

Dr. J. Turner, M.B., C.M., County Asylum, Brentwood, Essex, "Remarks on Giant-cells in Brains of the Insane, examined in a fresh state, with microscopic demonstrations;" and by E. S. Pasmore, M.D.Lond., M.R.C.P.Lond., London County Asylum, Banstead, on "Observations on the Classification of Insanity."

The members dined together after the meeting at the Café Royal, Regent Street, at 6.30 p.m.

SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

The Spring Meeting of the South-Western Division was held on 19th April, 1898, at Littlemore Asylum, Oxford. Present, Drs. Urquhart (President Elect), Brain Hartnell (Worcester), Iles (Fairford), Sankey (Littlemore), Good (Littlemore), Bower (Bedford), Noott (Broadmoor), Mumby (Portsmouth), Aveline (Taunton), Benham (Bristol), P. W. MacDonald (Hon. Secretary, Dorchester), R. Sankey, jun. (visitor, Littlemore), Blachford (Bristol), Scott (Warneford), and Stewart (Bristol). On the motion of Mr. Sankey, seconded by Dr. Benham, Dr. Urquhart was voted to the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, the Hon. Secretary said the President of the Association (Dr. McDowall) had written to express his regret at being unable to attend, owing to the examinations at Durham University being in progress this week. Dr. Wade and Dr. Richards had also sent letters of regret at being unable to attend.

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS.

The following new members were elected:—Davison, James, M.D., M.R.C.P. Lond., &c., Streate Place, Bath Road, Bournemouth. Proposed by P. W. MacDonald, A. Davidson, A. Law Wade. Embleton, Dennis Cawood, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., St. Wilfrid's, St. Michael's Road, Bournemouth. Proposed by P. W. MacDonald, A. Davidson, A. Law Wade. English, Evelyn A. V., M.B., C.M. Edin., Resident Medical Officer Eastern Dispensary, Bath. Proposed by L. Weatherley, P. W. MacDonald, A. Davidson. Jobson, Thomas Battersby, M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O. Dub., Assistant Medical Officer Somerset and Bath Asylum, Wells. Proposed by A. Law Wade, E. B. Whitcombe, George A. Watson. Middlemist, Edwyn George, M.B., Assistant Medical Officer County Asylum, Dorchester. Proposed by P. W. Macdonald, A. Law Wade, A. Davidson. Sproat, James Hugh, M.B., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., &c., Assistant Medical Officer Somerset and Bath Asylum, Wells. Proposed by A. Law Wade, E. B. Whitcombe, Geo. A. Watson. Astbury, Thomas, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond., Assistant Medical Officer Wouford House, Exeter. Proposed by P. Maury Deas, P. W. MacDonald, A. Davidson.

ELECTION OF HONORARY SECRETARY.

The CHAIRMAN said the next business was the election of the Hon. Secretary. He did not think that would occupy the meeting, except by some one making a complimentary speech, which he thought was very well deserved. (Hear, hear.)

Dr. BENHAM said those who attended the meetings of the South-Western Division knew the time and attention that Dr. MacDonald gave to the work, and he had great pleasure in proposing his re-election. He was sure they could not do better than reappoint him.

Mr. ILES seconded the proposition, which was carried *und voce*.

The HON. SECRETARY thanked the meeting for asking him to continue the work; and while he agreed to do so for another year, he would take this opportunity of saying that perhaps before long it might be as well for the Division to think of somebody else. Not that the work had been other than a pleasure to him, but he did not see why he should go on holding the office, so to speak, for an indefinite time. There were other men—young men—in the division who, he was quite sure, would be willing to do the work, and do it as well, perhaps better ("No")

than he had done it. He wished to thank in a special degree those members who had assisted him by contributing papers. One of the anxieties of an honorary secretary was to get useful contributions, and he thought the South-Western Division would be recognised as having done good work in this direction. (Applause.)

VACANCIES ON THE COUNCIL AT ANNUAL MEETING.

The HON. SECRETARY proposed and Dr. HARTNELL seconded that Dr. Wade's name be nominated for one of the vacancies.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT.

The following were appointed a Committee of Management for 1898-9:— Drs. Deas, Benham, Soutar, Morton, Aldridge, and Goodall.

THE NURSING CERTIFICATE.

The CHAIRMAN said they had now to consider "proposed amended Regulations for the Examination for the Nursing Certificate." This was a question of some difficulty. He knew that in Scotland it occupied two or three meetings, and it was a question on which the division must be guided in great measure by Dr. MacDonald's formulating propositions which they could accept, or amend, or refuse. Unless there was anybody present who had given a great deal of personal attention to this matter of the nursing certificate, he thought it would be better for Dr. MacDonald to make a statement to them.

The HON. SECRETARY explained that the first proposition they had to consider was whether they approved of the amendment, that the term of training be extended from two to three years. The second proposition was whether they approved of two examiners being appointed for the whole of England, Scotland, and Ireland. The third proposition was whether they approved of the entrance fee being raised from 2s. 6d. to 5s. These were the three propositions which he thought need only take up any time in discussing. The Chairman had informed them that the Scottish members took up two or three meetings; certainly they took up the greater part of two. The result of their deliberations would assist gentlemen present, though they did not bind them. They voted against three years' training; they suggested that ten examiners should be appointed instead of two, and they approved of the 5s. subscription. He wished to point out that by a resolution passed at the last annual meeting they had that day to take definite steps to instruct their Secretary what to report to the next annual meeting. Whatever resolution they came to that day he was bound to report as the deliberate opinion of this division on these points. He believed Dr. Benham held some strong views on the subject, and he would pass the matter on to him.

Dr. BENHAM said he did not know the Hon. Secretary was correct in saying that he held strong views on these points, but he certainly did hold a strong view that the term of training should not be increased from two to three years. His opinion, based upon the experience he had gained by seeing the training of nurses in the past, was to the effect that if they could not adequately train their nurses in two years' time to pass an examination which was quite within the limits of their capacity, or what he thought they should be taught, the time they spent in asylums was of little use. With regard to appointing two members from each division, it would be nice if one could be in two places at the same time; but if it was expected that he should go round and examine the various candidates, he would say frankly that he should not have the time. If there were members who expressed an opinion in favour of it, or were prepared to accept such an appointment, he had nothing to say. As regarded the raising of the fee from 2s. 6d. to 5s., he did not know why it was proposed to increase the fee. (A voice: "To pay the Examiners.") To pay the Examiners. That was a proposition which so far had not been made to them, and he was not prepared without consideration to express a definite opinion upon the subject.

Dr. BOWER—Do I understand that it is proposed to appoint two Examiners for each division?

The HON. SECRETARY—That is the proposition of the Scottish Division, so as to lessen the labours of the examiners. The amended regulation you are asked to approve or disapprove of is that there be only two examiners. The Scottish Division think this impracticable unless you pay men an actual salary, more than the mere out-of-pocket expenses. I am of opinion, and I think most men will agree with the view of the Scottish Division, that it cannot be done.

Dr. BENHAM—If two men are to visit the whole of England you must appoint paid examiners.

The HON. SECRETARY—You are not supposed to visit the asylums. The *viuè* *voce* will go on as before; this refers to written papers.

Mr. SANKEY said he did not see the good of appointing examiners in the written examination, because there was nothing whatever to do. The Council set the questions that were placed before the candidates. What object could there be in the appointment of public examiners, so to say? The work was done by a committee already appointed. With regard to the question of two or three years' training, he agreed with Dr. Benham that two years was enough. If it was not he did not think the nurses were worth much. He was sure he could not get female attendants to stay three years to undertake it; they would go away, as there would be no inducement for them to stay. As regarded the proposal to raise the subscription from 2s. 6d. to 5s., he thought if these public examiners were not appointed, that would not be necessary; 5s. was rather a heavy sum to ask persons going in for the examination to pay for such a trifling bit of paper as they received to show for it.

Dr. NOOTT said he had had experience of training classes for five or six years past, and although agreeing with the general principle of the examination, there were several things which he thought might be improved. The Medico-Psychological Association having once started a course of this kind, it was a great pity that, instead of encouraging, they should seem, as it appeared to him these new regulations would do, to discourage attendants and nurses from going up for it. It was very difficult in many places for nurses and attendants to appear for examination; but where they did so he thought it was of great benefit to themselves and the institution. Two years was, to his mind, the absolute limit, and he agreed with what Mr. Sankey had said, that if they asked them to come up year after year they would lose all interest in the work. So far as the examination was concerned, it was very important in itself, but it was of very much less importance than the teaching the attendants and nurses had to undergo. He thought the book was far too elaborate in one part, and not sufficiently elaborate in another. That was to say, the anatomy and physiology went beyond what the nurses should do; but when it came to the practical knowledge of their work in the wards, their attention to patients, the method of dealing with classes of patients, suicidal and homicidal, dirty patients, and the nursing part of asylum routine, there was little in the book that might not be improved and enlarged upon, and they might with advantage cut half the first part out and double the second part. (Hear, hear.) As regarded the examiners he had not a word to say, but with respect to fees he thought it was preposterous to ask people in this position in life to pay 5s., and if they happened to fail, 2s. 6d. for each subsequent examination. He did not see how they were going to compel them to do that unless the asylum committee were willing to pay the examination fees, and he supposed there were few asylum committees who would see their way to do that.

Mr. SANKEY—The auditor would surcharge.

Dr. NOOTT said the only way he could see was that asylum committees might be inclined to subscribe to the Medico-Psychological Association in this matter, and relieve the nurses and attendants of all fees. Whenever he had asked members of a class to send in their half-crowns he had done it very shamefacedly; he had not liked it, because he thought it was hard lines on them to be asked to pay at all. At Broadmoor they were fourteen hours in the wards, and

then they came to him for an hour and a half for instruction. He repeated, therefore, that he considered it hard lines to ask them to pay any fees at all.

Dr. GOOD said he did not think they would get the nurses to go in for a three years' training, he found it hard enough to get them up for two years. They attended the first six months, and the next year they were told to attend again, and they said they did not see their way to give up so much of their spare time. They could not do it in asylum time; they had to give up a couple of hours a week, and it was conceivable the lecture came on what they called their half-day. They did not like coming back at half past seven, or at whatever time the lecture was fixed; they went to see their friends, and they did not present themselves at the lecture. If the time of training was lengthened he was certain they would not get nurses to go in for the examination. As regarded the fees, he agreed with Dr. Noott that it was very hard lines to make the attendants and nurses pay, and if they increased the amount he thought it would be very few who would do so. As to the examiners, he had nothing to say on that part of the question.

Dr. BENHAM remarked with regard to fees, some of his committee had solved the difficulty by paying the money themselves.

Dr. BOWER said, as to the reason for the appointment of special examiners for various parts, the Association had complaints that the passes in the different asylums were unequal. In some asylums there were no "pluckings" at all, and in other asylums comparatively few passes. It was plainly hinted that this was because each superintendent was able to choose his own examiners, which on the face of it seemed rather an unusual proceeding. The suggestion to appoint special examiners to examine at least the papers of all asylums arose from this fact, and there was no doubt a certain amount of ground for it. Then the difficulty of getting examiners to do so much work without pay or without their expenses being paid raised the next question, and though only two examiners for the whole country, probably it would be an impossible task for them to do the work unless they were men of great leisure. He thought there was a general consensus of opinion that two years' training was quite long enough. As to the payment of the fees, there was a great deal to be said. It could hardly be expected that the members of the Medico-Psychological Association should burden themselves with the expense of this, which was really for the benefit of the nurses, and the county asylum committees could not pay the fees. Asylums like those where Dr. Benham was superintendent were able to do a great deal in the way of gratuities because they had no auditor.

Dr. BENHAM—I beg your pardon. We have an auditor, like every one else.

Dr. BOWER—A city auditor. You do not have a Local Government Board auditor, which is very different indeed. Your auditor is appointed by yourselves, like the examiners at present are.

Dr. BENHAM—He is appointed by Act of Parliament. One is appointed under the Municipal Corporations Act, and the other under the County Councils Act.

Dr. B. HARTNELL said he was also of opinion that a period of three years' training was too long; two years was ample. As to fees, he considered 2s. 6d. quite sufficient. He agreed with Dr. Noott that it was trying to stop a good thing by asking another 2s. 6d. whenever the candidates failed. To ask the nurses to attend a certain number of lectures, and unless they did so they would not be "signed" for, was a retrograde step. As regarded the number of examiners, that was a matter he was not qualified to speak about. They taught and certificated their own, as at Dorchester.

The CHAIRMAN gave a brief *résumé* of the evolution of this question, in reference to the production of the Handbook and the granting of the Nursing Certificate by the Association. He referred to the fact that the Handbook had been a great success, although it represented very diverse opinions and attempted to reconcile opposing views. He held that no question should be asked in the examinations which could not be answered from the Handbook, for that would moderate in some measure the erratic course sometimes steered by examiners,

and ensure fairness for all. They ought to have an authoritative and comprehensive work. For his part, he thought it as good as could be reasonably expected. No doubt it might be held that it was too full here and too restricted there, as it might be looked at individually. He himself was strongly of opinion that nurses ought not to be aborted doctors, but that they should be trained to care for the sick and insane in an intelligent manner. That necessarily meant some anatomy and some physiology, yet not to the detriment of their knowledge how to place a draw-sheet or apply a timentation. Every nurse should pass some time in attending the sick. That should be compulsory before entering for the certificate. As to the period of training, three years had been proposed in order to bring them into line with general hospitals, but there was considerable difference of opinion as to this point. Scotland had declared for the *status quo* in a very evenly divided meeting. Referring to the proposal to appoint only two examiners, and stating the reasons, the Chairman doubted if two men could deal with the large number of papers sent in without undue sacrifice of time. He concluded by asking the Hon. Secretary to put his resolution.

The HON. SECRETARY—I shall ask the meeting for its opinion as to whether the period of training shall be two or three years.

The CHAIRMAN then put the question, and declared that the meeting was practically unanimous in favour of two years.

Dr. NOOTT proposed—(a) That the meeting disapproves of the proposal to appoint two examiners. (b) That the present system be continued, but that the assessor, who shall in future be known as the local examiner, be not suggested by the superintendent of the asylum, but be directly appointed by the Association.

Mr. B. HARTNELL seconded the resolutions, which were agreed to *nem. con.*

Dr. BENHAM moved, and Mr. SANKEY seconded, that the fee be not increased from 2s. 6d. to 5s.

The proposition was adopted.

COMPULSORY PENSIONS.

The HON. SECRETARY said, as secretary of the sub-committee appointed at their last meeting to report on the question of Compulsory Pensions, he had a short statement to make. With the agenda of this meeting was circulated a report of the sub-committee. Ten days after the report was sent out, viz. on the 25th of March, the Lord Chancellor introduced into the House of Lords a Bill entitled "An Act to amend the Lunacy Acts." Clauses 20 and 21 of the Bill dealt most effectively, and he was glad to say most satisfactorily, with the question of pensions and also gratuities to injured people. He now begged to move that the report of the sub-committee, so to speak, lapse, and that instead they consider Clauses 20 and 21 of the Lunacy Bill, on which he believed Dr. Benham would move a definite resolution.

Dr. BOWER said he thought they might receive the report of the committee, who had taken considerable trouble in the matter, and thank them for it. (Hear, hear.)

The CHAIRMAN—Certainly. Will you take that as read? ("Yes.")

Dr. BENHAM moved—"That the South-Western Division of the Medico-Psychological Association approves of and supports the Pension clauses (Clauses 20 and 21) of the Lunacy Bill Amendment Act, now before Parliament." He said he was a member of the Parliamentary Bills Committee, and about a fortnight ago they met in London, and spent about three and a half hours in considering the new Lunacy Bill. They were unanimously of opinion that they would not get anything more favourable from the Government than these clauses as they now stood. Shortly stated, they were to the effect that every committee should make provision for every servant in the employ of an asylum, which should not be less than that granted on the present scale of the Local Government Board. That was to say, they could go up to two thirds, but on no account was it to be less than was paid to Poor Law servants. They thought that was

the most they were likely to get, and he would propose the resolution which he had read.

Dr. MACDONALD seconded the resolution. He hoped the Government would stick to their guns, and carry the Bill through.

Dr. BOWER—Is it clear that the allowance will be granted without any contribution?

Dr. BENHAM—Certainly. That was one reason why we were so unanimous in supporting the Bill.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

THE NEXT MEETING.

The HON. SECRETARY said the date of the next meeting, according to the present arrangement, would be Tuesday, October 18th. As to the place of meeting, he would suggest that it be referred to the Committee of Management.

The suggestion was adopted.

PAPERS READ.

Dr. NOOTT read a paper on "Points of Similarity between Epileptic and Alcoholic Insanity" (see p. 492), and Dr. BLACHFORD communicated an "Analysis of the Causes of Insanity in One thousand Patients" (see p. 500).

VOTE OF THANKS.

The CHAIRMAN proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Sankey for his kindness to the members of the division that day. (Applause.) To him it was especially gratifying to meet Mr. Sankey after so many years, and to find him in such excellent health and spirits. He was sure it was as much a pleasure to Mr. Sankey to meet his colleagues of the specialty that day as it was in the days of long ago. This was an anniversary season with Mr. Sankey, for on the following day it would be forty-four years since he was appointed to this important institution. They were also very much indebted to Mr. Sankey for his presentation to the Association library of the *Journal of Mental Science* from the beginning, and now accessible to all the members. (Applause.)

The proposition was carried by acclamation.

Mr. SANKEY, in acknowledging the compliment, said it was exactly forty-three years ago since the last meeting of the Association at Littlemore, and the only gentleman living that he could call to recollection who was present beside himself was their late consulting surgeon, Mr. Hussey, who was now in his eighty-third year. In conclusion he proposed a vote of thanks to Dr. Urquhart for presiding. (Applause.)

The proposition was carried *unâ voce*, and duly acknowledged.

In the evening the members and several visitors dined together at the Mitre Hotel, and a most pleasant evening was spent.

SOUTH-EASTERN DIVISION.

The Spring Meeting of the South-Eastern Division of the Medico-Psychological Association was held at the Middlesex County Asylum, Wandsworth, S.W., on April 20th. From 11.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. members were shown round the main asylum, annexe and grounds by Drs. Hill, Rolleston, Ewbank, and Worth. From 1.30 to 2.30 p.m. members partook of light refreshments, at 2.30 p.m. the Divisional Committee of Management met, and at 3 p.m. the General Meeting took place. Present: Drs. Fletcher Beach, J. M. Moody, C. H. Bond, E. W. White, H. Gardiner Hill, C. Rolleston, G. E. Mould, A. Maclean, A. F. Stocker, H. Rayner, W. J. H. Hasted, F. H. Edwards, G. E. Shuttleworth, J. S. Tuke, A. G. Ewbank, A. S. Newington, D. Bower, D. J. Thomson, H. A. Kidd, A. N. Boycott, and Stilwell. Dr. Hill was voted to the chair. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.