

## Part IV.—Notes and News

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### THE ROYAL MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

#### QUARTERLY MEETING.

A QUARTERLY MEETING of the Association was held at 11, Chandos Street, on Thursday, February 22, 1934, the President, Dr. F. Douglas Turner, occupying the Chair.

#### OBITUARY.

The PRESIDENT announced, with regret, that since the Association last met a well-known psychiatrist and member of the Association had passed away in the person of Dr. Bernard Hollander. He was a member of the Association, though he did not often attend the meetings.

A resolution of regret and of sympathy with the deceased member's relatives was passed by members present rising in their places.

#### THE FUNERAL OF ALBERT, KING OF THE BELGIANS.

Sir HUBERT BOND said that, with every deference to the Chair, he would like to suggest that, this being a Royal Society, it would be fitting that due and respectful notice should be taken of the fact that at that moment the funeral obsequies of the late lamented King of the Belgians were being performed.

The PRESIDENT agreed, and asked members to stand for a few moments to show their sympathy.

#### PRESENTATION BY DR. WHITWELL.

The PRESIDENT said it was his pleasure to announce that Dr. Whitwell, the Hon. Librarian, had secured a copy of the first edition of Burton's *Anatomy of Melancholy*, in a splendid state of preservation, and uncut. Dr. Whitwell proposed to present this rare work to the Library, at his own expense. He, the President, believed there was no copy of it in the library of any other medical society in London, and that the other copies which were in existence were not in such a good condition as this one. It was really a momentous event in the history of the Association, because, owing largely to Dr. Whitwell's efforts, the Library of the Association had already attained to a well-recognized position in medical circles in London, and it was being referred to more and more by people seeking information on the special subject which the Association dealt with.

He moved from the Chair that a very hearty vote of thanks and sincere appreciation be given to Dr. Whitwell for giving the Association the result of his good fortune in securing this valuable addition to the Library.

Dr. PERCY SMITH said he was proud to second this vote of thanks to Dr. Whitwell. He did not think there was need to add anything to what the President had said. Members of the Association felt indebted to Dr. Whitwell for the enormous amount of work he did for the Library.

The resolution was carried by acclamation.

The PRESIDENT said that a Past-President of the Association, Dr. Nolan, had recently married again, and he suggested that a telegram of congratulation be sent to him from the meeting.

This was unanimously agreed to.

#### MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING.

The PRESIDENT said that the Committee which had been appointed to make a report to the Association for presentation to the Departmental Committee on Mental and Other Hospitals had already held three all-day meetings, at which there was a good deal of discussion. The

report was not yet ready, and he therefore asked that its presentation might be postponed until the May meeting, unless it was found that the Departmental Committee required the Association's evidence before that meeting. In the latter event a special meeting of the Council would be held to approve the Report, so that it could go forward in the name of the Association.

Sundry suggestions had been made for alterations in the Bye-laws, including that providing for the appointment of a Standing Committee for Mental Deficiency; and at that morning's Council meeting it had been decided to appoint a small committee to deal with the matter, so that a single application to the Privy Council could be made to cover all the alterations found necessary. The committee would report to the May meeting.

The Council had decided to take no action, for the present, on the Report of the Board of Control's Sterilization Committee.

The Education Committee had dealt with the standard of examinations; their report had been adopted by the Council. It was now laid down that every candidate would be expected to obtain at least 50% of the total marks in each section of the examination; also that in future there would be no re-marking of papers of candidates who at the first marking had obtained between 45% and 50%.

A letter had been received from the Child Guidance Council saying that in view of the fact that the new out-patient clinics which had been started would often have children brought to them for opinion and advice, they felt it would be valuable to consider whether steps might be taken to start a short course of instruction for any who might be called upon to act as medical officer to these clinics. The Council had approved of the suggestion, and had agreed that the Association should co-operate with the Child Guidance Council in arriving at whatever might be necessary for the organization and for the instruction of medical officers of the clinics, with especial regard to child guidance.

The Council had also agreed to ask the Board of Control to suggest to local authorities that it might be a good thing if assistant medical officers in mental hospitals or mental deficiency institutions when attending the meetings of the Association could have their expenses paid.

It was decided not to appoint a representative of the Association to attend the summer meeting of the Royal Sanitary Institute, as the Association's Annual Meeting was being held at the same date.

It was intimated to the Council that the Annual Congress of the Royal Institute of Public Health would welcome a representative of the Association, and Dr. Rice had been asked to attend the meeting of this body at Norwich.

#### THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The PRESIDENT announced that the Annual Meeting of the Association would take place in the week beginning July 2 at Northampton, under the Presidency of Dr. Rambaut. He hoped all members would make a note of the date, and that as many as could possibly do so would attend.

#### VISIT TO THE RAMPTON STATE INSTITUTION.

The PRESIDENT announced that members of the Association had been invited by the Chairman of the Board of Control to visit the Rampton State Institution, near Retford, on Wednesday, April 25. The Treasury would provide a lunch. The invitation could perhaps be considered as an endorsement of the worth of the Association's meetings; he hoped that as many members as possible would attend, whether they were engaged on the mental deficiency side or not, as at Rampton there were many cases on the borderline or who were partly psychotic. If sufficient were going, arrangements could be made to stop a fast train at Retford.

Sir ROBERT ARMSTRONG-JONES asked what was the attitude of the Council to the recently issued Report of the Departmental Committee on Sterilization.

The PRESIDENT replied that the Council did consider that subject at its meeting on the previous day, and decided to take no action upon it.

Sir ROBERT ARMSTRONG-JONES said that he was Chairman of the Magistrates Association's Special Committee on Mental Deficiency and Lunacy, and that Committee had held a meeting to consider the Report on Sterilization. The feeling was not quite unanimous on the subject, though the arguments were appreciated, and there was approval of much that was in the report. It had been suggested that the Committee he spoke of should know what was the feeling in the different magisterial benches in the country, since, in order to carry out such measures as were recommended, it was essential there should be a considerable amount of public feeling favourable to it. The subject had already been before Parliament, and had met with strong opposition, but it was certain to come up again in consequence of the present valuable report.

Among certain members of this Association there was a feeling that they would be greatly guided in regard to their decisions by what the Council thought of the project. Many things in the Report called for serious consideration. He had been hoping that the Council of this Association would have thought it wise to appoint a Special Committee, not to consist of those who had already given evidence, but of some who were in favour of the project and others who were against it, so that the feeling of the Association generally could be ascertained.

The PRESIDENT said the Council decided against taking action because they were not unanimous on the subject, and it was felt that, opinion being so divided, no useful purpose could be served by proceeding further. A questionnaire had been sent out to members some years ago, and the opinions elicited had been placed before the Sterilization Committee for their information.

#### ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS.

The PRESIDENT nominated Dr. McRae and Dr. Ford-Robertson scrutineers. The following candidates for membership were voted upon *en bloc*.

MAYBIN, NORA, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H., Assistant Medical Officer, Rubery Hill Hospital, Birmingham.

*Proposed by* Drs. T. C. Graves, F. A. Pickworth and K. A. Graves.

LINEHAN, BRIDGET, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., N.U.I., Assistant Medical Officer, Mental Hospital, Lancaster; County Mental Hospital, Lancaster.

*Proposed by* Drs. J. D. Silverston, G. R. Wadsworth and E. Randal Hull.

MOULSON, NORMAN, M.D., D.P.M., Deputy Medical Superintendent, Cefn Coed Hospital, Swansea.

*Proposed by* Drs. Ian Skottowe, F. M. Rodgers and J. Ernest Nicole.

ROSE, DOUGLAS JOHN, M.R.C.S.Eng., L.R.C.P.Lond., First Assistant Medical Officer, Brockhall Certified Institution for Mental Defectives, Langho, near Blackburn, Lancashire.

*Proposed by* Drs. R. B. F. McKail, R. M. Stewart and R. G. B. Marsh.

ROBERTSON, GUY SCOTT, M.B., Ch.B., Deputy Medical Superintendent, Calderstones, Whalley, near Blackburn, Lancashire.

*Proposed by* Drs. R. B. F. McKail, R. M. Stewart and W. Ross Ashby.

KEANE, CLARENCE AUGUSTINE, M.R.C.S.Eng., L.R.C.P.Lond., Assistant Medical Officer, Rubery Hill Hospital, Birmingham.

*Proposed by* Drs. T. C. Graves, F. A. Pickworth and K. A. Graves.

MAUDSLEY, HENRY FITZGERALD, M.C., M.D.Melb., M.R.C.S.Lond., D.P.M.Lond., Hon. Neurologist, Melbourne General Hospital; 8, Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

*Proposed by* Drs. W. S. Dawson, G. Warwick Smith and R. Worth.

BELL, GAVIN JOHN, M.B., B.S.Lond., D.P.M., Assistant Medical Officer, Cane Hill Mental Hospital, Coulsdon, Surrey.

*Proposed by* Drs. G. A. Lilly, O. P. Napier Pearn and A. Walk.

They were all unanimously elected.

PAPER.—“**Mental Deficiency Practice at Caterham,**” by Dr. T. LINDSAY.

[For paper and discussion, *vide* p. 397.]

#### AN APOLOGY.

It has been brought to the notice of the Editors that the article “Studies in Epilepsy”, which appeared in the Journal for October, 1933 (vol. lxxix, p. 688), had previously been published in part in the *British Medical Journal* and in part in the *Quarterly Journal of Medicine*.

The article was accepted as being original work. Written apologies have already been tendered to the journals concerned, and the Editors wish to express publicly their regret at an unfortunate occurrence.

#### PSYCHOPATHOLOGY AND PSYCHOTHERAPY SUB-COMMITTEE.

##### LONDON LOCAL GROUP.

Amongst the aims of the Sub-Committee has been the one to promote exchange of ideas, and the formation of informal groups of workers interested in psychopathology. One such group is the London Discussion Circle, which meets, under the leadership of Dr. M. E. Franklin, at 8.30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month, at 3, Bulstrode Street, Welbeck Street, W. 1.

Formed in January, 1928, it has held an uninterrupted course of most successful meetings, the average attendance being eighteen or nineteen. The subjects discussed have been very varied, and a sample selection is given below :

Types of suicidal attempts.  
Mental testing in psychosis.  
Repetition.  
Behaviourism, *Gestalt* and psycho-analysis.  
Is psycho-analytic investigation scientific?  
Hadfield's psychotherapy.  
Asocial children.  
The psychopathology of civilized communities.  
Constructive psychotherapy.  
Feelings of isolation in mental disorder.  
Neurotic symptoms in healthy people.  
The selection of the method of treatment.  
The psycho-biological views of Adolf Meyer.  
A type of frigidity in women.  
Drawing, modelling and writing of children.  
Sex jealousy as an artefact of culture.  
Genetic relationships of paranoia and hysteria.  
Psychological factors in contraception.

The value of such informal meetings can hardly be over-estimated and it is not surprising to find how popular these meetings have proved. Anyone interested, within reach of London, and who wishes to join, should communicate directly with Dr. Franklin at Bulstrode Street, or with the Secretary of the Sub-Committee.

As a reminder, it might be added that the Sub-Committee is anxious not only to see other such groups formed in provincial centres, but to assist in any way it can study and research in the psychological aspects of mental disorder, and especially would it welcome any suggestion of joint or concerted action on any likely investigation to which the group method might be applicable.

J. ERNEST NICOLE,  
*Hon. Secretary.*

#### NOTICES BY THE HONORARY LIBRARIAN.

The Library is open to members between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. ; Saturdays, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Books are issued to borrowers between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., and between 2.30 and 4.30 p.m. ; Saturdays, between 10 a.m. and 12 noon.

The Hon. Librarian will endeavour to obtain, as far as possible, any books on psychiatry and allied subjects required by members.

#### Library Lending Department Regulations.

1. Books shall be lent only to members within the United Kingdom and the Irish Free State who are not in arrears with their subscriptions.
2. No member may borrow from the Library more than three volumes at one time.
3. Books and journals are sent carriage paid from the Library, but members are responsible for the books from the time they leave the Library until they are received back.
4. Books damaged or lost while in possession of a member will be repaired at his expense or must be replaced by him.
5. A member borrowing a book or periodical from the Library shall be required to sign and return to the Librarian a form of receipt for the same, which will be regarded as an acceptance of these Regulations.
6. A member shall be entitled to retain a book or periodical borrowed from the Library for a period of twenty-eight days, unless the book is required by another member, in which case it can be recalled by the Librarian at the expiration of fourteen days.
7. In the event of a member failing to return any book or periodical within seven days after receiving notice from the Librarian (on the expiration of the period referred to in Rule 6), the Library Committee shall be at liberty to purchase another copy, the cost to be charged to such member, who shall not be allowed to borrow another book until the sum thus expended shall have been paid.
8. All communications should be addressed to " The Librarian, Royal Medico-Psychological Association, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W. 1 ".