

PART IV.—NOTES AND NEWS.

MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND IRELAND.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The fifty-seventh annual meeting of the Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain and Ireland was begun in the hall of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, on Thursday, July 21st, Dr. McDowall (Morpeth) presiding. The following members were present:—Dr. T. W. MacDowall (President), Drs. A. R. Urquhart (President elect), J. B. Spence, J. Rutherford, H. Hayes Newington (Treasurer), J. G. MacDowall, T. Seymour Tuke, H. Rayner, T. S. Clouston, G. J. Swanston, W. Rooke Ley, A. H. Stocker, A. Campbell Clark, T. Aldous Clinch, John G. Havelock, James Rorie, Neish Park Watt, James Chambers, Fletcher Beach, W. R. Watson, E. Powell, Walter S. Kay, Bedford Pierce, D. Yellowlees, F. Sidney Gramshaw, R. Langdon-Down, L. R. Oswald, A. R. Turnbull, E. B. Whitcombe, F. Perceval, John Mills, Harry A. Benham, C. S. Morrison, C. Mercier, J. Carlyle Johnstone, D. G. Thomson, P. W. MacDonald, W. Ford Robertson, G. M. Robertson, J. Peeke Richards, John Keay, Conolly Norman, James Hyslop (Natal), Crochley Clapham, Richard Legge, J. A. Campbell, T. R. Macphail, and Robert Jones (General Secretary).

Congratulatory telegrams and letters of regret for non-attendance were received from Drs. Ireland, David Nicolson, Wigglesworth, Briscoe, A. Friis, Benedikt, Virchow, Jolly, Bianchi, Boeck, Magnan, J. H. Paul, E. Cowles, Kurella, Ludwig Meyer, Sir William Gairdner, Sir Grainger Stewart, and Oscar Woods.

The SECRETARY (Dr. Jones) read the minutes of last meeting, held at Newcastle, and these were confirmed.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COUNCIL.

The following were elected Officers and Council of the Association :

<i>Officers.</i>	
<i>President</i>	A. R. URQUHART.
<i>Treasurer</i>	H. HAYES NEWINGTON.
<i>General Secretary</i>	ROBERT JONES.
<i>Registrar</i>	J. B. SPENCE.
<i>Editors</i>	{ HENRY RAYNER. A. R. URQUHART. CONOLLY NORMAN. EDWIN GOODALL.
<i>Auditors</i>	{ T. SEYMOUR TUKE. T. OUTTERSON WOOD.
<i>Divisional Secretary for South-Eastern Division</i>	E. W. WHITE.
<i>Divisional Secretary for South-Western Division</i>	P. W. MACDONALD.
<i>Divisional Secretary for Northern and Midland Division</i>	W. CROCHLEY CLAPHAM.
<i>Divisional Secretary for Scotland</i>	A. R. TURNBULL.
<i>Divisional Secretary for Ireland</i>	A. D. FINEGAN.

Other Members of Council.

A. LAW WADE, J. CARLYLE JOHNSTONE, A. W. CAMPBELL, T. S. SHELDON, JAMES CHAMBERS, OSCAR T. WOODS.

PARLIAMENTARY AND EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEES.

It was agreed, on the motion of Dr. BOWER, seconded by Dr. CROCHLEY CLAPHAM, to re-appoint the Educational Committee.

The re-election of the Parliamentary Committee was proposed by Dr. BOWER and seconded by Dr. CLAPHAM; but Dr. RAYNER proposed, and Dr. ROOKE LEY seconded, that Dr. G. Thomson and Dr. Gardiner Hill be added to their number, which was carried.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

The following were elected ordinary members of the Association, Dr. Whitcombe acting as scrutineer.

Ashton, George, M.B., Ch.B.Vict., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.Lond., Assistant Medical Officer, London County Asylum, Claybury, Essex (proposed by Robert Jones, T. E. K. Stansfield, H. Hayes Newington); Blair, David, M.A., M.B., C.M., Assistant Medical Officer, County Asylum, Lancaster (proposed by D. M. Cassidy, James F. Gemmell, Frank A. Elkins); Gill, Frank A., M.D., C.M.Aber., Deputy Medical Officer, H.M. Prison, Manchester (proposed by David Nicholson, W. Crochley Clapham, Robert Jones).

ELECTION OF HONORARY MEMBERS.

Dr. POWELL proposed the election of Mr. George Thomas Hine, architect, as an honorary member of the Association. He had devoted himself almost exclusively for the last twenty years to the designing of asylums for the insane, and those of them who had the management of the asylums which Mr. Hine had erected could speak very highly of the extremely able manner in which they had been planned. Mr. Hine stood in the very first rank of asylum architects, and the Commissioners of Lunacy had appointed him their consulting architect. There was a precedent for electing a gentleman who was not a medical man. He referred to Sir William Wyatt, who was chairman of the Colney Hatch Asylum.

Dr. HAYES NEWINGTON, in seconding the motion, said that the Honorary Membership of the Association was given to those who were distinguished members of the medical profession, those who were eminent in psychology or those branches of science connected with the study of insanity, or who had rendered signal service to humanity. Mr. Hine by his ability had done much to produce a good machine for the treatment of insanity. He was eminently worthy to be enrolled among their honorary members.

Dr. CLOUSTON, Edinburgh, proposed the election of Dr. V. Magnan, Paris, as an honorary member. He was one of the most distinguished neurologists in France, the head of psychiatry in Paris, and the highest living authority on alcoholism.

Dr. URQUHART seconded the nomination.

Dr. RAYNER, in proposing Dr. A. E. Macdonald, New York, for honorary membership, said he was a gentleman in every way worthy of that honour. He was general superintendent of the Manhattan State Asylum, had written on different phases of insanity, and he had been delegated to represent the American Medico-Psychological Association in this country for two years in succession.

Dr. URQUHART seconded the nomination.

All these gentlemen were unanimously elected.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Dr. HAYES NEWINGTON, in presenting the balance-sheet, pointed out that the disbursements were a little higher this year in consequence of there being more secretarial work. Under "Miscellaneous" the sum was higher in consequence of the Memorandum of Association. They had also this year the Jubilee Address to Her Majesty and the address to Dr. Beach. On the other side the income from

dividends was slightly larger in consequence of their changing their Stock from Consols into New Zealand Stock. The sale of the JOURNAL was a little lower, but that was a matter of accounting. The sale of the Handbooks, of course, was considerably below, because they had been out of print for some time. The fees came to very much the same, but the subscriptions were considerably higher—£536 against £511. He should like to point out, further, that the amount of subscriptions written off last year were £13 2s. 6d., and this year it would be less. Last year also there was a great improvement on the year before. Generally he might add that the Association was flourishing and seemed to be in a perfectly sound position, the balance of £526 being a good deal in excess of what it was last year. The cost of the July number had yet to be met, but undoubtedly they were in a better position this year than last year.

The Auditors' report, which was read, certified the accounts as correct. They were glad to be able to report that the financial condition of the Association was satisfactory. They had carefully examined the present system of bookkeeping, and strongly advised that no alteration be made in it without the consent of the Council. The report was signed by Drs. Whitcombe and Seymour Tuke and Mr. Woodington, C.A.

The Treasurer's report was put from the Chair and adopted.

The TREASURER said he had to make a statement of the payments on both sides in respect of the Gaskell Memorial Fund. Last year the balance was £4 5s. 7d. to the credit of the Association. This year they had spent more than they received. The payments on the one side were £18 5s., and on the other at the credit of the Gaskell Fund £64 4s. 9d. The Association at this time held £51 19s. 9d. of the Gaskell money. The figures would all appear in the Treasurer's report.

Statement of Payments made and received by the Treasurer on account of the Gaskell Memorial Fund.

Dr.		Cr.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
1897.		1897.	
Oct. 6. To Mr. Wyon		July 24. Balance	4 5 7
for 3 gold		Oct. 8. From deposit account	18 5 0
medals	15 15 0		
2 silver ditto	2 10 0	1898.	
	-----18 5 0	Jan. 8. Dividends	23 7 1
1898.		July 1. Ditto	23 7 1
Balance	51 19 9		
	£69 4 9		£69 4 9

Dr. CLOUSTON moved a vote of thanks to the Treasurer for the great trouble he had taken and for having adopted a very clear mode of stating the accounts so as to enable them to compare one year with another.

Dr. RAYNER seconded the motion, which was cordially agreed to.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

Dr. HAYES NEWINGTON, as chairman of the Parliamentary Committee, said the report had been printed. They had held two meetings, one in April, which decided to send the result of their deliberations to the Lord Chancellor, who was good enough to acknowledge receipt, and to say that he would give the matter before him careful consideration. Nothing had resulted of any importance. The other meeting was held in May. They had not been able to do very much good, but the Lunacy Bill was not likely to pass this year. No doubt many members would feel a great amount of regret that the Pension Clauses would drop again. For reasons

he gave he begged to move, with the approval of the Council, that a sum of not more than twenty-five guineas be allowed the Parliamentary Committee to take the opinion of counsel on certain points, if this was found on further consideration to be advisable. There was a strong feeling that great injustice was being done in different parts of the country to asylum officers, and it was thought that this was a matter in which the Medico-Psychological Association might well interfere, and that there were few subjects on which it could expend its available funds to better purpose. He had suggested also to the President that it might be useful to hold a conference to-morrow morning of asylum officers who happened to be in Edinburgh at this time.

Mr. WHITCOMBE proposed and Dr. ROOKE LEY seconded the adoption of the report, which was unanimously agreed to.

Dr. HAYES NEWINGTON said another question was discussed in the annual Committee. Five members were appointed to meet five members of the British Medical Association to form a Joint Committee to study the question of clauses for the treatment of incipient insanity somewhat on the lines of the Scots clauses. The Joint Committee had met several times, and had produced a clause to which he thought nobody could object on account of its application. It simply provided that in obtaining a certificate from a registered medical practitioner to the effect that a person was suffering from incipient insanity, and might well be treated in his house, he should not be exposed to the application of the section which imposed penalties on those who took into their houses lunatics without proper provision. The clause was as follows:—“(1) Where a medical practitioner certifies that a person is suffering from mental disease, but that the disease is not confirmed, and that it is expedient, with the view to his recovery, that the patient should be placed under the care of the person whose name and address are stated in the certificate for the period also therein stated, not exceeding six months, then during that period the provisions of Section 315 of the Lunacy Act, 1890, shall not apply. (2) A medical practitioner who signs such certificate shall within three days after signing the same send a copy thereof to the Commissioners, and it shall be lawful for any Commissioner to visit the patient. The person under whose care the patient is placed shall not be the person who signs the certificate. (3) The person who receives a patient under such certificate shall within ten days after the expiration of the period mentioned in the certificate, or if he ceases to have the care of the patient under the certificate at an earlier date, then within ten days after such earlier date send a report to the Commissioners stating whether the patient recovered, and if not, in what manner he was dealt with when the person making the report ceased to have the care of him under the certificate.”

Dr. RAYNER moved that the report be adopted, and that the Parliamentary Committee be asked to press still further on the Lord Chancellor the desirability of this change in the law.

Dr. MERCIER opposed the proposal. The clause practically superseded the Lunacy Acts, seeing that it allowed lunatics to be received and treated in private houses without any safeguard whatever. He thought it was a most pernicious proposal. It was said to deal with cases of incipient insanity, but who was to decide on incipency? At the present time among the better class it was exceedingly difficult for them or their relatives to decide sufficiently early in the interests of patients whether they were to be placed under control. If this clause ever became law that difficulty would be greatly aggravated, and they would have lunatics of the better class at large without control all over the country. It was a thing this Association ought not to sanction, and he protested against it. He proposed as an amendment that this clause be not proceeded with.

Dr. WHITCOMBE seconded.

Dr. URQUHART said that a similar clause had been in operation for many years in Scotland, and they had experienced no such difficulties as Dr. Mercier had conjured up. He considered it one of the most valuable of their legal instruments. Patients were not kept out of asylums by reason of that clause, except those who

should not enter asylums. As for its retaining patients under private care without proper supervision, they knew that England was full of such cases at the present moment; that it was a disgrace that any person was permitted to keep an insane patient if he could get one. It was reasonable to deal with cases in the initial stages of mental disease without the full apparatus of certificates and orders; and he thought it would be greatly for the benefit of England if such a clause were adopted. He should like very much to hear if anybody in Scotland who had practical experience of the matter had ever had cause to regret that the clause was part of their law. He did not believe any one would be found to say he had.

DR. RAYNER said that he felt that this clause would help them greatly in the early treatment of insanity. Those concerned would have no hesitation in putting their insane friends under such care, where they would not place them under certificate. It would rather help than hinder the work of the asylums.

DR. HAYES NEWINGTON said, in reply to a question, that the clause was not exactly the same as the Scottish clause. This distinctly provided for the detention of the patient because it abrogated the only section of the English Lunacy Act which punished a man for detaining a person illegally. He did not think that the power of detention was settled in Scotland.

DR. CROCHLEY CLAPHAM said in Scotland under this clause they did not require to send notice to the Commissioners at all.

DR. URQUHART in explanation said the Scottish clause merely exempted a person who received a lunatic for money from the operation of the law to which he would otherwise be liable. That was one distinction; the other distinction was that it was not compulsory in Scotland to send notice to the Commissioners. Most of them thought that it would be a good thing if that were adopted, but not for the purpose of entering these patients on the Register of Lunatics. It was tried in England to make the proposed clause wider so that no question should arise out of it. In Scotland it had never been decided what the powers of detention were.

DR. P. W. MACDONALD said he felt inclined to agree with a good deal of what Dr. Mercier had said; he also agreed with a good deal that Dr. Hayes Newington had said. He was afraid a happy state of things existed in Scotland that they did not find in England. If he thought that this clause would lead to early treatment of the insane, of course he should not oppose it, but he was not convinced that it was going to do so. The effect of it would rather be that insane people would be sent into private houses and never reach an asylum.

DR. YELLOWKES (Glasgow) said that in Scotland they had no difficulty in carrying out the clause. Many patients within the six months' limitation recovered who would otherwise have had the stigma of the asylum placed upon them. The provision which allowed this class of patients to be received into a private house for six months seemed to them in Scotland to be a valuable one, and he could not understand why they in England should not rejoice to obtain similar provision. Under the Scottish system the Commissioners did not take cognisance of these cases. One object of the clause was to keep these people off the roll of lunatics, but whether they might not be visited by the Commissioners was another matter.

DR. HAYES NEWINGTON, in reply to Dr. Macdonald and Dr. Mercier, said he had been led to favour this clause by a consideration of the treatment of insanity in private houses in England. They thought that if such procedure as the clause suggested was recognised people would be bound to adopt it. At present there were a great many patients kept in private houses without certificates, and the Commissioners had had little power to come down effectually on these people. There had been notorious cases of their failure to secure convictions. If there was a simpler procedure, such as the clause suggested, for dealing with such cases benches of magistrates and juries would not be so inclined to let off people brought before them.

On a division seven voted for Dr. Mercier's amendment; and on the motion being put, it was declared carried by a large majority.

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

Dr. CLOUSTON asked Dr. Mercier to explain the amended regulations for nursing, for he (Dr. Clouston) had been unable to attend the meetings of this Committee.

Dr. MERCIER said he had little to add to what he had said at Newcastle in reference to this report, which had received a great deal of careful consideration on the part of the Educational Committee. It embodied certain very important alterations in the nursing regulations. It was therefore thought at Newcastle that these ought to be before the Association for a year before arriving at a final decision. The draft of the proposed regulations had now been before the Association for about fifteen months, and as this present meeting was a very large and representative one, he should trust that a decision would be come to that day. He thought it would be convenient if the regulations were read and discussed *seriatim*.*

On Paragraph 2, Dr. MERCIER said there were two debatable points in this section. The first and most important was whether the period of training, which hitherto had been two years, should be raised to three years; and further, another point was whether the training should be in an institution for lunatics.

Dr. CROCHLEY CLAPHAM said the North Division were in favour of two years.

Dr. TURNBULL said that Scottish opinion was pretty evenly divided. The majority, however, was in favour of two years.

Dr. MACDONALD said that at Oxford they were unanimously in favour of two years.

On a division, twenty voted for three years and twenty-one for two years.

On the point that the training of nurses should be in "an institution for lunatics,"

Dr. CARLYLE JOHNSTONE moved that in the clause the words "institution for the treatment of mental diseases" should be inserted instead of "institution for lunatics," leaving the point regarding the recognition of any such institution to the judgment of the Council.

After some debate, Clause 2, as thus amended, was then passed by a majority.

On Paragraph 3, Dr. CLOUSTON moved that the word "one" should be substituted for "two" years in the fifth line.

Dr. YELLOWLEES moved that two years stand.

On a division eleven voted for one year, while for two years there was a large majority.

On Paragraph 5, Dr. CARLYLE JOHNSTONE moved under Sub-section "a" "That practical instruction in nursing and attending on the insane be arranged at the discretion of the medical superintendent."

Dr. MERCIER said it was assumed that all these regulations were done under the eye of the medical superintendent. If he was not specifically mentioned in these regulations it was for the sake of brevity. They were keeping up the general system of education both among the attendants themselves and also among the petty officers of the institution.

Thirteen voted for the amendment and eighteen against.

On Paragraph 9, Sub-section "d," Dr. HAYES NEWINGTON said it would be impossible to carry out the proposal unless they increased the fee beyond 2s. 6d. To equalise matters in the various districts, candidates' papers examined should be paid for each at the rate of some definite sum. The reports of divisional meetings showed them dead against any increase over 2s. 6d.

Dr. JOHN MILLS said that as the Association was making a profit of £80 a year on these examinations, he did not see any difficulty in appointing paid examiners.

Dr. YELLOWLEES moved that the fee be raised to 5s. Dr. CARLYLE JOHNSTONE seconded.

* Cf. draft of proposed amended regulations sent out as circular by the Educational Committee.—ED.

Dr. MACDONALD moved that the fee stand at 2s. 6d. Dr. BENHAM seconded. On a division, Dr. Yellowlees' motion was carried by a large majority as against thirteen for Dr. Macdonald's amendment.

Dr. TURNBULL moved that two examiners be appointed for each section of the Association. Dr. STEWART seconded.

Dr. J. A. CAMPBELL suggested that two examiners should be appointed for Scotland, two for Ireland, and four for England.

Dr. SPENCE desired that a scheme should be proposed and brought before the Council showing how this could be carried out. The principle had been accepted, the money had been provided, and the details should be carefully considered before taking definite action.

Dr. Spence's suggestion was agreed to *nem. con.*

On *Sub-section "f,"* Dr. CARLYLE JOHNSTONE moved that instead of the word "superintendent" the words "examiner or examiners appointed by the Association" should be inserted. Dr. CAMPBELL seconded.

Dr. HAYES NEWINGTON hoped there would be no alteration of this clause, which was the result of a careful compromise after a long debate. It had worked very well, and he hoped it would be continued.

Dr. YELLOWLEES said the point was that the superintendent of the asylum, who had himself trained the nurses, ought not to be the actual examiner. He certainly ought to be present, but the coadjutor ought to ask most of the questions.

Dr. CLOUSTON said they ought to follow the precedent of the Universities. Where they had two examiners they could not make one the inferior to the other.

The amendment was not pressed.

On *Paragraph 10,* Dr. YELLOWLEES said they ought to have it stated in the certificate much more clearly than it was that it was not a certificate of the moral character of the person holding it, but simply a certificate of proficiency in mental nursing. The endorsement on the back of the certificate should be on the front page, but it would please him best if every reference to moral character were struck out of the certificate.

Mr. WHITCOMBE did not think they should now change the form of their certificate, which had been granted to thousands of persons, on account of exceptional cases which had come under the notice of Dr. Yellowlees.

Dr. SPENCE said he felt so much in favour of what Dr. Yellowlees had said that he ventured to suggest that the point should be remitted to the Educational Committee for their consideration.

Dr. YELLOWLEES agreed, provided the Committee reported next morning. His amendment was that the certificate should run "that A. B. has, after examination by us, and after two years' training, shown that he has obtained proficiency in nursing and attendance on insane persons," and that all reference to his character and conduct be deleted.

Dr. Spence's suggestion was agreed to, and all the other clauses in the report were unanimously adopted.

AFTERNOON MEETING.

On resuming after lunch, the retiring President (Dr. McDowall) said the duty he had now to perform was to introduce the new President, Dr. Urquhart. They knew what an excellent officer he had been in this Association; that for many years he had done splendid work for the *JOURNAL*, and that in other departments his services had been highly appreciated. In leaving the chair he (Dr. McDowall) had to thank them again for the great honour they did him in electing him President, and he had to thank the various officers and members of the Council for their great assistance in carrying on the affairs of the Association.

Dr. YELLOWLEES moved that the thanks of the meeting be given to the retiring President, Dr. McDowall, for the admirable manner in which he had filled the chair, last year. They all remembered the admirable address he gave them at Newcastle, and his splendid hospitality there; and they knew how assiduously he had attended

their meetings in the course of the year. He had presided over these meetings with ability and with courtesy, and he was sure it was the feeling of the meeting that they should express their thanks to him. (Carried by acclamation.)

FRIDAY'S MEETING, JULY 22ND.

SECOND DAY.

The Association met at eleven o'clock in the Library of the Royal College of Physicians, Dr. URQUHART, the President, in the chair. He called upon

Dr. CLOUSTON, who said in regard to the form of the nursing certificate, which was referred to the Educational Committee for consideration and report, that the Committee had a full meeting that morning. It was composed of men with great experience in this matter of granting certificates, together with the Registrar as their adviser. They all knew how much they owed to him. The Educational Committee felt that this was a question that the Association should have time to carefully consider. The result was not to come into operation till 1900, and they came unanimously to the following conclusion:—"That Paragraphs 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 be referred to the Educational Committee for consideration and report to the next annual meeting." The Educational Committee pledged itself that it would so conduct this matter that every member of the Association would have an opportunity of voting on it. Their report would be circulated by their honorary secretary in due time to secure that. He moved the adoption of the resolution of the Educational Committee.

Dr. MERCIER seconded, and on the PRESIDENT putting the motion to the meeting, it was unanimously adopted.

Dr. CLOUSTON further intimated that the Educational Committee recommended firstly, that the examiners be nominated to the General Council by the Educational Committee; secondly, that the examiners should be three in number; and thirdly, that their fee be the extra half-crown added to the former fee as fixed by the meeting on Thursday. He moved the adoption of these recommendations.

Dr. RAYNER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

REPORT OF THE HANDBOOK COMMITTEE.

Dr. HAYES NEWINGTON submitted the report of the Handbook Committee, which stated that the new edition of the handbook would be ready in five or six weeks. It was now in print, and had been revised, considerably extended, and improved. It was proposed to issue another 6,000 copies. They had sold 9,000 of the old edition. The report was adopted.

THE LIBRARY REPORT.

Dr. FLETCHER BEACH submitted the report of the Library Committee, which stated that a considerable addition had been made to the library by the gift of books by the late Sir John C. Bucknill.

The report, after a statement by the TREASURER as to the reinvestment of funds in New Zealand Stock, which would realise more income, was adopted.

REPORT OF COUNCIL.

The present number of members is 574 (including 36 honorary, 12 corresponding, and 526 ordinary members). At the date of last annual meeting there were 557 members, the increase for the year being 17.

Two members, whose subscriptions were each three guineas in arrear, were removed from the roll. In 1897 there were 29 new members and 21 names removed—5 by death. In 1898 to the date of the annual meeting 36 have joined and 6 removed—3 by death. The chief accession of new members has been at the General and South-western meetings.

Three general meetings have been held, and each division has held two meetings during the year.

At the May examination for the Nursing Certificate 599 candidates, drawn from 55 asylums, and 1 private nurse, sent in schedules duly filled up. The asylum candidates were drawn from 23 English county asylums, 11 borough asylums, 6 private asylums and hospitals, 8 Scotch asylums, and 7 Irish asylums. Of the 600 candidates (260 males, 340 females), 471 (198 males, 273 females) were successful; 102 (49 males, 53 females) failed to satisfy the examiners; and 27 (13 males, 14 females) withdrew from the examination. Deducting the number of candidates who withdrew, 82·19 per cent. (80·16 males, 83·74 females) gained the certificate, and 17·80 per cent. (19·75 males, 16·25 females) failed to do so.

At the examination for the Certificate in Psychological Medicine 8 candidates presented themselves—4 in London and 4 in Edinburgh. One man examined in London failed. There was 1 candidate (male) for the Gaskell Prize. He was not successful. The Bronze Medal was awarded to Dr. John R. Lord, Hanwell.

The library has been enlarged by a gift of books from the collection of Sir J. C. Bucknill. Additional bookshelves have been erected at a cost of £12, and binding has been done to the amount of £13. It is proposed that the catalogue should be issued in connection with the JOURNAL, in the same form as the "Index Medico-Psychologicus." The Committee have been re-appointed, with the addition of Dr. Outterson Wood.

The letter of Dr. Beattie Smith, published in the July number of the JOURNAL, has had the attention of the Council.

THE PREVENTION OF INSANITY.

Dr. E. B. WHITCOMBE moved:—"That a small committee be formed to consider the subject of the prevention of insanity, and to suggest means whereby this may be accomplished, and report thereon to this Association at a subsequent meeting." Dr. RAYNER seconded.

Dr. CARLYLE JOHNSTONE said that in the year 1890 a committee of this Association was appointed to formulate proposals as to the care and treatment of the insane. They had taken up the question of prevention of insanity. After reading the report of that committee in so far as it dealt with the proposal of Dr. Whitcombe, he would ask Dr. Whitcombe whether he thought that it was within reasonable expectations that they would be able to add anything worthy to what that committee had already formulated. If Dr. Whitcombe felt that he could, then he (Dr. Johnstone) would suggest that Dr. Whitcombe be appointed the committee, with powers to add to his number. Dr. PERCIVAL seconded.

Dr. CLOUSTON said the difficulty lay in carrying out the suggestions of the committee of 1890, and he considered it was quite possible that some plan might be devised to instruct the public on such an important subject.

Dr. WHITCOMBE, replying to the discussion, said the committee of 1890 was for care and treatment only, and besides that he hoped that Dr. Johnstone did not hold that there had been no advance since that time.

The motion was adopted *nem. con.*, and a committee was appointed, consisting of Dr. Turnbull, Dr. Drapes, Dr. Mercier, Dr. Spence, Dr. Rayner, and Dr. Whitcombe.

ASSOCIATION PRIZES.

The PRESIDENT intimated that the Gaskell Prize had not been awarded this year. The Bronze Medal of the Association had been won by Dr. John R. Lord, Assistant Medical Officer, Hanwell, whose essay will be found at page 693.

VACANCIES IN THE COUNCIL.

The PRESIDENT said that the secretary informed him that Dr. Robert S. Stewart, Dr. Maury Deas, and Dr. L. W. Rolleston had been removed from the Council, by rule, in consequence of non-attendance at meetings, and further that the Council unanimously recommended that Dr. Ewart, Dr. Soutar, and Dr. Hotchkiss should be elected in their stead. This was agreed to unanimously.

PAPER.

Dr. G. R. WILSON, Mavisbank, read a paper on "The Mismanagement of Drunkards," which is printed in this number of the JOURNAL (see page 711).

AFTERNOON MEETING.

At half-past two o'clock, in the Laboratory of the Scottish Asylums, the President in the chair.

Dr. HAYES NEWINGTON moved a hearty vote of thanks to the Royal College of Physicians for their very kind hospitality and for the use of their Hall, in which they had met with so much comfort. It could not but add dignity to the proceedings of the Association to hold its meetings in such a home of learning.

Dr. NORMAN seconded, and the resolution was carried by acclamation.

Dr. McDOWALL proposed a vote of thanks to the Scottish Asylums Laboratory Committee and their worthy director, Dr. Ford Robertson, for permission to meet there that day. He took that opportunity of warmly congratulating their colleagues in Scotland on their position there, on the evidence of progressive work, and on the very good results, which they hoped to see yet augmented.

Dr. FLETCHER BEACH seconded, and the resolution was also carried by acclamation.

Dr. R. JONES said it was his privilege to propose a vote of thanks to Dr. Turnbull, who had been responsible for the arrangements, and who had carried them through this their fifty-seventh annual meeting. The success of his labours would be measured by the success of the meetings. He (Dr. Jones), as General Secretary, was personally indebted to Dr. Turnbull for having managed the meetings of their Congress and arranged the papers. He ventured to say that all that had been done reflected great credit upon Dr. Turnbull.

The vote was carried by acclamation.

PAPERS.

Dr. FINDLAY then gave a demonstration on the "Choroid Plexus," with photographic lantern slides. These are published in this number of the JOURNAL (see page 744).

Dr. ALDOUS CLINCH and Dr. GEDDES read a paper on "A Case of Chorea Gravis," published in this number of the JOURNAL (see page 811.)

Dr. ALDOUS CLINCH made a preliminary report on "A Case of Porencephaly," which, with relative photographs, will appear in a future number of the JOURNAL.

The PRESIDENT said that he was sure of having the entire support of the meeting in conveying their best thanks to those who had so kindly brought the results of their investigations before them. The papers read had been of outstanding excellence, and represented much honest work.

Dr. HAYES NEWINGTON spoke in support of the President's remarks, and congratulated him on the success of the meeting, which had been as well attended as any of recent years.

After a brief acknowledgment by the PRESIDENT, the meeting terminated.

EXCURSIONS.

TO LARBERT AND GARTLOCH ASYLUMS.

Not the least agreeable of the many pleasant arrangements made for the benefit of those members of the Association who were able to be present at the recent annual meeting in Edinburgh was the excursion to Larbert and Gartloch, where every opportunity was afforded for an inspection of the asylums under the superintendence of Drs. Macpherson and Oswald. Larbert may be looked upon as an example of an asylum brought up to date under judicious and experienced supervision, Gartloch as typical of all that is modern in asylum design and construction. In both institutions the wards for chronic patients call for no special comment,

save, perhaps, that a word of commendation may be permitted for the excellent taste displayed in the decoration and furnishing of the dayrooms and dormitories at Larbert. The administrative centre at Gartloch leaves little to be desired, while the wards and offices are admirably adapted for their various purposes. What, however, chiefly attracted the attention of the visitors was the well-equipped detached hospital blocks with which these asylums are provided, all the arrangements being of such a nature that a patient suffering from acute mental disorder has every chance of recovery afforded him, while the treatment of bodily ailments is quite up to the standard of the best of the large metropolitan general hospitals, with the added advantage of pure air and the most delightful surroundings. Much interest was manifested in the system of staffing these hospitals throughout with female nurses, and many practical difficulties connected with the details of management in this and other particulars were freely discussed and explained, so that the visit, from an educational point of view, could not fail to have been suggestive and instructive to every member present. But what can be said of the all too generous hospitality which awaited the visitors at both Asylums! Luncheon at Larbert came as a most agreeable rest by the way, and the votes of thanks to Major Dobbie and to Dr. Macpherson only very feebly conveyed the gratitude of the guests to their kind and most hospitable entertainers. At Gartloch, where tea was provided, the ex-President happily expressed the pleasure of all present at what they had seen, and especially thanked Mr. G. B. Waddell, a member of the Board of Management, who, with Dr. Oswald and his colleagues, had made the visit so great a success. The only drawback to the complete enjoyment of the day was the feeling that more time might usefully have been passed in the inspection of institutions which reflect so much credit not only upon all immediately concerned in their direction and management, but also in no small degree upon those members of our Association who have by their energy, persistence, and example educated public opinion to recognise the necessity for, and economical advantage of such admirably equipped hospitals for the mentally afflicted.

TO MELROSE.

A small party of ladies and members of the Association made a very pleasant excursion to Melrose and the "land of Scott." Under the guidance of Dr. Carlyle Johnstone they visited Abbotsford House, Melrose Abbey, and Dryburgh Abbey. Scott's romantic dwelling-place, with all its hallowed memories, his last quiet home amid the desired walls and ancient trees of Dryburgh, the windings of the classic Tweed, Bemersyde Hill and its glorious prospect, Melrose Abbey, most beautiful in its decay—all these, and the perfect day which illuminated them, will not soon be forgotten by that little company of Saxons, Scots, and Americans.

AFTERNOON EXCURSIONS.

On each afternoon of the meeting Mr. Marr, acting as deputy for Professor Patrick Geddes, unable to attend owing to indisposition, accompanied the members round old Edinburgh and the vicinity. Mr. Marr was heartily thanked for the courteous and interesting explanations he gave, and for his trouble in conducting the party to various places of interest. Dr. and Mrs. Clouston also kindly extended their hospitality towards the members of the Association.

THE ANNUAL DINNER.

The annual dinner was held in the Balmoral Hotel. There was a large company, the President in the chair, the croupiers being Dr. Jones, Claybury, and Dr. Turnbull, Fife. The company included the following:—Sir William Turner, Edinburgh; Sir Alexander Christison, Dr. Sibbald, Dr. P. A. Young, the Rev. A. Fleming, Professor Chiene, Mr. Joseph Bell, Sheriff Jameson, Q.C., Dr. Macdonald, New York, Mr. James Cadenhead, Dr. Norton Manning, &c. Apologies for inability to be present were received from Sir W. T. Gairdner, Sir Arthur Mitchell, Sir T. Grainger Stewart, Sir J. Batty Tuke, Sir J. Struthers, Dr. Fraser, Dr. Philip, Professor Geddes.

The CHAIRMAN, after the toast of "The Queen," gave the toast of "The Navy and the Army." Sir A. CHRISTISON replied.

Dr. SIBBALD proposed the toast of "The Learned Professions." He need not say so much about the clergy, because the medical profession was always glad to recognise the cordial way in which they were met by the Church. With regard to the law, the branch of the medical profession they were connected with very often criticised the legal view of insanity, and he believed that the members of the legal profession criticised the medical view. He was in the happy position of thinking that a great deal could be said in favour of the medical view, and that he thought the lawyers were very often wrong. If, however, there were not those differences of opinion, the lawyers, he believed, would be the first to complain.

The Rev. Mr. FLEMING, in reply, said he did not think that any of the learned professions could look with more constant interest upon that class of subjects with which the Medico-Psychological Society was concerned than the profession to which he had the honour to belong, and which was always standing, he might say from day to day, in constant contemplation of that mysterious borderland where mind and body seem to mingle. He thought it was one mark of the disappearance of narrowness and bigotry of mind that now they would no longer meet with the clerical bigot who would say that it was a heresy to suppose that mental trouble of any kind could be accounted for by partly physical causes, and he thought, on the other hand, the medical bigot had disappeared who would maintain that it was ridiculous and superstitious to imagine that no cause but a partly physical one could account for the painful phenomena which came under his notice. He thought more and more was due to the professions that they might be mutually helpful to each other.

Sheriff JAMESON, in reply for the law, spoke of the sense which lunatics had of right and wrong and the knowledge and fear of punishment, and said he had always great doubts about letting criminals off on the score of lunacy unless he was very clear about the matter. The protection of society, he always held, should be the first consideration in dealing with cases of lunacy.

Professor CHIENE, in reply, regretted that the surgeons had not been able to help psychologists as much as they wished. He knew there was no branch of the profession which could raise so much enthusiasm for humanity as the branch to which they belonged.

Dr. YELLOWLEES proposed the health of Dr. Sibbald, and paid a tribute to his services on the Scottish Lunacy Board, from which he was about to retire. Dr. SIBBALD thanked them for the honour they had done him, and having stated the ideal which he had set before him when he was appointed commissioner, he said he felt a great hiatus lay between that ideal of the functions and his own performances. If by any ill-considered words or acts he had appeared to have been unkindly or really giving pain unnecessarily to any one he very deeply regretted it. He was very much obliged to them for all their kindness in the past.

Dr. A. E. MACDONALD gave the toast of the Association. Dr. URQUHART briefly replied.

Dr. McDOWALL proposed "Kindred Associations," and Dr. BELL replied in a happy manner.

Dr. SPENCE proposed the toast of "The Medical Institutions of Scotland," and Sir WILLIAM TURNER replied.

Dr. TURNBULL proposed the toast of "The Guests," to which Dr. YOUNG replied, and the company thereafter separated with the expression, "Floreat res medica."

RECENT MEDICO-LEGAL CASES.

REPORTED BY DR. MERCIER.

[The Editors request that members will oblige by sending full newspaper reports of all cases of interest as published by the local press at the time of the assizes.]