

who in Scotland and elsewhere opposed the measure, it was proposed by Dr. Lawless and seconded by Dr. Oakshott, and passed unanimously—"That the Irish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association is of opinion that in computing the rate of pension for the staffs of Irish asylums the pension should be computed at a rate of one-fortieth instead of one-fiftieth as at present, inasmuch as the pay of the staff is lower in Ireland than in England and Scotland, while the contribution rate is the same." Copies of the resolution were ordered to be sent to Lord Wolmer, Sir Charles Nicholson, Mr. William Redmond, Mr. Nanetti, Mr. Hayder, and Dr. Shuttleworth.

Dr. MILLS, of Ballinasloe, made a statement to the Division, by permission of the Chairman, regarding a complaint which had recently been made by several medical men in his district to the Asylum Committee to the effect that he had engaged in private practice contrary to the conditions of his appointment. Dr. Mills said that he wished to bring the matter before the meeting, and to explain to the members of the Association his action in the matter complained of.

The members present fully discussed the points raised, and accepted the explanation given by Dr. Mills, and the Chairman desired to express to him the sympathy of the members in the trouble he had been caused.

Dr. RAINSFORD read a paper entitled "Some Cases of Medico-Legal Interest" (see p. 476), which led to an interesting discussion.

Dr. HETHERINGTON expressed his appreciation of the communication, and said that it should prove helpful to medical men in dealing with these difficult cases.

Dr. J. MAZERE COURTNEY thought that none of the cases mentioned by Dr. Rainsford could be classed as insane; they were, however, most interesting psychological studies. He doubted if at any time laws would be enacted to deal comprehensively with all of these cases owing to the extreme difficulty of classification.

Dr. NOLAN considered that no law could ever be formulated to meet these cases of moral depravity, and mentioned the case of a learned judge who harboured an escaped paranoid in his house, and was so impressed with the exaggerated delusions of persecution from which the patient suffered that he refused to allow of his being sent back to the asylum from which he had escaped. Dr. Nolan was much struck by this incident, as showing that judges' personalities must have a great weight in dealing with individual cases such as Dr. Rainsford had described.

Dr. GREENE said that it seemed a great pity medical assessors were not appointed in these cases, as in the Workmen's Compensation Act, to sit with the judge and assist him in dealing with these most difficult matters, and strongly condemned the practice of giving evidence as it exists.

Dr. DRAPES approved of Dr. Greene's suggestion, and wished to point out the all-importance of this personal equation of judge and jury in dealing with these cases which led to so many inconsistent verdicts.

Dr. LEEPER also spoke, and referred to the history of the British law regarding criminal responsibility, and alluded to its uncertainties and nebulosity.

Dr. RAINSFORD having thanked the meeting for their kind reception of his paper, replied to the various points raised by those who had joined in the discussion.

The CHAIRMAN proposed a vote of thanks to Dr. Rainsford for his kindness and hospitality in entertaining the Division, and for the pleasant day they had spent, which was passed unanimously, and the proceedings terminated.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editors of the JOURNAL OF MENTAL SCIENCE.

DEAR SIRS,—I should like to say, on my own behalf, in reference to Dr. Mercier's vigorous defence of the British School of Psychiatry in your April number, that I think my friend has put his views in too strong language, so that his motive is liable to be misunderstood, both in regard to Dr. Turner and especially in regard to Prof. Kraepelin and the other continental authors referred to. I cannot think that the word "plagiarist" is compatible with international amity or scientific

courtesy. All science is, or should be, cosmopolitan. International jealousy or ill-feeling is out of place in regard to it, and we who know Dr. Mercier best realise that he is incapable of this attitude, but he feels keenly and hits hard. Prof. Kraepelin's work in psychiatry and that of his great continental *confrères* has put mankind under a deep debt of gratitude to them. They may not have recognised or acknowledged our British work so fully as fairness and knowledge should have dictated, and I may feel strongly that my "Adolescent Insanity" and the physiological and clinical basis on which it rests has not been sufficiently recognised, but I know that *magna est veritas et prævalebit*. Dr. Mercier's chivalrous vindication of our priority will be much valued and appreciated, but his patriotic loyalty and his joy of battle have driven him into the use of a somewhat too sharp dialectic.

I am, etc.,
T. S. CLOUSTON.

26, Heriot Row,
Edinburgh.

June 25th, 1912.

THE LIBRARY OF THE MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

The Library is open daily for reading, and for the purpose of borrowing books. Books may also be borrowed by post, provided that at the time of application threepence in stamps is forwarded to defray the cost of postage. Arrangements have been made with Messrs. Lewis to enable the Association to obtain books from the lending library belonging to that firm should any desired book not be in the Association's Library.

The following work has been presented to the Library by the author:

J. Larned.—*Life and Work of William Pryor Letchworth*.

A large number of books have been bound, including a complete set of the Commissioners' Reports.

The Council has acceded to the request of the Library Committee that the book-cases at present in the Library should be provided with glass doors, and this much-needed improvement is now being proceeded with. A similar alteration is being made in the cupboards in the additional room recently acquired by the Association.

Application for books should be addressed to the Resident Librarian, Medico-Psychological Association, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W. Other communications should be addressed to the undersigned at Northumberland House, Green Lanes, Finsbury Park, London, N.

BERNARD HART,
Hon. Secretary Library Committee.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

The seventy-first Annual Meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday and Friday, July 11th and 12th, 1912, at Gloucester, under the Presidency of Dr. James Greig Soutar.

On Wednesday, July 10th, there will be meetings at the Guildhall as follows: Parliamentary Committee at 2 p.m.; Educational Committee at 3.30 p.m.

Inspection of Gloucester Asylums.—During Wednesday the Gloucester County Asylums (at Wotton and Barnwood) and Barnwood House will be available for inspection between 11 a.m. and 12.30 p.m., or 3 p.m. and 5 p.m., or at other times or days by arrangement.

The Hucclecote tram-car passes within a short distance of the County Asylum at Wotton, within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of the second County Asylum at Barnwood, and past the entrance to Barnwood House.

On Thursday, July 11th, the Council will meet at 9.30 a.m.

The Annual Meeting will commence at 11 a.m. on Thursday, July 11th, at the Guildhall, when the usual business of the Association will be transacted.

2 p.m.—The President's Address, after which the following papers will be read
JOHN FREDERICK BRISCOE, M.R.C.S. on "Appendicitis in Asylums." Dr.
MCKINLEY REID, M.B., Ch.B. on "Bacteriology of Forty Cases of Diarrhœa,
with Special Reference to Asylum Dysentery." Adjourned discussion of Dr

LVIII.

36