

Wassermann reaction, with cell- and protein-content and Lange curve all showing an appreciable reduction. These results surely indicate an abatement of the syphilitic process directly due to the malarial infection, and raise the interesting question as to how its beneficial effects are brought about. It has been suggested that the malarial parasite, being of protozoal nature, stands in close biological relationship with the spirochæte, and that malarial infection may produce group-specific antibodies which tend to combat the syphilitic virus. A less speculative explanation seems to us worthy of notice. Four of our cases died during the course of treatment, and in two of these we were able to make a *post-mortem* examination. In both, on histological examination of various portions of the brain, we have found extreme congestion of the cerebral vessels, which were engorged with blood and surrounded by an inflammatory infiltration far in excess of that in non-treated cases, brains of which were sectioned for comparison. Similar appearances have been described by Strüssler and Koskinas, who sectioned four brains of patients dying during treatment. So far as we may judge from the scanty material at our disposal, it would appear that important factors are the flushing out of the syphilitic toxins from the cerebral circulation, and an improved oxygenation of tissues previously starved for want of blood. It is obvious that once gross destruction has occurred restoration of the delicate nervous tissues is impossible, a fact which is in keeping with the disappointing clinical results of treatment in advanced cases.

The marked cerebral congestion occurring during the malarial course is, in itself, not without danger, particularly as the vessels are already weakened by syphilitic arteritis. In this connection we have been much impressed by the number of small hæmorrhages encountered in all parts of the brains examined, as compared with those in untreated controls. Such hæmorrhages are, of course, a well-recognized feature of general paralysis and the larger ones are responsible for the seizures which frequently occur during the course of the disease. In the malarial brains they were strikingly numerous and mostly of microscopic size, appearing to arise from ruptured capillaries; at places as many as three or four were found in a single field of the microscope. The suggestion therefore seems reasonable that in addition to the malarial toxæmia, the mechanical results of gross cerebral congestion are largely responsible for the fatalities which occur during the course of treatment. Malarial therapy is undoubtedly a considerable extra strain on tissues already weakened by disease, and we fully recognize that its use entails a very definite immediate risk to the patient. But our own observations detailed above have satisfied us that the results of this treatment well justify the risk involved.

In conclusion we would express our warmest thanks to Dr. E. Barton White and the Assistant Medical Staff of the Bristol Mental Hospital, whose enthusiastic co-operation has been of immense help throughout the period of study.

NORTHERN AND MIDLAND DIVISION.

THE SPRING MEETING of the Division was held, by the courtesy of Dr. H. Dove Cormac, at the Cheshire County Mental Hospital, Parkside, Macclesfield, on Wednesday, April 27, 1932.

Members were conducted over the Hospital and gardens, and much interest was shown in the new occupation pavilion and other treatment rooms, the aviaries, and the staff swimming-bath, where an exhibition of expert diving and swimming was given by members of the nursing staff.

A large company of members and visitors were entertained to luncheon by the Visiting Committee. A cordial vote of thanks was moved by Dr. EDGERLEY and carried by acclamation.

The following members were present: Drs. Bain, Bruce, Brunton, Chevens, Dove Cormac, Davidson, Dixon, Drury, Drake-Brockman, Eaves, Edgerley, Ewing, Forrester, Gillespie, Healey, Hopkins, Leech, Mackenzie, Macmillan, Parkin, Reeves, Starkey, Thomson, Wilkes, Russell.

Approximately 100 visitors, including members' wives, members of the Visiting Committee, and students from Manchester University also attended.

A business meeting, attended by members only, was held at 2.15 p.m., Dr. Dove Cormac, Divisional Chairman, presiding.

The minutes of the previous meeting, having been published, were confirmed and signed.

The following candidate, after ballot, was duly elected an ordinary member of the Association :

DAVID NEIL PARFITT, M.B., B.S.Lond., B.Sc., D.P.M., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
Senior Assistant Medical Officer, Warwick County Mental Hospital, Hatton.
Proposed by Drs. A. T. W. Forrester, H. B. Leech and A. R. Grant.

Drs. B. H. Shaw, M. A. Archdale and D. Blair were elected Representative Members of Council for the ensuing year.

Dr. B. H. Shaw was elected Divisional Chairman, and Dr. J. Ivison Russell was re-elected Divisional Secretary.

It was resolved that the Secretary be authorized to make the necessary arrangements for the next Autumn and Spring Meetings.

The business meeting then closed and members proceeded to the cinema hall, where the film "The Mystery of Life" was shown and explained by Dr. Dove Cormac, who, in an interesting lecture, referred to special aspects of the film in relation to psychiatric and sociological problems.

After the meeting, members and visitors were very kindly entertained to tea by Dr. and Mrs. Dove Cormac, and Dr. EDGERLEY, on behalf of the Division, thanked the Superintendent and Visiting Committee for the generous hospitality which had made the meeting so enjoyable.

IRISH DIVISION.

THE SPRING QUARTERLY AND CLINICAL MEETING of the Irish Division was held at the District Mental Hospital, Carlow, by kind invitation of Dr. T. A. Greene, Medical Superintendent, on Thursday, April 7, 1932.

The following members were present : Dr. J. O'Conor Donelan in the Chair. Drs. S. Blake, R. D. Brennan, P. J. Cassin, Kathleen Dillon, W. Eustace, Nora May Fitzgerald, John Fitzgerald, J. F. Fitzgerald, J. J. Fitzgerald, Dorothy Gardner, P. Grace, L. Gavin, T. A. Greene, B. Honan, D. L. Kelly, G. H. Keene, B. Lyons, R. R. Leeper, J. C. Martin, Elizabeth Mahony, C. B. Molony, John Mills, Eveleen O'Brien, James Scott, R. Taylor, R. H. Taylor, T. W. Weir, R. Thompson (*Hon. Sec.*).

In the forenoon, members were conducted over the Hospital and through the gardens and grounds by Dr. Greene and the Staff of the Hospital, and, amongst other things, they had an opportunity of seeing the many beautiful stained-glass windows recently added to the Roman Catholic and Protestant Churches. After luncheon, the members inspected the new Convalescent Home, Kelvin Grove, recently acquired by the Hospital.

QUARTERLY AND CLINICAL MEETING.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, approved and signed by the Chairman.

Following the reading of the minutes, the Chairman referred to the loss the Division had sustained by the recent death of Dr. Walter S. Smyth, Medical Superintendent of Antrim Mental Hospital. A vote of sympathy was passed in silence—the members standing—and the Secretary was directed to convey the sympathy of the Division to the relatives. Dr. LEEPER then referred to the loss the Association had sustained by the recent death of Prof. George Robertson, of Edinburgh. Further tributes to the late Prof. Robertson were paid by the Chairman and Dr. Mills, and the Secretary was directed to convey to the relatives the sympathy of the Division.

The following candidates were, after ballot, declared unanimously elected members of the Association.

ALLEN, JAMES STEWART, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.Belf., Assistant Medical Officer,
Antrim Mental Hospital.

Proposed by Drs. Norman, B. Graham S. J. Graham and Dorothy Gardner.

O'SULLIVAN, EDWARD N. M., B.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.M.N.U.I.,
Assistant Medical Officer, District Mental Hospital, Killarney.

Proposed by Drs. L. Gavin, P. Moran and Kathleen Dillon.