

INSPECTORSHIP OF LUNATICS FOR IRELAND.

The PRESIDENT intimated that the Irish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association passed a resolution, on a recent date, that in regard to the appointment of an inspector of lunatics for Ireland, which was now imminent, that the Chief Secretary and the Lord Lieutenant should be urged to appoint to that position someone who had had experience in the treatment of the insane and in their care, as well as in the administration of asylums. The Council that day endorsed that resolution of the Irish Division. And, in order to give to that recommendation greater power, he wished to ask whether the present meeting approved of the action of the Council on the matter.

This was agreed to without dissent.

Dr. H. H. SCHÖLBERG and Dr. EDWIN GOODALL (of the Cardiff Mental Hospital) contributed a paper on "The Wassermann Reaction in 172 Cases of Mental Disorder (Cardiff Mental Hospital), and 55 other cases (Cardiff Infirmary, etc.), with Historical Survey." It was discussed by the PRESIDENT, Dr. W. A. PARKER, Dr. G. H. SAVAGE, Dr. PERCY SMITH, Dr. FAULKS, and the readers briefly replied.

Dr. R. V. STANFORD read a paper on "The Production of Indigo in the Human Organism." Remarks on it were offered by Dr. SAVAGE and Dr. GOODALL.

Dr. E. TENISON COLLINS contributed a paper on "Notes on Gynaecological Conditions coincident with Mental Disturbances." Dr. SAVAGE, in the temporary absence of the CHAIRMAN, presided, and expressed his regret that the flight of time prevented a discussion.

Mr. R. L. MACKENZIE-WALLIS communicated a contribution on "Metabolism in the Insane." The time-limit also prevented the discussion of this paper.

DINNER.

In the evening the members, with the Lord Mayor, Alderman Morgan Thomas, J.P., and a number of distinguished medical and lay visitors, dined together at the Royal Hotel, Cardiff.

After the usual loyal toasts had been duly honoured, the CHAIRMAN proposed "The City and Port of Cardiff." The LORD MAYOR responded. Dr. SAVAGE proposed "The Mental Hospital Committee," which was responded to by Alderman MORGAN THOMAS and Dr. GOODALL. The toast of "The Visitors" was proposed by Dr. MERCIER, and Dr. EWAN MACLEAN replied. "The Medico-Psychological Association" was the last toast, proposed by Mr. SHEEN, and replied to by the PRESIDENT.

During the evening some songs were very tastefully rendered by Madame Hambly-Spau and Mr. H. Morgan.

IRISH DIVISION.

A special meeting of the Division was held, by permission of the President of the Association, on Thursday, February 9th, 1911, at the Royal College of Physicians, Dublin. Dr. T. Drapes, President-Elect, was voted to the chair, and there were also present Drs. James J. Fitzgerald, R. R. Leeper, J. Mills, G. F. Shepherd, G. R. Lawless, H. M. Eustace, and W. R. Dawson, Hon. Sec. Regrets for inability to attend were received from Drs. W. Graham, T. P. Coulon, E. O'Neill, and M. J. Nolan.

The subject of the impending vacancy in the office of Inspector of Lunatics was discussed, and in view of the danger that the appointment might be given to someone not an expert in mental disease the following resolution was passed unanimously:

"That the Irish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association would strongly urge on the Irish Members of Parliament the extreme importance, in filling the post about to be vacated by Dr. E. M. Courtenay, Inspector of Lunatics, of selecting a candidate who is specially qualified by actual residence amongst

the insane and by practical acquaintance with modern medical treatment of all varieties of mental disease, as well as by personal experience of asylum administration."

Copies were directed to be sent to all the Irish Members of Parliament. A resolution in similar terms, but with the necessary changes, was also directed to be sent to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, the Chief Secretary, the Lord Chancellor, the Inspector of Lunatics, and the Registrar in Lunacy.

After some further discussion the meeting terminated.

BANGOUR VILLAGE.⁽¹⁾

By JOHN KEAY, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., Medical Superintendent.

Bangour Village has been built to accommodate those of the insane poor of the City of Edinburgh for whom asylum care is required.

Previous to the opening of the Royal Asylum at Morningside in 1813, the only provision of a public kind for the insane of the city consisted of the City Bedlam, in addition to about a dozen cells attached to the old Royal Infirmary. In 1844—fifteen years before district asylums were built—the city authorities entered into an arrangement with the managers of the Royal Asylum, under which insane patients of the poorer class were received into that institution. The arrangement held good for sixty years, until the opening of Bangour Village for the reception of patients in 1904.

With the growth of the city the number of insane gradually increased, so that eventually the asylum authorities found their available accommodation insufficient for all those for whom admission was desired.

The inadequacy of the asylum accommodation led first of all to great activity in the boarding out of insane patients in private dwellings, in which movement Edinburgh has always taken a leading place. Additional relief was found by establishing wards for insane patients of the chronic class in connection with one of the city poorhouses; and, finally, taking advantage of spare accommodation wherever it could be found, the Royal Asylum authorities boarded batches of Edinburgh patients in various district asylums throughout the country.

The relief thus obtained, welcome and valuable though it was, did not meet the case, and in 1898 Edinburgh was constituted a Lunacy District, and had to take upon itself the burden of providing an asylum for its own patients. The result is Bangour Village, where we meet to-day.

Having purchased, for the sum of £15,000, the estate of Bangour, extending to 960 acres, and having secured the services of the late Sir John Sibbald as their medical adviser, the question of the kind, or type, of asylum to be built had at once to be decided by the newly constituted District Board of Lunacy. Sir John Sibbald had no hesitation in advocating the adoption of the "segregate" or "village" type, expressing his views in an interesting and instructive little pamphlet *On the Plans of Modern Asylums for the Insane Poor*, and a committee of the District Board having visited many important asylums in this country, in Germany, and in France, strongly endorsed his recommendation.

The asylum of Alt-Scherbitz, near Leipsic, in particular, presented features in construction and in general arrangement which appealed strongly to the committee and to Sir John Sibbald, and our architect, Mr. Blanc, has had many of these features in his mind when evolving the plans of this institution.

Like Alt-Scherbitz, our village is, as you will notice on referring to the plan, divided into two great sections—the Medical and the Industrial—the former corresponding to the Alt-Scherbitz "Central Establishment," and the latter to what is known at Alt-Scherbitz as "The Colony." In our "Medical Section," just as in the Alt-Scherbitz "Central Establishment," are accommodated all patients who for any cause, bodily or mental, require special medical treatment or special supervision. In our "Industrial" Section, corresponding to the Alt-Scherbitz "Colony," are housed those who do not require more than ordinary attention and supervision. They are for the most part capable of being usefully employed, and they