

### Part IV.—Notes and News.

#### MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

##### GENERAL MEETING.

The General Meeting of this Association was held at Chester Asylum, Upton, on Thursday, February 16th, under the presidency of Dr. A. R. Urquhart.

Present: H. Hayes Newington (Treasurer), J. Wigglesworth, R. Percy Smith, David Nicholson, J. B. Spence (Registrar), E. B. Whitcombe, G. W. Mould, A. W. Campbell, Charles Mercier, T. Seymour Tuke, J. F. G. Pietersen, Stanley A. Gill, S. R. Macphail, W. Bubb, A. Lawrence, M. D. Macleod, G. E. Mould, John Sutcliffe, David Bower, James Chambers, C. K. Hitchcock, Edwin Goodall, T. Aldous Clinch, David Blair, Harry A. Benham, Llewelyn F. Cox, J. Carlyle Johnstone, R. D. Hotchkiss, Fletcher Beach, D. M. Cassidy, and Robert Jones (General Secretary). Apologies for non-attendance were received from Drs. Law Wade, A. P. Russell, L. A. Weatherly, W. R. Watson, H. Rayner, and J. G. Soutar.

##### THE LATE DR. J. H. PAUL.

Before the commencement of the business the President referred to the great loss the Association had sustained in the death of Dr. Paul. He was elected Emeritus Treasurer in consequence of his long and valuable services to the Association. Some years ago, on his retiring from active duties, they specially marked their appreciation of his services by a testimonial; they had now to send a message of condolence to his family. Nothing he could say would exaggerate their feelings on that occasion. The late Dr. Paul was a dear old friend to a great many of them, and a very valued and upright member of that Association.

##### NEW MEMBERS.

The following members were then elected:—Alfred Cowper, W. W. Herbert, H. Wolsley Lewis, Wm. Hy. Christopher Macartney, Peers Machulich, Corbet W. Owen, Robert N. Paton, John Richards, J. G. Smith, J. M. Thom, and J. M. Wrangham.

##### DR. CLINCH'S DEMONSTRATION.

Dr. T. Aldous Clinch then gave an exhibition of microscopical slides and described Unna's polychrome methylene blue method for staining the nervous system. It is one by which staining of the finest elements of nervous tissue is rendered possible after any of the hardening methods in general use. Previously special hardening methods were necessary for different stainings, in this way multiplying vastly the work of complete microscopical examination of nervous tissue.

##### PAPERS.

Dr. David Blair read a paper upon "Acromegaly with Insanity" which was followed by a discussion (see page 290).

A paper by Dr. J. M. Renton upon "Asymmetry of the Skull in the Insane" was read by Dr. Ambler in the author's absence. The publication of this paper is unavoidably delayed.

##### THE DANGER OF SCALDING IN HOT WATER BATHS.

Dr. Robert Jones (Secretary) then described "A new method of ensuring safety from scalding in the use of hot water baths," invented by Mr. John Malcolm, B.Sc., Associate Member of the Institute of Civil Engineers. Models and drawings were exhibited.

This apparatus is designed to meet a condition which exists in all institutions where a number of persons have to be bathed at one time, and it is more particularly applicable for use in asylums where the temperature of the water for all baths is the same. The most common method now in use for obtaining the bathing water is to lay on to each bath a cold and hot water service, and the attendant allows a certain amount of water from each service to run into the bath until the required temperature is reached. The adjusting of the valves on these services takes a certain amount of time, and there is also the possibility that through the carelessness of the attendant the water in the bath may be raised to too high a temperature. Also this method is most suitable where spray baths are substituted for the ordinary baths.

The apparatus shown has been arranged to deliver water at a constant temperature, and consists of three parts:—1st. The heater. 2nd. The arrangement for turning on the water. 3rd. The means provided to prevent the heating of the water to an extent which might be dangerous.

The heater consists of two tubes, one being secured inside of the other, the outer one being an iron tube, and the inner one a copper tube. The water to be heated is made to pass through the outer tube, and steam is caused to pass through the inner tube, and if the flow of water through the outer tube and the steam pressure can be maintained constant, it follows that the water will be delivered at a uniform temperature. To ensure a constant velocity of flow of water the supply is taken from a tank, and a constant steam pressure is obtained by passing the steam through a reducing and safety valve.

Valves are placed on the cold water and steam supply pipes, and are opened and closed by a lever. These valves are connected to the lever in such a manner that the one controlling the cold water supply always opens first when the lever is moved to the "on" position, and allows cold water to enter the heater before the steam valve opens. Similarly, when the lever has been at the "on" position, and is moved to shut off the supplies, the steam valve is shut first, thus preventing water at a higher temperature than the normal being delivered when the bathing starts and stops.

The safety valve on the apparatus is a mercurial thermometer, having a platinum wire fused into the bulb, and a second platinum wire fixed so that when the mercury expands and comes in contact with it an electrical circuit is completed.

The thermometer is placed in the water which has passed through the heater, and the second wire is secured at the point to which the mercury will have expanded when the temperature of the water will have reached say 106° Fahr. The completing of the electrical circuit causes the electro-magnet to attract the armature. This action allows the hammer to fall and knock away the catch which supports the hammer. The hammer then falls, and in so doing shuts off the steam supply so that the temperature of the water is prevented from rising further.

This apparatus can be made to supply water for any number of baths or spray jets, the size of the heater being proportioned to the amount of water which will be required to pass through it.

No. 2. Leclanché cells of the ordinary zinc and porous pot form provide the current necessary for the electro-magnet.

This contrivance is not designed to replace the "perfect" attendant; it is an acknowledgment of man's imperfections and limitations, and ranks with the clinical thermometer or the fireguard. By its use forty or more baths can be used at the same time by raising a lever, and the water in all of them delivered at a uniform temperature, thus saving human labour and ensuring precision and accuracy.

The President described the Gegenstrom apparatus, on a similar principle, which is widely used in American asylums. He had recently obtained one from the makers in Germany, and after thorough trial would report upon it at greater length. He also showed a bath tap which had been in use at Murray's Asylum for some ten years, and which had been described in the JOURNAL for April, 1890.

#### A NEW LOCK.

The President showed a lock which promised to be of service, as it was an adaptation of an old lock to modern ideas. It had been worked out by Mr. Thomas Whyte, Engineer to Murray's Asylum, and had been named the Excommunicator

Action Lock. As usual, the male and female division locks were controlled by different keys, and both by the master key. Objections have been urged against the usual form, that the bolt is twice thrown out, necessitating a large lock and a weakening of the lock rail; the master key throws an obstruction in the way of the journeyman key, thereby causing breakage and damage to lock and key; the master key is formed by extra cutting, thereby rendering it easy to convert a journeyman key into a master key with a slight application of a ward file. The advantages claimed for the Excommunicator Action Lock are:—1. The bolt is only thrown out once. 2. A second turn of the master key throws the lock out of gear, so that the ordinary key turns in the lock without touching the bolt or straining the parts. 3. All the working parts are made to standard gauge and fixed with screws, so that repairs are easy and occupy a minimum time. 4. The master key is least cut, thereby making it impossible to convert a journeyman key into a master key without special skill. 5. The whole parts are simple in construction and simple in action. 6. The cost of altering old locks to this design is very small.

Members afterwards dined together at the Grosvenor Hotel, Chester.

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#### SPRING MEETING OF THE SCOTTISH DIVISION.

A meeting of the Scottish Division was held in the hall of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow, on Thursday, 9th March, 1899. In the unavoidable absence of Dr. Urquhart, President of the Association, Dr. Clouston was called to the chair. The other members present were Drs. Campbell Clark, Carswell, Graham, Hotchkiss, Ireland, Carlyle Johnstone, Macpherson, Watson, and Turnbull (Secretary).

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Hugh de Maine Alexander, M.D., Assistant Physician, Perth District Asylum, and Joseph Green, M.B., Ch.B., Assistant Physician, Gartloch Asylum, were admitted as members of the Association.

It was agreed to nominate Dr. Turnbull for the Divisional Secretaryship; and after discussion it was remitted to the Chairman and the Secretary to prepare suggestions to the Council for the filling up of the vacancies which will occur in July next by the retiral of one Scottish representative on the Council and of one of the Examiners for Scotland.

Dr. CAMPBELL CLARK asked what had been the outcome of the recommendation made by the Division in regard to the payment of the expenses of the Secretaries; and it was explained that the matter was not yet decided, but would be under consideration by the Council at the May meeting.

Dr. CARLYLE JOHNSTONE referred to the question of having reporters at the Divisional meetings, and mentioned that a motion for dispensing with reporters is to be submitted to the Council at the meeting in May.

Dr. IRELAND read a paper on "The Causes of the Increased Frequency of Suicide," which will appear in a future number of the JOURNAL.

#### INEBRIATES' ACT.

The CHAIRMAN said he would like to make a few remarks on the "Inebriates' Act." Lord Balfour appointed a Committee to consider and report as to the working of the Act in Scotland, at first without a doctor on it, but afterwards did him the honour of adding him to the Committee. The Committee did their very best to draw up regulations to work this Act. In regard to himself, he always had this in mind in helping to draw these regulations, that they should be suitable not only to the present Act, for the criminal inebriates for which that Act was passed, but to the future Act which they all hoped to get soon for the non-criminal inebriates, so that the rules and regulations will practically suit the one as well as the other. He might mention the provisions that have to be made. First, a state inebriate reformatory; very likely a portion of the General Prison, Perth, will be taken for that purpose. Second, certified inebriates' reformatories, which can be set up by any Town Council or County Council or private individual; and those will, he hoped,