assistant medical officers to attend these meetings and give them facilities for so doing.

The meeting, having considered the recommendations of the Business Committee, unanimously agreed to adopt them, and the Secretary was instructed to arrange accordingly.

The SECRETARY reported generally upon the steps which were being taken to have the Association's Nursing Certificate recognized by the General Nursing Councils as qualifying for registration in the Section for Mental Nurses of their Registers.

The SECRETARY reported that the Secretary of the Nominations Committee had requested that an additional member of the Division be nominated to serve on the Advisory Committee to the General Nursing Council for Scotland, and that he had put forward the name of Dr. Douglas McRae, who had been originally nominated by the Division, but had not been called upon to serve. The meeting approved of the action of the Secretary in the matter and unanimously confirmed the nomination of Dr. McRae, the other members being Prof. G. M. Robertson, Dr. J. Keay, T. C. Mackenzie and W. M. Buchanan.

Prior to the Business Meeting the members dined together at the Station Hotel.

This concluded the business of the first day's session.

On the meeting reassembling on the morning of May 25, members were conveyed to the Crichton Royal, and on the way Dr. Easterbrook pointed out many of the places with historical and literary associations, with which Dumfries abounds.

The forenoon was spent in a visit to the hospitals, villas, etc., including "The Hospice"—the new Reception Hospital and Infirmary for the Crichton Hall Department—which was much admired by all. In the course of the visit two cases of Huntingdon's chorea, a case of advanced disseminated sclerosis and a case of aphasia following a depressed fracture of the skull with coal-gas poisoning were demonstrated by Dr. Raitt.

Members were kindly entertained to lunch at Crichton Hall, after which Dr. Hotchkis expressed the cordial thanks of the Division to the Board of Directors of the Crichton Royal and to Dr. Easterbrook for the arrangements made in connection with the meeting and for their kind hospitality.

During the afternoon members were conducted over the garden, including the extensive rock garden, the farm and policies, and thereafter were kindly entertained to tea at Crichton House by Dr. and Mrs. Easterbrook.

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#### IRISH DIVISION.

THE SPRING MEETING of the Irish Division was held on Thursday, April 12, 1928, at St. Edmondsbury, Lucan.

There were twelve members present, Lieut.-Col. W. R. Dawson, O.B.E., M.D., in the Chair.

Before proceeding with the business of the meeting, the Chairman made a condolatory reference to the recent death of Dr. H. M. Eustace, and the Hon. Secretary was directed to forward to Mrs. Eustace a letter expressing the sympathy of the Division with her in her bereavement.

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

Correspondence was read, including letters of apology for unavoidable absence received from Drs. M. J. Nolan, O. F. McCarthy, P. J. Irwin and L. Gavin.

A letter was read from Dr. R. Worth, General Secretary, stating that the question of defraying the railway expenses of Divisional Secretaries attending meetings in England had been referred to the Council for consideration.

The HON. SECRETARY reported that he had written to the Minister of Local Government, forwarding copy of resolutions of November 17, 1927 (London) adopted by the Royal Medico-Psychological Association *re* the recognition of the certificate of the Association for the State registration of mental nurses, but had received only a curt acknowledgment.

The Hon. Secretary's action in applying to the Council for permission to carry out proposed new method of election of Hon. Secretary and two Representative Members of Council of the Division by show of hands was approved.

The meeting then proceeded to ballot for posts of Hon. Secretary and two Representative Members of Council, Dr. R. Thompson and Dr. Blake being appointed scrutineers. The Chairman declared Dr. R. R. Leeper elected Hon. Secretary and Dr. J. O'Connor Donelan and Dr. S. J. Graham elected Representative Members of Council for 1928-29.

Dr. R. R. Leeper and Dr. J. O'Connor Donelan were nominated Examiners for the Certificate in Psychological Medicine.

*Election of new members.*—The following candidates were balloted for and unanimously elected ordinary members:

DOROTHY MARGARET GARDNER, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H., Assistant Medical Officer, Belfast Mental Hospital, Purdysburn.

*Proposed by* Drs. S. J. Graham, N. Graham and R. Thompson.

GEORGE EDWARD DODDS, M.B., B.Ch.Dubl., Assistant Medical Officer, St. Edmondsbury, Lucan, co. Dublin.

*Proposed by* Drs. R. R. Leeper, J. O'Connor Donelan and R. Taylor.

It was decided to hold meetings on the following dates: Autumn meeting, Thursday, November 1, 1928; Spring meeting, Thursday, April 4, 1929; Summer meeting, Thursday, July 4, 1929.

The meeting next proceeded to discuss the report of the Sub-Committee *re* the report of the "Commission on the Relief of the Destitute Sick and Poor, including the Insane Poor." The report was discussed, and, after some amendment, adopted. The Hon. Secretary was directed to have it printed and forwarded to the Government at the earliest possible date.

The meeting next considered the question of the recognition of the Association's Certificate of Proficiency in Mental Nursing for registration by the General Nursing Councils and letters were read from Dr. Kimber and others. It appeared that nurses holding the Association's Certificate were now eligible for registration by the General Nursing Council of the Irish Free State. The Hon. Secretary was directed to write to the Secretary of the General Nursing Council, asking him to formally confirm this verbal assurance.

The next item on the agenda was the matter of holding Divisional Clinical Meetings in mental hospitals. It was noted with satisfaction that the Committees of Grangegorman Mental Hospital, Belfast Mental Hospital, Cork Mental Hospital, Londonderry Mental Hospital and Clonmel Mental Hospital cordially approved, with the Government's sanction, of these Clinical Meetings. Reports from other mental hospitals had not yet been received, but the meeting at once appointed a sub-committee (with power to add names) to deal with the matter. The Hon. Secretary submitted proposed arrangements for meetings and also draft letters which were approved.

Dr. R. THOMPSON read a paper on "Blood-Pressure and Mental Disease" (*vide* p. 493). This was fully discussed.

Dr. DONELAN mentioned that he had recently had a depressed case with a high pressure and that he had tried trinitrin. This reduced the pressure, with a marked mental improvement, but, as a rule, the pressure rose again within a few days. Unfortunately, a cerebral hæmorrhage ended the experiment. It was generally agreed that many questions of great clinical interest arose from these careful blood-pressure observations.

The CHAIRMAN then thanked Dr. Thompson for his paper and appreciated the careful clinical observations which he had made, and said that it was only by such

careful clinical work that advance in curative treatment of mental disease was possible.

A vote of thanks was accorded to Dr. Leeper for his hospitality. The HON. SECRETARY, in reply, stated that the Division had re-elected him for the eighteenth year, and he only wished he could have served them better.

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DIVISIONAL CLINICAL MEETINGS.

**City Mental Hospital, Gosforth, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.**

The second clinical meeting of the Newcastle-on-Tyne Area was held at the above hospital on Wednesday, April 18, 1928.

Present, thirteen members. Dr. H. D. MacPhail presided.

Dr. MACPHAIL opened a discussion on schizophrenia, in which he dealt with the subject from the psychological point of view, the object of the discussion being to correlate psychological theories with clinical findings as discovered in actual cases. Most members took part, and many useful and instructive points were raised.

Dr. J. BRAITHWAITE opened a discussion on the position of the endocrines in mental disorder. He dealt with the question from the points of view of both mental deficiency and mental disorder, referring to the cases of defect due to thyroid and pituitary abnormality, and discussing the probability of mongolism being attributable to endocrine imbalance. In dealing with the psychoses he emphasized the importance of underlying physical causes, and drew attention to the fact that disorder resulting from endocrine defect is usually to be found at periods of established endocrine instability. He outlined the changes found at the periods of adolescence, child-bearing and climacterium, and indicated the endocrine alterations which were so often associated with these mental features. He also referred to the pathological findings in schizophrenia, and made special reference to the work of Mott. He gave the results of treatment in a limited number of cases of psychoses associated with adolescence, climacteric and the puerperal period.

Dr. J. P. STEEL gave his experience of endocrine therapy in a great variety of clinical cases, indicating that very striking results could be got in the treatment of certain physical conditions which were common enough in mental hospital patients; he also gave the results of treatment in the psychoses. He emphasized the importance of using only reliable preparations, and said that quite small doses of some preparations were efficacious, while others gave very uncertain results. He gave a number of practical points in the details of carrying out treatment.

Dr. R. E. ILLINGWORTH gave the results of his experience. He apparently got the best results in puerperal cases, and found thyroid extract to be most generally useful. This latter experience was endorsed by several speakers.

Dr. F. BACK gave details of a case of epilepsy with pituitary deficiency in whom endocrine therapy in the form of anterior pituitary tablets had been used without benefit. He exhibited graphs co-ordinating the results of treatment, and especially showing how the fits declined in number with the decrease in the weight of the patient from dieting.

Several other members gave their experience, and asked for opinions as to certain phenomena which had occurred in the course of therapy. Very helpful information was given in answer to such queries.

The general opinion appeared to be that endocrine therapy was a useful method, and one which in many cases hastened recovery.

**Dorset County Mental Hospital, Herrison.**

The first Clinical Meeting of the Dorchester area was held at the above hospital on April 30, 1928.

There were five members present. Dr. P. W. P. Bedford presided.

The CHAIRMAN showed a number of old-standing secondary dements who were being usefully employed on raffia work, etc., in the Department of Occupational Therapy. Some of these patients had been sitting idle for years and had been