

they could secure the assistance of Ireland; and then when England had been successful also, possibly Scotland would be able to get a similar measure of justice.

The resolution was put and carried unanimously.

Sir THOMAS LAUDER BRUNTON, M.D., F.R.S., F.R.C.P., Physician to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, read a paper entitled "Fairies, Apparitions, Visions, and Hallucinations." This paper and the discussion thereon will be published in the April number of the JOURNAL.

Dr. WILLIAM C. SULLIVAN (of H.M. Prison, Pentonville) read a paper entitled "Crime and General Paralysis" (see page 28).

Members afterwards dined together at the Café Royal, Regent Street.

COUNCIL MEETING.

A Council Meeting was held at 2 p.m. on the same day.

Present: Drs. Rayner (Acting President), H. Hayes Newington (Treasurer), J. B. Spence, P. W. MacDonald, T. S. Adair, Theo. B. Hyslop, L. A. Weatherly, G. S. Elliot, C. H. Bond, C. A. Mercier, H. A. Benham (Registrar), C. H. Hitchcock, A. N. Boycott, A. Miller, H. Gardiner Hill, H. A. Kidd, R. Percy Smith, H. T. S. Aveline, and Robert Jones (Hon. Sec.).

SOUTH-EASTERN DIVISION.

The Autumn Meeting of the South-Eastern Division was held by the courtesy of Dr. Moore at the Holloway Sanatorium, Virginia Water, on October 16th, 1901.

Among those present were Drs. Fletcher Beach, Moore, Andriezen, Gardiner Hill, Chambers, A. S. Newington, Miller, Lindsay, Hyslop, Edridge-Green, Haynes, J. W. Evans, Cole, Adèle de Steiger, R. C. Despard, Haslett, Fielding, Cecil Osburne, Forsyth, Fee, P. Campbell, Taylor, Stanley-Elliott, Noott, F. H. Edwards, Tinker, Roots, Bower, J. R. Hill, Corner, Shuttleworth, Harper, Patterson, Gayton, Outterson Wood, Worth, Kidd, and Boycott (Hon. Sec.).

After luncheon a meeting of the Divisional Committee was held. During the morning and afternoon the members inspected the buildings and grounds, and at 3 p.m. the general meeting of the Division took place, Dr. Fletcher Beach being voted to the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Hon. Secretary read a letter from G. Harold Urmson, Esq., Commissioner in Lunacy, thanking the Division for their vote of sympathy on the occasion of his recent accident.

An invitation from Dr. Barton to hold the Spring Meeting of the Division at the Surrey County Asylum, Brookwood, in April, 1902, was unanimously accepted.

Dr. ADÈLE DE STEIGER read a paper on "Two Cases of Lipoma of the Brain" (see page 64).

THE BURDEN OF LUNACY.

Dr. ANDRIEZEN gave a discourse upon the question, "The Burden of Lunacy, can it be mitigated?"

In his opening remarks he stated that appeared from the returns of the Commissioners in Lunacy that there were 1300 more lunatics last year than the year before, but the base-line from which the Commissioners made their computation was not, in his opinion, a reliable one. They took their census upon one day only—January 1st in each year. Now the population of asylums on that particular date might be largely reduced on the one hand, or largely increased on the other hand, by the conditions of the winter. The only proper and accurate way of getting a reliable basis was by taking a daily or weekly census for the whole year and striking an average. He had, for his purpose, taken the average number of lunatics resident in asylums as giving a census which afforded the nearest possible approach to accuracy. He should deal with the average number resident in all institutions, except those for imbeciles or idiots whose numbers

would be found on inquiry to remain very nearly constant (their recovery and death rates were very nearly constant), so that they could be put aside and thus eliminate the question of idiocy. The average numbers resident in all lunatic institutions—idiot establishments excepted—were as follow, intervals of three years being selected so as not to make the statistics too numerous:—In 1891 the average number was 62,909; 1894, 68,569; 1897, 75,817; 1900, 82,122. They would see that the ratio of increase every three years was much more rapid than the increase of the population of the country. That was the first point to be definitely grasped. Taking the population census of 1891 and that of the present year, together with the Registrar-General's returns for the intermediate years, he had carefully tabulated and compared them with the average numbers of the insane population, and had found the same conclusion borne out by the data. That the insane population had increased with greater velocity than the sane was further shown in the chart published by the London Asylums Committee, which, doubtless, many of them had seen. The chart was instructive because it put the results graphically, by means of curves. (These the speaker illustrated on the blackboard.) With this chart the Asylums Committee published the population figures also for the districts under their charge. A growing increase in the proportion of the lunatics to the rest of the population was apparent for the period of twelve years comprised in the chart. The fact could be represented in another way by taking the ratio of lunatics to the general population of England and Wales. In 1890 there was one lunatic to 336 of the general population. He had very carefully drawn, by means of a millimetre scale, a curve (illustrated) showing the gradations of the ratios up to the present date. It indicated that the increase was fairly constant—no violent oscillations,—and he considered this itself was *a priori* evidence that lunacy was an increasing quantity. In 1900 the ratio was one to 300 of the population, and if the curve were to be extended, on the assumption of the same rate of increase being maintained, in 1910 the ratio would be one to 260. This was a state of affairs by no means pleasant to contemplate. There was a steady increase of the insane population, and at a rather greater velocity than the increase of the general population. Now as to the question of cost. The problem was so large as regarded England and Wales that he had thought it wise to limit himself to the five large county asylums of London, which were typical of the rest of the country. The original cost of the five asylums—the cost of the buildings as distinguished from the cost of the land—was as follows:—Hanwell, £103,000; Cane Hill, £237,000; Banstead, £288,000; Colney Hatch, £226,000; and Claybury (which illustrated the increased cost of building materials in recent times), £484,000. There were other items of cost, such as the cost of original sites, of land subsequently purchased, and the cost of alterations and repairs. These brought up the figures to the following amounts:—Hanwell, £420,000; Cane Hill, £392,000; Banstead, £414,000; Colney Hatch, £452,000; and Claybury, £527,000. The London Asylums Committee, in their report just published, stated that the cost of labour, materials, etc., was increasing, and therefore they had decided to increase the charge for maintenance of patients. That came into force on the 1st July last, and he thought the increase was about a shilling per head per week. So there seemed no prospect of the cost diminishing, but the contrary, and added to the increasing prevalence of lunacy was the increasing cost of the patients' maintenance. These facts sufficiently showed the burden of lunacy. To most of them, no doubt, it had occurred that there ought to be some means of reducing this burden; and when public opinion had become sufficiently enlightened the question would probably be brought forward in Parliament and referred to a Royal Commission. As to the question of mitigation perhaps some of the means he was going to suggest might appear to be trivial, but he thought that taken altogether the sum total would be regarded as important. In the early part of last century the number of cases that came to the asylums from lead poisoning were considerable, but legislation in regard to the lead industry had operated so effectively that now there were few cases of insanity from this cause. So, in regard to puerperal insanity of septic origin, this had diminished since the adoption of antiseptic methods in midwifery. He believed it was in the *Boston Journal* that he saw it stated that Dr. Jelly, Collector of Records for thirty years, had clearly proved this. He admitted the numbers concerned were small, but the facts showed that with the adoption of antiseptic methods the effects could be restricted. In

referring, however, to alcohol, he thought he need not apologise for any smallness of the numbers involved. Dr. Percy Smith, in his presidential address to the members of the British Medical Association two years ago, drew particular attention to alcohol as the cause of much insanity. Dr. Clouston, in his report for last year, stated that an undue amount of mental disease in males admitted to Morningside Asylum was caused by the excessive use of alcoholic stimulants, which accounted for a quarter of the whole number of cases, and drink was assigned by him as either the sole or a contributory cause in one third of the admissions of males alone. Dr. Andriezen next referred to syphilis as a cause of insanity, and he again quoted observations which set down syphilis as an ætiological factor in idiocy and insanity, and classed it with alcoholism as a preventable cause. There were in asylums a considerable number of children whose derangement was of syphilitic origin. Syphilis produced all sorts of brain diseases. Many cases of epilepsy were of syphilitic origin, and there was really, he thought, rather a larger percentage of cases in asylums than was usually believed for which syphilis was responsible. Regarding syphilis as a disease which might be prevented, various propositions had been made, and Dr. Percy Smith, in his presidential address, had alluded to the subject. In Norway and Finland they had made the disease a notifiable one, but he supposed that in this country we were not yet nearly ripe enough for such legislation, so that the prospect of dealing with syphilis by law was remote. Referring briefly to phthisis, Dr. Andriezen said it was matter for congratulation that the general public had at last awakened to the fact that phthisis was a dangerous disease. There were a number of people confined in lunatic asylums in consequence of mental diseases caused by this malady. The marriage of imbeciles, epileptics, and persons who had had one or more attacks of insanity might well be a subject for legislation, which could do much to lighten the burden of insanity springing from this cause. At present, however, there was no prospect of it, and the only thing that Association could do was to educate public opinion, and so pave the way for legislation in future. Dr. Andriezen also maintained that unrestricted pauper alien immigration was one of the causes of the steady increase year by year of the burden of lunacy, and was another of those causes which legislation could do much to prevent. He was glad to see that an organised body of members of Parliament and others, under the presidency of Sir Howard Vincent, was now working to bring about legislative action in this matter at an early date. Lastly, there was the classification of patients on what he should call the medical and economical basis. During the last few years this had been attracting increasing attention. Chronic, incurable, and fairly harmless patients need not be housed, fed, and clothed very much in the same way as other lunatics. It was an unnecessary procedure, and the pecuniary burden of lunacy might be lessened by a well-considered scheme. The Commissioners in Lunacy had emphasised this idea, and had issued a circular stating that where buildings were required in future for large numbers of chronic patients the cost must be kept within certain limits, or sanction would be refused. Dr. Andriezen, in conclusion, suggested the introduction of an industrial colony system, under which the weak-minded might be housed, and, at the same time, found useful employment. This would be much better, he said, than their being at large propagating their species to the detriment and cost of the community.

Dr. FLETCHER BEACH remarked that the amount of alcoholism depended largely upon the prosperity of the country. When times were good they had more of it than when times were bad. With regard to syphilis, he was present at a discussion where it was urged that a large amount of insanity was due to this cause, but a majority of those present thought that syphilis was not the sole cause. His own opinion was that if all the cases attributed to syphilis were analysed not more than 5 per cent. could be definitely traced to that cause. However, he was not so sanguine that they would be able to reduce that cause for some time to come. It took a long time to convince the lay mind of anything of a scientific nature. He was very glad to endorse what Dr. Andriezen had said in regard to pauper immigration.

Dr. HYSLOP said that Dr. Andriezen's discourse was to a large extent a reply to many questions he had been asked by lay friends regarding the alarming increase of insanity. The question was really a most important one. Forty years ago the Commissioners reported that the proportion of lunatics was only one to 500 of the population. As it had now got to one to 300, it seemed as if in another forty years

there would not be sufficient sane people left to manage the asylums. He believed there was one cause of the increase of insanity which Dr. Andriezen had not mentioned, and it arose from the struggle for existence in these days, the turning of night into day. In the metropolis many cases came from districts like Fleet Street. He considered that alcoholism was responsible for even more than had been stated. They had to remember not only the cases directly caused by alcohol, but the many attributed to specific conditions which had really been mainly due to alcohol. Then as to syphilis. A great injury was done to the country when the Contagious Diseases Act was repealed.

Dr. ANDRIEZEN, in reply, said he agreed entirely with Dr. Hyslop in regard to the Contagious Diseases Act. He noticed that two or three American states, Minnesota being one of them, had made laws within the last month or two to prevent the marriage of weak-minded people, epileptics, etc. He admitted that it was one of the unfortunate effects of progress and civilisation that we lived at too high pressure.

After the discussion on the papers a hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Moore for inviting the Division to meet at Virginia Water and for his hospitality was unanimously carried, as was also a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

The members were afterwards hospitably entertained by Dr. Moore at dinner.

SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

The Autumn Meeting was held in the Board Room of the Royal Mineral Water Hospital, Bath, on Tuesday, October 22nd, by kind permission of the Governors.

Dr. Goodall was voted to the chair.

Present: Drs. Weatherly, Baker, Blachford, Benham, Rorie, Deas, Morton, Bullen, Millar, MacBryan, Aveline, MacDonald (Hon. Sec.), and Monckton, as visitor.

The Honorary Secretary announced letters of apology from Dr. Oscar Woods, Dr. Morrison, Dr. Mumby, Dr. Soutar, and Dr. Noott.

The minutes having been read and signed, the names of two candidates were submitted for election, viz. Glasgow, John George, L.R.C.P.Lond., M.R.C.S., A.M.O. Portsmouth Asylum (Proposers: B. H. Mumby, P. W. MacDonald, and G. A. Rorie); Findlay, John, M.B., B.Ch., A.M.O. Dorchester Asylum (Proposers: P. W. MacDonald, G. A. Rorie, and J. Chambers); and were unanimously elected.

THE NEXT MEETING.

The Hon. Sec. reported an invitation from Dr. Aveline to hold the Spring Meeting at the Catford Asylum, near Taunton, and moved that it be accepted with thanks. This was cordially agreed to.

THE LATE DR. LAW WADE.

The Hon. Sec. said that as this was the first time they had met since the death of the late Dr. Law Wade, of Wells, he felt sure they all wished to express their sense of regret and loss at his untimely and unexpected death. Dr. Wade had always taken a great interest in the Division. He was not cut off after his full term of years, but in the prime of life, full of energy and full of work, and he felt it was an extremely sad thing, not only for those more immediately concerned, but for those who knew him and worked with him. He would formally move that an expression of their regret be conveyed to his sorrowing widow.

Dr. LIONEL A. WEATHERLY seconded the motion, and, speaking as an old friend of Dr. Wade's, he said that they would all miss him very much for his geniality. His energy in his work was unbounded, and they all valued his able help. The resolution was adopted.

Dr. JOHN BAKER read a paper entitled "Female Criminal Lunatics" (see page 13).