

SOUTH-EASTERN DIVISION.

The Spring Meeting of the South-Eastern Division was held, by the courtesy of Dr. Amsden, at the Essex County Asylum, Brentwood, on 24th April, 1901.

Present: Dr. Fletcher Beach (President), Drs. Percy Smith, Gardiner Hill, Crochley Clapham, R. H. Steen, E. France, J. S. Bolton, Robert Jones, A. Newington, H. E. Haynes, D. Bower, Lieut.-Col. J. W. Evans, I.M.S., Drs. H. Kerr, J. Benson Cooke, F. Edridge Green, J. Peeke Richards, C. E. P. Forsyth, J. F. Taylor, A. H. Spicer, J. Grimmond Smith, W. C. Worley, Miss A. de Steiger, Drs. George Amsden, J. Turner, G. N. O. Slater, O. Hanbury, A. N. Boycott (Hon. Sec.). Visitors: Drs. R. W. Quennell, A. Quennell, and the Rev. H. Stephens.

After luncheon a meeting of the Divisional Committee was held. During the morning and afternoon the members inspected the wards and grounds; and at 2.45 p.m. the general meeting of the division took place, when Dr. Fletcher Beach (President) took the Chair.

The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Hon. Secretary read a letter of thanks from Dr. Langdon Down for the vote of condolence passed at the last meeting.

A resolution expressing the sympathy of the division with G. Harold Urmson, Esq., Commissioner in Lunacy, on the occasion of his recent accident, was proposed by the President, seconded by Dr. Amsden, and unanimously carried.

OFFICIAL RECOMMENDATIONS.

Dr. A. Norman Boycott was nominated as Honorary Secretary for the South-Eastern Division for 1901-2.

Drs. Bond, Percy Smith, and T. O. Wood retired by rotation from the South-Eastern Divisional Committee, and Drs. Steen, Moore, and Chambers were elected in their places.

The names of Dr. Savage and Dr. Kidd were nominated to the Council to fill vacancies on that body at the next annual meeting.

NEXT MEETING.

An invitation from Dr. Moore to hold the Autumn Meeting of the Division at the Holloway Sanatorium, Virginia Water, in October, 1901, was unanimously carried.

PAPERS READ.

Dr. ROBERT JONES read a paper entitled "The Importance of the Teaching of Insanity to the Medical Student and Practitioner."

Dr. ARTHUR SPICER read a paper on "A Case of Spontaneous Fracture."

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Dr. Amsden and to the Committee of the Asylum for inviting the Division to meet at Brentwood.

The members afterwards dined at the Café Monaco, Regent Street.

MR. CRACKANTHORPE ON CRIME AND PUNISHMENT.

The Lord Chief Justice presided over the annual meeting of the Society of Comparative Legislation in Lincoln's Inn, on February 19th last.

Mr. CRACKANTHORPE, K.C., read a paper on "Crime and Punishment from the Comparative Point of View," in which he said it was well to have our comfortable optimism disturbed if our methods were to be improved. Modern penal law he defined as "a weapon of social defence tempered by justice to the individual." Sir James Stephen and Beccaria had shown that crime was in former times viewed objectively only, and without regard to the offender's character. On this principle the French code of 1810 treated the criminal as an abstraction, and the legal limits of punishment for specified crimes were laid down with mathematical precision. The rigour of the code was, however, modified by the admission of "extenuating circumstances." The Belgian code of 1867 discarded the theories of Beccaria and accepted those of Pellegrino Rossi, who laid great stress on the reclamation of the criminal. The new school of criminologists treated the