

only between psychologists and the medical faculty, but also between the medical faculty and the ministry of religion. The distinctive functions of each must be maintained, but a little better knowledge of, and insight into, the respective aims and methods of both would promote far greater mutual regard and respect. The present writer is glad to acknowledge the immense debt of gratitude he owes to some slight study of the principles of psychotherapy. Let us hope that as each understands a little less imperfectly the work of the other faculty, we shall the better learn how to do our own, and come to realise that we are working hand in hand, each in his own sphere, to restore a more healthy outlook and tone to this sad and insane world.

(¹) "The Pathogenesis of a Delusion," *Journal of Mental Science*, July, 1911.

Occasional Note.

The Annual Meeting.

It is four years since the Association held its Annual Meeting in what may be called a normal manner and under normal conditions. The members who attended the meeting at Norwich in 1914, under the presidency of Dr., now Lieut.-Col., Thomson, cherish very pleasant memories of their three days' sojourn in the interesting old city and its delightful surroundings. None of those who were there, as our new President intimated at the opening of his address, could have anticipated that almost within a few days of their parting a greater catastrophe than has ever been recorded in history was to overwhelm the continent of Europe with all the suddenness and destructiveness of an avalanche. Still less that a war which would extend into its fifth year of duration was awaiting us. Owing to this our annual meetings have been of a purely business character, and all held in London, without any of the usual social amenities which used to form such a pleasant feature on similar previous occasions. Each successive year it was hoped that the war would come to an end, and in this expectation Col. Thomson was asked to continue in office until, with the advent of peace, his successor would have an opportunity of conducting the proceedings on the old lines. This, unfortunately, has not been possible owing to the continuance of the war. But it was felt that it would be unfair to make any further demand on Col. Thomson when he had so generously responded to the wishes of the members in continuing to occupy the chair of office for four years—a position which he filled to the entire satisfaction of the Association at large, and the duties attached to which, notwithstanding the multitude of other matters constantly requiring his attention, far from performing in anything like a perfunctory manner, he dis-

charged with almost unflinching regularity, with ability of a high order, and with an unflinching zeal for the best interests of the Association, which, severally and collectively, owes him a debt of gratitude which the members would find it difficult, if not impossible, to repay.

If we speed the parting we are equally ready to welcome the coming guest, and in their selection of Lieut.-Col. Keay as their chief officer the members of the Association feel that it has been a wise choice on their part, and in his case an honour well deserved. They are confident that the interests of the Association will be safe in his hands, and the recent meeting at Edinburgh may be taken as an index of Col. Keay's capacity for fulfilling some of the most important of his presidential duties, and we have no doubt whatever that, under his ægis, the affairs of the Association will continue to be transacted in the most efficient manner.

The one subject that is uppermost in the mind of every citizen of the Empire is, undeniably, the war. And Bangour Village, having been for the present converted from an asylum for the insane into a war hospital, it was only to be expected that the change would be more or less reflected in the character of the Annual Meeting, which, accordingly, differed from its predecessors in that it was occupied more with military than with purely psychiatric interests. In his thoughtful and deeply interesting Presidential Address Col. Keay took for his subject, "The War and the Burden of Insanity"—a theme which, having had the double advantage of prolonged acquaintance with the many problems of mental science and of more recently acquired experience of the pathological results of war, he was peculiarly qualified to treat. And all those who had the privilege of listening to the address we are sure found it full of absorbing interest, which was none the less for the *souçon* of humour which gave it extra picquancy and flavour. The points touched upon are of general and wide-spread interest to lay as well as to professional readers. Such are the effects of war, both good and bad—bad, in removing such a vast number of the fittest of the population, while the old and feeble and unfit are carefully preserved; with these latter Col. Keay, with conscious or unconscious humour, classes in the same category "the clergy, the inmates of our asylums and the members of the House of Commons"; bad, again, in the enormous expenditure—an outlay of many millions per day of the nation's wealth in the prosecution of the war, notwithstanding which we have been, as regards trade, "enjoying prosperous times," and the country has been "apparently rolling in money." But this is, as it were, merely a flash in the pan, and the restoration to normal conditions will probably take a generation or more to accomplish. On the other hand, it cannot be denied that in some aspects the war has been productive of substantial good, as, for instance, in quelling what is characterised by Stephen McKenna, as

quoted by Col. Keay, as "a spirit of unrest and lawlessness" which prevailed more or less generally throughout the kingdom, and which included such "hysterical controversies" as those connected with the *status* of the House of Lords, industrial strikes (with these, unfortunately, we are by no means done), the female suffrage campaign, and the Home Rule controversy. It has, moreover, apparently brought about a decrease of serious crime, of pauperism and of insanity. As regards that important question, the early treatment of insanity, the war has undoubtedly been productive of some valuable experience. Now, for the first time, opportunities have been provided for the immediate treatment of recent mental cases without certification, which in ordinary circumstances is, as a rule, only done after a considerable period has elapsed after the first symptoms have manifested themselves. It is too soon as yet, and there is not a sufficient amount of statistical information at hand, to enable us to compute with any accuracy in what proportion of such cases recovery has taken place under early treatment, and without the necessity of sending the patient to an asylum; but the facts, so far as they can be ascertained, are encouraging, and go far to justify the hope that, if the same facilities could be provided in the case of the civil population as exist with respect to military patients, equally favourable results would not be improbable. This was an object dear to the heart of the late Dr. Maudsley, and one which prompted him to the founding of the institution which bears his name. What success will be achieved in time to come, when the hospital will be utilised for the purpose for which it was originally intended, lies still in the lap of the gods. We must only have faith in the future, and trust that Dr. Maudsley's hopes, in which he is joined by not a few, will one day reach their full fruition.

The pressing questions of the day in direct connection with insanity, such as those of child care from the period of pre-natal existence through the successive stages of infancy, childhood, youth and adolescence; the control—if necessary, State control—of alcoholic indulgence and the prevention of syphilis were ably dealt with in the address. And as regards this latter subject, we would like to draw special attention to one paragraph which, to give greater emphasis to the President's fearlessly expressed views, we take leave to reproduce here:

"What is wanted is that the public should be awakened to a realisation of the fact that there is in syphilis rampant in our midst a deadly, contagious, and hereditary disease, a disease which kills a countless number of unborn innocents; which is the cause of mental and bodily decrepitude of a large proportion of our idiots and imbeciles; which in its various manifestations results in life-long incapacity, bodily suffering and mental anguish to numbers of people who, in happier circumstances, would be capable and vigorous citizens. And yet, withal, a disease which is preventable; which, in its earlier stages at

least, and with proper treatment, is curable ; and which, by energetic, resolute, concerted action by the great civilised nations could be stamped out and abolished for ever."

It would be well if this citation could be blazoned in glowing characters throughout the civilised world, amongst all the busy haunts of men.

Although, by what was no doubt mutual consent, there was no annual dinner, members who attended the meeting, and especially those who came from a distance, were received with a liberal hospitality by their Scottish colleagues, in keeping with old Edinburgh traditions of long standing. The President entertained a large number at dinner on the Monday preceding the meeting at the North British Hotel ; and an equally pleasant reunion was provided on Wednesday evening at the Caledonian by Dr. Robertson, who also, along with the kind co-operation of the Chairman and Managers of the Morningside Mental Hospital, gave a most enjoyable "At Home" on Tuesday evening at Craig House to a large number of guests.

The visit to Bangour Village, now the Edinburgh War Hospital, under the command of Col. Keay, on the second day of the meeting was an altogether delightful experience, and partook rather of the nature of a picnic than of a purely scientific meeting, although, as shown in the report, most interesting scientific demonstrations kept the audience, which included not merely members of the profession, quite enthralled. The generous hospitality of the President and Mrs. Keay gave abundant opportunity for genial social intercourse, and, but for a passing shower, the weather was perfect. On the whole the Edinburgh meeting was a complete success, and afforded a restful interlude and unalloyed pleasure to all who were able to attend, and especially to those members of our specialty who had been engaged in work of strenuous, possibly exhausting, character throughout the year.

It may be that in the eyes of the "unco' guid" (or unco' dour) anything in the way of enjoyment may seem to be altogether out of place at a time when the nations are wrung with sorrow, and when there is hardly a family in the kingdom which has not suffered, or is not at present suffering, anxiety, bereavement, and distress, when Death is daily claiming his victims from the stricken homes of our Motherland during the slow progress of this cruel and relentless war. Still, it may not be the best or wisest course for a nation, or for the individuals who compose it, to abandon themselves to unrestrained mourning, to shut out all sunshine from their lives. Would their dead wish it? We take leave to doubt it. Those gallant souls who loved not their lives unto the death, who greeted the unseen with a cheer for love of home and country, they surely would not wish their glorious self-sacrifice and devotion to leave nothing in its wake but enduring sadness and gloom.

If they could speak to us surely they would say—"Be of good cheer. Let not your hearts be troubled; all is well." Under such afflicting circumstances we can, perhaps, the better understand the pertinence of the words which Shakespeare (who knew most of what is in man) put into the mouth of Theseus:

"What revels are in hand? Is there no play
To ease the anguish of a torturing hour?"

It is no easy *role* to endure sore trial with a smiling face, and anything which conduces to the lifting of the veil of sadness, to the taking us out of ourselves and our troubles, even for a season, to detaching our minds from corroding grief, must receive our commendation. It serves to mitigate the poignancy of sorrow, and enables us who are left behind—and herein lies its worth and justification—with renewed courage and confidence still to *carry on*.

Part II.—Epitome of Current Literature.

Clinical Neurology and Psychiatry.

Studies on Hysteria. (*Review of Neurology and Psychiatry, January, 1918.*) Hurst, A. F. and Symms, J. L. M.

A series of researches into the various hysterical stigmata. The writers, as a result of their investigations, support the view of Babinski that these stigmata are produced by unconscious suggestion of the physician in the course of the examination of the patient.

The following investigations were made:

(1) *Pharyngeal anæsthesia*.—The results of the observations are tabulated according to a scale, beginning with 0 (complete anæsthesia), and passing to 7 (maximal reflex making laryngoscopic examination quite impossible). The figures show that pharyngeal sensibility is no more deficient in patients with hysterical symptoms, than in non-hysterical cases, and it varies in a similar manner. When care is taken to avoid suggestion complete pharyngeal anæsthesia is never found. The conclusion is reached that such anæsthesia is not a stigma of hysteria, and that when habitually found it must be produced by involuntary suggestion on the part of the observer.

(2) *Experimental observations on the signs and symptoms of malingering, hysteria, and organic nervous disease*.—Hysterical symptoms being produced by suggestion have the characteristics which the patient believes to belong to the symptom, either from his own knowledge or that suggested by the examination. This view was tested by the examination of twenty-nine medical students who had not yet acquired any clinical knowledge. They were each told to pretend that they had been in a railway accident, and that they were attempting to swindle the railway company by claiming compensation because of paralysis of the right arm and leg, which they alleged had resulted. The symptoms