

Acting Secretary should be asked to write expressing the sincere wishes of the members of the Division for his speedy recovery. The resolution was passed unanimously.

Dr. MACDONALD then expressed his thanks to the officials of the Division for the help they had given him during his term of office, and introduced his successor as Chairman of the Division, Dr. C. J. Shaw, who thereafter presided.

The minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed by the Chairman.

The ACTING SECRETARY read a letter from Sir Hugh Arthur Rose, in which he thanked the members of the Division for their kindness in presenting him with his LL.D. robes.

Apologies for absence were intimated from Dr. Easterbrook, Dr. Forbes and Dr. Chislett.

Before proceeding further with the business of the meeting, the CHAIRMAN referred to the illness of Dr. James H. C. Orr, and moved that the Division send Dr. Orr, through their Secretary, an expression of their sympathy, and their earnest wishes for his restoration to health. This motion was unanimously adopted.

When the appointment of Divisional Secretary was considered, Dr. CAMPBELL referred to the illness of Dr. Buchanan, and said that the members of the Division recognized that for some time Dr. Buchanan would not be able to carry on the duties of Secretary. He, Dr. Campbell, considered, however, that it was of the greatest importance that he should not resign. He moved that the Acting Secretary should write to Dr. Buchanan expressing to him the deep appreciation of the members of the Division of his past services, and their earnest wish that he should continue as Secretary, as his resignation would be an irreparable loss to the Division. This motion was unanimously agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN informed the Meeting that Dr. MacNiven had agreed to act as Secretary during Dr. Buchanan's illness.

Dr. WILLIAM BLYTH read a paper on "**The Blood Picture in Mental Disorder, with Special Reference to Lymphatic Reaction**". The following took part in the discussion which followed: Prof. D. K. HENDERSON, Dr. SHAW, Dr. FORD-ROBERTSON, Dr. MACDONALD, Dr. DOUGLAS McRAE, Dr. MACCALMAN. Dr. BLYTH briefly replied to the points raised.

Members were kindly entertained to lunch in the hospital, after which Mr. T. Dun MacNair, Chairman of the Committee of Management, welcomed the Division to Riccartonbar.

Thereafter the Chairman thanked the Committee and Dr. Knight and her staff for their kind hospitality, and for the arrangements made in connection with the meeting.

The meeting reassembling, Dr. MARY KNIGHT read a paper on "**Melancholia Treated by Oxygenation**". After a discussion, in which Dr. FORD-ROBERTSON, Dr. MACPHERSON and Dr. GUTHRIE took part, members were given an opportunity of seeing cases undergoing oxygenation treatment.

Members were thereafter kindly entertained to tea by Dr. Knight.

IRISH DIVISION.

THE AUTUMN QUARTERLY MEETING of the Irish Division of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association was held in the Royal College of Physicians, Kildare Street, Dublin, by kind permission of the President and Fellows, on Thursday, November 2, 1933.

The following members were present: Dr. L. Gavin, in the chair, Drs. P. J. Cassin, J. O'Connor Donelan, John FitzGerald, T. A. Greene, G. J. Harrison, G. H. Keene, J. Kearney, D. L. Kelly, B. Lyons, R. R. Leeper, John Mills, J. C. Martin, P. Moran, C. B. Molony, M. J. Nolan, R. H. Taylor and R. Thompson (Hon. Sec.).

Apologies for unavoidable absence were received from the President (Dr. F. Douglas Turner), Drs. B. F. Honan and E. N. M. O'Sullivan.

At the opening of the proceedings, the Chairman (Dr. Gavin) was invested with the new Chairman's Badge by Dr. Nolan (Senior Past President). Dr. GAVIN, in expressing his great appreciation of being the first Chairman to wear the Badge, paid a tribute to the memory of the late Dr. Lord, who was its originator, and under whom he once had the privilege of working.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, approved and signed by the Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN then drew the attention of the meeting to the recent death of Dr. J. Patrick, Medical Superintendent, Omagh Mental Hospital. The Secretary was directed to convey the sympathy of the meeting to Mrs. Patrick and family.

Nominations were received for the posts of Divisional Secretary and Representative Members of Council, for election at the Spring Meeting, 1934.

Dr. MORAN then submitted the report of the Sub-Committee which had been considering the contemplated Central Pathological Laboratory. Following upon a long discussion, it was decided that a deputation of the Sub-Committee should seek an interview with the Commission controlling the disposal of sweepstake funds, and the Secretary was authorized to call a special

meeting of the Division, if any question of urgent importance should arise as a result of this interview.

Dr. MORAN then submitted his tabled motion dealing with the conditions of entry into the Nursing Service of the District Mental Hospitals. He stressed the importance of an adequate primary education, which, he stated, was essential if the nurse was to take advantage of subsequent training. The motion was fully discussed and, in a slightly amended form, was unanimously agreed to. The amended motion reads: "That conditions in the nursing service in the district mental hospitals should, as far as possible, be standardized; that probationers should enter the service on the report of the Resident Medical Superintendent and as a result of a qualifying examination, and that appointments should only be made to permanent staffs when probationers have passed the Final Nursing Examination". The Secretary was directed to forward a copy of this motion to the medical superintendents of the district mental hospitals and to the inspectors of mental hospitals.

The meeting accepted with pleasure Dr. Donelan's invitation to hold the Spring Meeting at Portrane Mental Hospital on Thursday, April 5, 1934.

Dr. KELLY, Inspector of Mental Hospitals in the Irish Free State, as a representative of the Irish Division on the Irish General Nursing Council, reported that, although the Irish General Nursing Council had recognized the Association's certificate for registration, a nurse so registered was not recognized as such by the English General Nursing Council.

Dr. LEEPER pointed out that this condition of affairs was only to be expected until agreement was reached between the Association and the General Nursing Councils of England and Scotland as had been done in the Irish Free State.

Dr. MILLS opened a discussion on "Occupational Therapy". He stressed the importance of providing occupations which would appeal to the natural interests of the patients, such as all forms of farm work and gardening, etc., in an agricultural community. He showed an example of handicraft on which his patients were working, but stated that, in his opinion, the pure handicrafts had a limited scope and usefulness.

Dr. Mills's paper gave rise to an interesting discussion, which was contributed to by Dr. NOLAN, Dr. GREENE, Dr. DONELAN, Dr. KELLY and Dr. KEENE. Dr. NOLAN gave a description of the high state of efficiency to which this form of treatment had been brought in Holland.

The CHAIRMAN thanked Dr. Mills for his interesting and helpful paper.

CITY AND UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM JOINT BOARD OF RESEARCH FOR MENTAL DISEASE.

An Exhibition and Demonstration of the Research Work of the Joint Board and of other Midland Mental Hospitals was held on November 27, 1933, at Hollymoor Mental Hospital.

Dr. F. A. Pickworth, the Director, gave the following address:

About 140,000 people receive treatment for mental disorder in England and Wales at a cost of ten million pounds annually. Of this cost only 3s. out of every hundred pounds is spent upon fundamental research into the primary causes of mental disease, whereas similar research on cancer is supported by an annual expenditure of hundreds of thousands of pounds. The suffering of the patients, and especially the distress of the relatives, may even surpass that caused by cancer, and the reasons for the meagre financial support for mental research must be sought elsewhere. The undue exaggeration of the importance of hereditary factors, which has branded mental research with such hopelessness, is chiefly responsible for the lay attitude, whilst the research worker himself finds the lack of correlation with general medicine a serious difficulty.

For the purposes of attracting funds for research one must be in a position to demonstrate the economic value of any particular line of work proposed; this is only possible by a study of the basic principles of mental research and a survey of the materials and opportunities available. In the short time which the introduction to my exposition of our work permits, I will briefly refer to some of these principles and associated difficulties.

Research may be followed along many lines of a different category. It is hardly necessary to point out that the most essential and urgent of these is the searching out of the predisposing factors and exciting causes; since all other research is necessarily hampered by lack of knowledge in this field. A complete knowledge of the causes, however, is not in itself the whole problem; hence the team-work of hospitals where many different lines are being investigated at the same time. There is a colossal and increasing literature on the subject, mostly descriptions of behaviour with superficial associations and classifications not easily correlated with general medicine. There is a disappointing diversity of opinion as to the fundamental causes of insanity, which learned and experienced observers deduce from clinical observations, the effect of which is to