

the pial vessels, which are under sympathetic control. In addition to the nerve cell changes, there were found lipid secretion from the choroid plexus and ependymal ventricular lining, periarteritis in the head of the caudate nucleus, and a generalised hyaline change in the contents of the vessels with perivascular oedema.

Dr. STURROCK followed with a short note, pointing out how these findings could account for certain mental symptoms in cases with infections of various organs.

An interesting debate followed.

Dr. E. S. SIMPSON read a paper "On the Nursing Question," with a view to introducing a discussion on this topic, but, owing to the lateness of the hour, the discussion was postponed until the Autumn Meeting of the Division.

SCOTTISH DIVISION.

THE SPRING MEETING of the Scottish Division was held in the Hall of the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow, on Friday, March 17th, 1922. Prof. Geo. M. Robertson was called to the chair.

The minutes of last Divisional Meeting were read and approved.

Drs. D. Ross and N. T. Kerr were unanimously elected Representative Members of Council for the ensuing year, and Dr. W. M. Buchanan was elected Divisional Secretary.

The following candidates after ballot were admitted to membership of the Association.

(1) Marion Cameron Alexander, M.B., B.Ch.Belf., Assistant Physician, Royal Asylum, Edinburgh. (Proposed by Drs. Ross, Robertson, and Macleod.)

(2) Percy Banbury, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.Lond., Assistant Physician, Crichton Royal Institution, Dumfries. (Proposed by Drs. Easterbrook, Hotchkis, and Buchanan.)

(3) James Dickson, M.C., M.B., Ch.B.Edin., Assistant Physician, Crichton Royal Institution, Dumfries. (Proposed by Drs. Easterbrook, Hotchkis, and Buchanan.)

(4) James Watson Kernohan, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.Belf., Clinical Pathologist, Crichton Royal Institution, Dumfries. (Proposed by Drs. Easterbrook, Hotchkis, and Buchanan.)

(5) John Campbell Smith, M.A.St. And., M.B., Ch.B.Edin., Assistant Physician, Crichton Royal Institution, Dumfries. (Proposed by Drs. Easterbrook, Hotchkis, and Buchanan.)

The SECRETARY reported that, in terms of remit from last meeting, the Business Committee had met and considered the question of further action with regard to the Division's amendments to the Asylum Officers' Superannuation Act. The Committee, while realising that there was little likelihood of obtaining legislation in the near future, resolved that the matter should not be allowed to drop. They recommended that a reasoned memorial embodying the amendments should be prepared and presented to Royal Asylum Boards, District Boards of Control, and Scottish Members of Parliament. The meeting endorsed the action of the Business Committee, and instructed the Secretary to circulate draft copies of the memorial amongst the members of the Division for review and suggestions, so that the document may be finally prepared and presented with as little delay as possible.

During a discussion on the Nurses' Registration Act it was pointed out that the Regulations for the Nursing Certificate of the Association had been criticised by members of the Scottish Nursing Council in respect that no provision was made for representatives of the nurses taking part in the examination of candidates. After a very full discussion the meeting unanimously agreed to recommend to the Council "that it should be made possible for matrons to take part, not only in the training in practical nursing, but also in the examination in practical nursing, of candidates for the Nursing Certificate of the Association." The Secretary was instructed accordingly.

Dr. IAN D. SUTTIE'S paper, "Critique of the Theory of Herd Instinct," copies of which had been circulated, gave rise to an interesting and instructive discussion, taken part in by Drs. T. C. Mackenzie, G. D. McRae, J. H. Macdonald, D. Ross, David Yellowlees, and the Chairman.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman for presiding terminated the business of the meeting.

IRISH DIVISION.

THE SPRING MEETING of the Irish Division was held on April 6th, 1922, at Hampstead and Highfield Private Mental Hospitals, by the kind invitation of Drs. H. and W. Eustace.

Dr. H. Eustace presided.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

A letter of thanks was received from Dr. Colles, K.C., acknowledging the resolution passed at last meeting and sent to him.

The resignation of Dr. Hetherington, of Londonderry, was accepted with regret.

The meeting next proceeded to elect an Hon. Secretary and two Representative Members of Council. Dr. L. Gavin and Dr. W. N. Eustace were named scrutineers, and the Chairman declared that Dr. R. R. Leeper was re-elected Hon. Secretary and Drs. H. R. C. Rutherford and P. O'Doherty were elected Representative Members of Council for the ensuing year.

The meeting next proceeded to elect an ordinary member of the Association, and, on a ballot being taken, Patrick Daniel Sullivan, F.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.Irel., Medical Superintendent, Verville, Clontarf, Dublin, was elected an ordinary member.

The following dates were fixed for the meetings of the Division for the ensuing year:

Summer Meeting to take place at Mullingar Asylum on July 6th, 1922 (*if circumstances permit*).

Autumn Meeting, November 30th, 1922.

Spring Meeting, April 26th, 1923.

Dr. H. R. C. RUTHERFORD proceeded to read his communication on "The Nature of the Psychopathic Inheritance."

The paper was discussed by all the members present. Dr. H. M. EUSTACE gave his experiences of the treatment of the insane by thyroid extract as originally carried out at Morningside Asylum by the late Sir Thomas Clouston.⁽¹⁾ All of the speakers congratulated Dr. Rutherford upon the good results he had achieved and for the very interesting communication he had brought before the meeting. Dr. RUTHERFORD having replied to the various points raised by the speakers, a cordial vote of thanks to Drs. H. and W. Eustace for their kindness and hospitality in entertaining the Division was passed unanimously.

PARLIAMENTARY NEWS.

April 11th, 1922: Ex-service patients in West Ham Asylum.—Mr. LEONARD LYLE asked the Minister of Pensions to state the actual maladies from which the 61 ex-service men now in West Ham Asylum were suffering; whether there was any hope that they might eventually regain their normal condition; whether they were periodically examined to that end; whether any of them were disabled; if so, how many; whether they were local men; if so, how often were their relatives allowed to see them; if not, would he have them transferred to a place nearer their own home; and whether any of them were untraced.—Sir A. MOND replied: There are at present 55 service patients in the West Ham Mental Hospital whose cases may be classified as follows: dementia præcox 23, melancholia 11, mania 4, delusional insanity 6, general paralysis 5, epilepsy 3, secondary dementia 3. About 20 per cent. of these men may be expected to recover, and all cases are periodically examined. Two of the patients are disabled and both are local men. Relatives are allowed to visit on any day, and there is only one case in which no relatives can be traced.

April 12th, 1922: Discharges from asylums.—Mr. ROBERT RICHARDSON asked the Minister of Health whether, in the matter of dealings with applications for the discharge of patients from asylums, the question was decided by the local visiting committees sitting fortnightly at the asylum and in touch with its inmates, or whether any influence was exercised in this respect by the central London County Council Committee sitting at Arundel Street; and what were the functions pertaining to the latter body.—Sir A. MOND replied: Under the L.C.C. (General Powers) Act, 1915, all the duties of a visiting committee under the Lunacy Acts,

(¹) The method was devised by Dr. L. C. Bruce.—Eds.