

Part IV.—Notes and News.

THE ROYAL MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

QUARTERLY MEETING.

A QUARTERLY MEETING of the Association was held at 11, Chandos Street, on November 21, 1933, Dr. F. Douglas Turner, President, in the Chair.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the last meeting, having already appeared in the *Journal of Mental Science*, were taken as read and approved.

OBITUARY.

The PRESIDENT said that it was his sad duty to state that since members last met Dr. John Patrick, of Omagh Mental Hospital, had passed away. He asked Dr. W. R. Dawson to say a few words about the deceased.

Dr. W. R. DAWSON (Past-President) said that he had known Dr. Patrick for a great number of years, in fact, ever since that gentleman was Assistant at the Belfast Mental Hospital, and he always had a great regard and liking for him, as most of those who knew him in those days seemed to have. While still at Belfast, Dr. Patrick was attacked by a patient with a heavy piece of iron and received a severe blow on his head, which rendered him unconscious. The speaker did not think he ever fully recovered from it, and it probably had much to do with the illness which clouded his later days. When the speaker was Inspector of Asylums in Ireland, he always had the greatest satisfaction in visiting the mental hospital at Omagh, because in none of his inspections had he a single serious fault to find with it; he always considered that it was an extremely well-run asylum, and that there was about the place an air of friendliness and good humour which it was a pleasure to an inspector to find. He always regarded Dr. Patrick as a very capable Superintendent. He felt that in Dr. Patrick's death he had lost one for whom he had a great regard, and that one friend fewer was left on the staffs of the mental hospitals in his old country, Ireland.

The PRESIDENT said it would be the wish of the members present that the Secretary be asked to write to Mrs. Patrick and the family a letter of sympathy and condolence.

Members stood in silence for a time in token of their sympathy.

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING.

The PRESIDENT said there were several points before the Council Meeting that day which required to be brought before the general body of members.

The first was a matter which was submitted by Dr. McRae. His motion, after slight modification, had been carried, to the following effect: "That the name of a member who has been absent from all meetings of a committee without reasonable cause during the course of two years falls to be deleted from the list of members of such committee."

The second matter which he had to report was that a letter had been received from the British Medical Association accepting the suggestion of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association, that representatives of the two Associations should meet to discuss the situation which had arisen out of the report of the British Medical Association on the relation of medical officers of institutions and general practitioners to mental out-patient and other clinics. The following members had been nominated to represent the Association: Drs. Rice, I. Russell, F. D. Turner, M. Abdy Collins, H. Haynes and Shaw Bolton.

The following notices of motion were carried at the Council Meeting held that morning, and would be placed on the agenda of the next Annual Meeting.

First, that the nomination of the President-Elect shall be made to the Council at its meeting held previously to the Annual Meeting of the Association in each year by an *ad hoc* committee,

which shall consist of the President, the General Secretary, the Treasurer, the Registrar and the surviving Past-Presidents.

Secondly, "That whereas not alone the importance and dignity of the Association but also the general interest of Psychological Medicine render it desirable that the President should, during his year of office, extend hospitality to various persons or bodies on behalf of the Association, the Council do consider the propriety of making a grant to the President to cover a portion of such hospitality, not being in contravention of Article 5 of the Charter of Incorporation, such grant to be left to the Council".

Thirdly, that the necessary amendments of the Bye-laws be made at the next convenient revision.

In connection with the second of these, he said there was some feeling that a member might feel that he was unable, owing to his family responsibilities, to accept the Presidency of the Association, though it might be the practically unanimous wish of the other members that he should do so, and it was the impression of the Council that the making of a grant in the manner suggested might meet any financial difficulty.

A further question raised was that of reducing the annual subscription in cases in which both husband and wife were members of the Association; and it was agreed by the Council that there should be a "husband-and-wife" membership subscription of two guineas, the two members receiving only one copy of the Journal.

A vacancy had occurred on the Council of the Central Association for Mental Welfare, owing to the resignation of Dr. Litteljohn. Dr. Freize Stephens had been nominated to act as the Association's representative on that Committee.

A letter had been received from the Secretary of the Departmental Committee on the cost of hospitals and other public buildings, this Committee having been appointed by the Ministry of Health, asking the Association to furnish written and oral statements of evidence. The Council had agreed that this should be done, and that a Committee be appointed for the purpose of drawing up evidence. The following members had been appointed to act on this Committee: Drs. Worth, Skottowe, G. Clarke, M. Abdy Collins, Jackson, Masefield, McCowan, Menzies, Turner, Beasley, Archdale. It was also agreed that these members be paid reasonable expenses for attending the meetings.

Dr. Lewis Bruce had accepted the Association's invitation to deliver the Maudsley Lecture in 1935. The Maudsley Lecture for 1934 would be delivered by Lord Macmillan.

The Council had agreed that the February meeting of the Association should be held in London.

The PRESIDENT also drew the attention of members to the Conference on Mental Health about to be held under the auspices of the National Council for Mental Hygiene.

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS.

Dr. McRae and Dr. Russell acted as scrutineers. The following were elected ordinary members of the Association:

BEASLEY, HENRY ERIC, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.M., Resident Medical Officer, Middlesex Colony, Shenley.

Proposed by Drs. A. O'Neill, E. J. C. Hewitt and C. E. Roachsmith.

RAO, BHASKARA, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Medical Officer, Government Hospital, Trivellore, Chingleput Dt., S. India.

Proposed by Drs. H. Crichton Miller, R. Worth and G. Warwick Smith.

SMALL, JAMES ALEXANDER, M.A., M.B., Resident Licensee, Heigham Hall, Norwich.

Proposed by Drs. Cedric W. Bower, David Rice and W. Robinson.

WYATT, WALTER, M.B., Ch.B. Edin., D.P.M.Lond., Medical Superintendent, Hortham Colony, Almondsbury, near Bristol.

Proposed by Drs. N. H. M. Burke, T. Lindsay and C. J. C. Earl.

THE MENTAL DEFICIENCY COMMITTEE.

The PRESIDENT announced that the Special Committee on Mental Deficiency, which had been instituted at the Annual Meeting, had met and decided that they would hold a Clinical Meeting in the spring, probably in April, and that the meeting should take place at one of the institutions in the country specially connected with mental deficiency. It had been suggested that perhaps an invitation might be forthcoming to visit for this purpose the Rampton State Institution for Defectives, which probably only a few of the members had yet had an opportunity of seeing.

He apologized for imposing on the Association such a large amount of mental deficiency, but he felt that mental deficiency was important, and that this aspect of the Association's work

should be vigorously pushed forward. If the Clinical Meeting he had spoken of could be held at Rampton Institution, probably many of the members not associated specially with mental deficiency might still think it worth their while to go to that particular meeting. He believed they would find it extraordinarily interesting.

Another announcement he had to make, and that a very pleasurable one, was that Sir James Crichton-Browne had presented to the Association a portrait of himself, and it had been accepted with thanks, and hung in the Library.

PAPER.

Dr. W. M. FORD-ROBERTSON read a paper entitled "**The Blood Differential Picture in Mental Disorder, with Special Reference to the Lymphatic Reaction**".

[This paper, with the ensuing discussion, will appear in a later number of the Journal.]

SOUTH-EASTERN DIVISION.

THE AUTUMN MEETING of the Division was held on October 7, 1933, at the Lady Chichester Hospital, Hove, by the kind invitation of Dr. Helen Boyle and of the Governors.

During the morning members and guests inspected the hospital, and later enjoyed a motor drive to the Devil's Dyke. They were kindly entertained to lunch by the Governors, being welcomed by Dr. W. Broadbent, Hon. Consulting Physician to the hospital, who apologized for the unavoidable absence of the President, The Countess of Chichester. Dr. Rambaut expressed the thanks of the meeting.

Dr. Rambaut took the chair at the meeting, and was invested with the Divisional Chairman's badge by Dr. G. W. Smith, who expressed the members' gratification at the honour now being bestowed upon Dr. Rambaut.

The minutes of the previous meeting were taken as read and confirmed.

The CHAIRMAN proposed a vote of thanks to Dr. Haynes for his successful efforts in organizing, on behalf of the Division, the reception and dance at the Annual Meeting. This was carried by acclamation.

The following were unanimously elected members of the Association :

HENRY LAING GORDON, M.D. Edin., Visiting Physician, Mathari Mental Hospital, Nairobi ;
P.O. Box 950, Nairobi, Kenya Colony.

LESLIE THEODORE HILLIARD, M.A., B.Ch.Camb., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Assistant Medical Officer, Hanwell Mental Hospital, Southall, Middlesex.

The invitation of Dr. C. McDowall to hold the Spring Meeting, 1934, at Ticehurst was accepted, the meeting to be held on a date in April to be fixed by the Secretary in consultation with Dr. McDowall.

Dr. H. L. GORDON read a paper on "Psychiatry in Kenya Colony" (*see below*). A discussion followed, in which Drs. RAMBAUT, GOODALL, JAMES, BAIRD, G. W. SMITH, DOUGLAS TURNER, HELEN BOYLE and SERGEANT took part. Dr. GORDON replied.

Members and guests were then entertained to tea.

PAPER.—"Psychiatry in Kenya Colony," by H. L. GORDON, M.D.

The whole lunacy law of Kenya is the Indian Act of 1858, which has never been amended. Civilian doctors are not allowed to certify. The duty is performed by the members of the Colonial Medical Service, including its unqualified members. There is one mental institution, the Mathari Hospital, Nairobi; its native section has been overcrowded ever since it was built in 1910. To provide for the waiting list, certain prisons of the colony are called asylums, and these also are overcrowded. Treatment, as psychiatry knows it, is nowhere provided; prevention has not been considered, for the colony is very young. Official medicine is pre-occupied with urgent problems of physical disease; official education has had no opportunity to consider the importance of amentia; the law is engaged in the heroic task of applying civilized codes to an uncivilized race; the Government is not constituted to seek guidance from science. The situation has one advantage in regard only to amentia: we are not hampered by legal and educational definitions of the condition; we are able to avoid setting aside the organic origins of the condition on the ground that its social symptoms are all that matters. It is something of a shock to find in a recent European textbook a dictum that the doctor needs to know the mental defective "only by his fruits".

I found the psychiatric field in East Africa wholly unexplored, and investigation of the mental condition of a native by no means easy. Family history is never obtainable, social