

## SCOTTISH DIVISION.

A MEETING of the Scottish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association was held at the Inverness District Asylum on Thursday and Friday, June 4 and 5, 1925.

Among those present was Sir Arthur Rose, an Honorary Member and Chairman of the General Board of Control for Scotland.

Dr. R. B. Campbell occupied the Chair.

Before taking up the ordinary business of the meeting the Chairman feelingly referred to the great loss which the Association had sustained by the death of Dr. John Fraser, who had rendered such signal service to the welfare of the insane and to lunacy administration in Scotland for a period of almost 50 years.<sup>(1)</sup> It was unanimously resolved that it be recorded in the minutes that the members of the Scottish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association desire to express their deep sense of the loss sustained by the death of Dr. John Fraser, and their sympathy with the members of his family in their bereavement, and the Secretary was instructed to send an excerpt of the minute to the relatives.

The Chairman also feelingly referred to the loss which the Association had sustained by the death of Dr. William Arnot Parker, for many years Medical Superintendent of the Glasgow District Mental Hospital, Gartloch. Dr. Parker always took a keen interest in the affairs of the Scottish Division, and for many years acted as Secretary and Treasurer of the Western Asylums Research Institute.<sup>(2)</sup> It was unanimously resolved that it be recorded in the minutes that the members of the Scottish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association desire to express their deep sense of the loss sustained by the death of Dr. William Arnot Parker, and their sympathy with the members of his family in their bereavement, and the Secretary was instructed to send an excerpt of the minute to Mrs. Parker.

The minutes of the last Divisional Meeting were read and approved, and the Chairman was authorized to sign them.

Dr. T. C. Mackenzie and Dr. Donald Ross were unanimously elected Representative Members of Council for the ensuing year, and Dr. Wm. M. Buchanan was unanimously elected Divisional Secretary.

The following candidates, after ballot, were elected ordinary members of the Association :

JOHN ALEXANDER JENKINS, M.B., Ch.B.Glas., Assistant Medical Officer, Argyll and Bute District Asylum, Lochgilphead.

*Proposed by* Drs. Donald Ross, N. T. Kerr and Wm. M. Buchanan.

JAMES STEWART IAN SKOTTOWE, M.B., Ch.B.Glasg., Assistant Medical Officer, Royal Mental Hospital, Gartnavel, Glasgow.

*Proposed by* Drs. D. K. Henderson, A. G. W. Thomson and A. Macniven.

FRANCIS ESMOND REYNOLDS, M.B., Ch.B.Edin., Pathologist, Scottish Asylums Pathological Scheme, Lecturer on Neuro-Pathology, Edinburgh University ; Laboratory of Scottish Asylums, Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh.

*Proposed by* Drs. R. B. Campbell, J. H. Skeen and Wm. M. Buchanan.

The SECRETARY reported that the Advisory Committee appointed by the Division had met the Education and Examination Committee of the General Nursing Council for Scotland on February 20, 1925, when the following arrangements for the Nursing Council's final examination in mental nursing had been agreed to :

That the written part of the final examination be held at Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee and Aberdeen, and at other places where not less than fifteen candidates intimate their desire to be examined, or where owing to the long distance from a centre, special arrangements are desirable for the convenience of candidates, provided arrangements are made by the hospitals concerned for the conducting of the examination to the satisfaction of the Council.

That the oral and practical part of the examination be held at such places as may be afterwards arranged when the number of candidates likely to enter can be more nearly ascertained.

That the written paper be set by the Advisory Committee of the Medico-Psychological Association and approved by a panel of examiners, comprising two medical examiners and two nurse examiners to be recommended by the Advisory Committee for appointment by the Council.

(1) For obituary notice see April No., p. 187.

(2) For obituary notice see April No., p. 349.

That the oral and practical examination be conducted by ten medical examiners and ten nurse examiners to be nominated by the Advisory Committee for appointment by the Council, the Advisory Committee to supply the names of some substitutes in case those originally chosen cannot act.

That the written part of the examination consist of one paper, the questions in which will cover all sections of the syllabus with the exception of (1) the sections taken in the preliminary examination and (2) Section XIII.

That the final written examination for nurses for mental defectives will be on similar lines, but that the subjects will exclude Section IX, and will include Section XIII.

That the paper shall contain eight questions, of which six must be answered, including two essential questions which will be specially marked as such.

That the pass mark for the written examination be 50 *per cent.*, but that a candidate shall not be allowed to enter for the oral and practical part of the examination unless she has obtained at least 45 *per cent.* in the written part of the examination.

The Advisory Committee also undertook to supply the Council with a list of Mental hospitals which might be approved by the Council as training schools if they desire to apply for recognition, and the following interim list had since been transmitted to the Registrar :

*Training Mental Nurses.*—Aberdeen City, Aberdeen Royal, Argyll and Bute District, Ayr District, Roxburgh, Berwick and Selkirk District, Crichton Royal Institution, Fife and Kinross District, Dundee District, Montrose Royal, Inverness District, Glasgow Royal, Glasgow District (Gartloch), Glasgow District (Woodilee), Govan District, Kirklands, Lanark District, Edinburgh District, Midlothian and Peebles District, Royal Edinburgh, James Murray's Royal, Perth District, Greenock Parochial Asylum, Craw Road, Paisley District, Renfrew District, Stirling District, Stobhill.

*Training Nurses for Mental Defectives.*—Royal Scottish National Institution, Baldovan Institution, Stonevettes Certified Institution.

This interim list includes all the Scottish hospitals presently recognized as training schools by the Medico-Psychological Association, with the exception of Dundee Royal Asylum, New Saughton Hall, Banff District Asylum, East Lothian District Asylum, and Moray District Asylum, whose continued recognition is presently under consideration by the Education Committee of the Association.

The SECRETARY read the following letter from the Registrar of the General Nursing Council :

"General Nursing Council for Scotland, 18, Melville Street, Edinburgh, April 28, 1925.—Dr. W. M. Buchanan, Hon. Secretary, Medico-Psychological Association, Kirklands Mental Hospital, Bothwell.—Dear Sir,—At a meeting of the Education and Examination Committee of my Council held on 24th inst. it was pointed out that there appears to be a discrepancy between the Council's Syllabus for Mental Nurses and their Syllabus for General and other Nurses in regard to Anatomy and Physiology for the Preliminary Examination. Under the Council's Syllabus for General Training, of which I enclose a copy, Elementary Anatomy and Physiology includes the Nervous System, whereas in the Mental Syllabus (following the practice adopted<sup>(1)</sup> by your Association) Elementary Anatomy and Physiology of the Nervous System appears as Section VII, and is not taken till the Final Examination. Mental Nurses going up for the Council's Preliminary Examination might therefore be handicapped, and my Committee will be glad to know whether your Committee see any objection to Section VII being taught in the first 18 months and included in the Syllabus for the First Examination.—I am, yours faithfully, W. S. FARMER, Registrar."

He explained that at the Quarterly Meeting of the Association in London in May the letter had been placed before the Education Committee, who had remitted the matter to the Scottish Division to deal with. After some discussion of the points raised, the Secretary was instructed to reply that the Division was of opinion

(<sup>1</sup>) It ought to be recorded that the syllabus adopted by the Nursing Council is that of the Medico-Psychological Association based upon its *Handbook for Mental Nurses* (7th Edition).—[EDS.].

that Section VII of the Council's Syllabus for Mental Nurses should continue to be taught in conjunction with the subject of Mental Diseases and should continue to be taken in the Final Examination, but that the difficulty raised should be met by the inclusion of Elementary Anatomy and Physiology of the Nervous System in Section II of the Council's Syllabus.

With regard to the amendment of the Asylums Officers' Superannuation Act, the Secretary reported that the Draft Amending Bill had been approved by the Association, and that steps were now being taken to have this Bill introduced into the House of Commons.

In this connection the Chairman stated that he had been requested by the Board of the Scottish Asylums' Pathological Scheme to represent to the Division the desirability of having the Superannuation Act so amended that the pathologists of such schemes might benefit by its provisions. The Meeting was of opinion that such amendment was desirable, and the Secretary was instructed to communicate with the Secretary of the Conference which had drafted the contemplated amending Bill, so that, if possible, the question might still be considered by the Conference, with a view to its incorporation in the Amending Bill.

It was intimated that an invitation had been received from Prof. Robertson to hold the next meeting at the Edinburgh Royal Hospital. It was unanimously agreed to thank Prof. Robertson for his invitation, and to hold the Autumn Meeting at Morningside.

This concluded the business of the first day's session, prior to which members were kindly entertained to tea by Dr. and Mrs. Mackenzie.

A well-attended dinner was held in the Palace Hotel in the evening.

On the meeting reassembling on the morning of June 5, Dr. GEORGE H. R. GIBSON, D.S.O., read a short paper on "The Boarding-Out System," which elicited an interesting and instructive discussion, taken part in by Drs. ALEXANDER, SHAW, MCRAE, MACKENZIE, ROSS, KERR, HENDERSON, Sir ARTHUR ROSE and Mr. McBEAN, the Inspector of Poor, Inverness, who was present as a guest.

Dr. WILLIAM MCWILLIAM summarized a short paper on "The Sensitivity of the Sympathetic Nervous System to Adrenalin in Some Cases of Mental Disorder" (*vide* p. 432). The paper was discussed by Drs. HENDERSON, McALLISTER and MACKENZIE.

Dr. Mackenzie presented a case of idiocy, who, when music was played, exhibited violent rocking movements of the whole body synchronous with the time of the music.

Dr. Mackenzie and his assistants conducted members over the Hospital and grounds.

Members were received by the Chairman of the Hospital Committee and kindly entertained to lunch, after which, on the motion of Sir Arthur Rose, the Inverness District Board of Control and Dr. Mackenzie were cordially thanked for the arrangements made in connection with the meeting and for their kind hospitality.

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#### IRISH DIVISION.

THE SPRING MEETING of the Irish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association was held at the Stewart Institution, Palmerstown, Chapelizod, co. Dublin, on Thursday, April 23, 1925, by the kind invitation of Dr. Keene, Dr. M. J. Nolan, President, M.P.A., in the Chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and signed.

Dr. Leeper was re-elected Hon. Secretary, and Dr. J. O'Conor Donelan, Dublin, and Dr. Graham, of Belfast, were re-elected Representative Members of Council for the ensuing year.

A ballot for the election of six ordinary members was next proceeded with and the following were declared elected:

JOHN THOMPSON, M.B., B.Ch.Belf., Senior Assistant Medical Officer, St. Patrick's Hospital, Dublin.

*Proposed* by Dr. R. R. Leeper, *seconded* by Dr. J. O'Conor Donelan and Dr. L. Gavin.