

lessened cost to the public, though undoubtedly the recovery-rate would suffer thereby. It is possible that, under favourable circumstances, final convalescence is hurried on, and of a more durable character. Against it, is the risk of an early relapse and the trouble of re-commitment to care. The ideal would be either a prolonged period of "trial," or an arrangement whereby all cases should be discharged as "relieved," and not recorded as "recovered" until a satisfactory certificate of mental health is forthcoming twelve months later. Though this is hardly practicable, yet something should be done toward standardising the meaning of a recovery-rate, for no recovery-rate is of the slightest value unless it can be considered with the relapse-rate within some definite period of time.

The death-rate for 1918 (10.5 *per cent.*) was the lowest for the last eleven years. For 1915, 1916 and 1917 the death-rates were respectively 12.74, 11.69 and 16.62 *per cent.*

Dr. Whitwell remarks :

"It is probable that these variations in the death-rate are nothing more than the normal fluctuations which occur at all times in a population such as this; there is not sufficient evidence upon which to associate them with any changes in diet that have occurred during the war period, inasmuch as though the body-weight of practically everyone in the institution (staff and patients) fell a few pounds, largely owing to the diminution in fat-forming substances, it quickly became stabilised on the new diet, and, moreover, the sick diet never changed in any single particular during the whole period of the war."

Turning to the financial report a very healthy state is revealed. During the year the balance in hand on maintenance account of £1,572 13s. 1d. rose to £3,506 15s 4d., of which £3,285 14s. was cash in hands of the Treasurer. The buildings and repairs fund account showed a balance in favour of £1,683 15s. 1d., and likewise the farm account of £2,734 os. 6d.

Part IV.—Notes and News.

MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

SEVENTY-NINTH ANNUAL MEETING, HELD AT BUXTON.

THE SEVENTY-NINTH ANNUAL MEETING of the Association was held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, July 26th to 28th, 1920, at the North Staffordshire Mental Hospital, Cheddleton, and at the Town Hall, Buxton, under the presidency, in the early proceedings, of Dr. Bedford Pierce, and later that of Dr. W. F. Menzies.

EVENING SESSION.—MONDAY, JULY 26TH.

Held at the Town Hall, Buxton, Dr. Bedford Pierce in the chair.

Members present: Dr. Bedford Pierce (President), Major R. Worth (Hon. Gen. Sec.), Sir R. Armstrong-Jones, Drs. T. Stewart Adair, C. Hubert Bond, D. Bower, A. Helen Boyle, W. Brown, J. Chambers, R. H. Cole, W. R. Dawson, A. W. Daniel, S. Edgerley, F. H. Edwards, J. W. Geddes, W. W. Horton, J. Keay, J. R. Lord, R. G. M. Ladell, J. Mills, A. Miller, W. F. Menzies, J. Middlemass, J. McClintock, Colin F. F. McDowall, S. R. Macphail, A. W. Neill, W. F. Nelis, M. J. Nolan, E. S. Pasmore, G. G. Parkin, C. S. Read, G. M. Robertson, M. L.

Rowan, B. H. Shaw, C. J. Shaw, T. W. Smith, J. B. Spence, W. H. B. Stoddart, E. W. D. Swift, F. R. P. Taylor, F. P. Thomas, W. R. Thomas, W. G. Thomson, E. W. White, W. D. Wilkins.

Visitors: Messrs. F. Dawson, E. Goodley, G. McClintock, Edward C. Myott, W. F. S. Nichols, T. N. W. Nolan, H. T. Pebworth, E. H. Taylor, T. A. Williams.

The following members wrote regretting their inability to be present: Sir James Crichton-Browne, Sir F. W. Mott, Dr. Sidney Coupland and Drs. H. de M. Alexander, G. A. Auden, G. N. Bartlett, J. S. Bolton, J. Brander, K. B. Campbell, M. A. Collins, F. M. Cowen, M. Craig, H. Devine, J. F. Dixon, R. Eager, J. R. Gilmore, R. D. Hotchkis, H. C. MacBryan, J. C. Mackenzie, G. D. McRae, D. Orr, A. R. Oswald, J. G. P. Phillips, F. E. Ramsford, J. N. Sergeant, G. E. Shuttleworth, J. H. Skeen, P. Smith, G. W. Smith, R. H. Steen, R. C. Stewart, J. G. Soutar, D. G. Thomson, H. Wolseley-Lewis.

Members present at the Council Meeting: Dr. Bedford Pierce (President), Major R. Worth (Hon. Gen. Sec.), Drs. T. Stewart Adair, D. Bower, A. Helen Boyle, J. Chambers, R. H. Cole, A. W. Daniel, W. R. Dawson, J. W. Geddes, J. Keay, J. R. Lord, W. F. Menzies, A. Miller, M. J. Nolan.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the last annual meeting were taken as read and approved.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL.

The PRESIDENT proposed: That the officers of the Association for the year 1920-1 be:

President.—Dr. W. F. Menzies.

President-elect.—Dr. C. Hubert Bond.

Ex-President.—Dr. Bedford Pierce.

Treasurer.—Dr. James Chambers.

Editors of Journal.—Drs. J. R. Lord, H. Devine, G. Douglas McRae and W. R. Dawson.

General Secretary.—Dr. R. Worth.

Registrar.—Dr. A. Miller.

This was agreed to.

He next proposed: "That the nominated members of Council be Drs. M. J. Nolan, R. D. Hotchkis, D. G. Thomson, G. W. Smith, Sir Frederick Mott, and Prof. G. Robertson.

This was likewise carried.

ELECTION AS HONORARY MEMBER OF DR. COLIN, OF PARIS.

The PRESIDENT said it gave him much pleasure to submit to members the proposal that Dr. Henri Colin, médecin en chef de l'asile de Villejuif, Secrétaire Général de la Société Médico-Psychologique de Paris, Editor, *Annales Médico-Psychologiques*, be elected an Honorary Member of the Association. Many would remember the last visit of their distinguished *confrère* to England and the very interesting paper which he read on that occasion. They would also have a lively recollection of his genial personality.

The motion was unanimously agreed to. It was supported by Drs. Menzies, Steen, Miller, Chambers, and Worth.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS.

The meeting agreed to the proposal to appoint Dr. F. H. Edwards and Dr. C. F. F. MacDowall auditors for the current year.

COMMITTEES.

The members of the following Committees were severally re-appointed:

Parliamentary Committee.

Educational Committee, to which the names of Sir Frederick Mott and

Lieut.-Col. W. R. Dawson were added.

Library Committee.

Research Committee.

Post-graduate Study Committee.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

The SECRETARY (Major R. WORTH) read the Report of the Council for the year :
The number of members—ordinary, honorary, and corresponding—as shown in the list of names published in the *Journal of Mental Science* for January, 1920, was 626, as compared with 626 in 1919.

Number of new members elected in 1919	21
Number of members restored in 1919	0
Removed according to Bye-law 17	0
Number of members resigned in 1919	12
Number of deaths in 1919	9
Transferred to Hon. Members	0

The following table shows the membership for the past decade :

Members.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.
Ordinary	680	690	696	695	679	644	632	627	626	626
Honorary	33	34	35	34	34	34	32	33	32	26
Corresponding	17	19	19	18	18	18	18	18	18	9
Total	730	743	750	747	731	696	682	678	676	661

We have to report that Lieut.-Col. Keay has been appointed Chairman of the Education Committee, and Dr. Collins Vice-chairman, Dr. Maurice Craig having asked to be relieved of his duties after having served for many years.

Lieut.-Col. W. R. Dawson was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the lamented death of Dr. T. Drapes, and Dr. H. Devine and Dr. G. Douglas McRae were also elected to complete the Editorial Staff of the Journal.

Dr. Bedford Pierce was elected to serve on the Council of the Nurses Registration Bill, and it was proposed that the Medico-Psychological Association should join the British Federation of Medical and Allied Societies, and that Dr. R. H. Cole should be the representative. That an entrance fee of £2 2s. and annual subscription of £7 7s. be paid.

A deputation of the Medico-Psychological Association was appointed to interview the Minister of Health, at which many points affecting the Association were discussed with satisfaction.

Following a meeting at the Guildhall regarding the training of nurses and probationers, Drs. D. G. Thomson and A. Miller were named representatives of the Association to confer with the representatives of the National Council of Institutions for the Treatment and Care of the Mentally Afflicted in connection with the formulating of a scheme for the future certification of permanent members of the nursing staff in mental hospitals on similar lines to those on which certificates of training are granted in general hospitals.

The Education Committee have decided, at the suggestion of the Council, that there should be a new edition of the hand-book and that the whole syllabus for the examination of nurses should be revised.

Drs. Thomson and Worth were appointed to confer with the N.A.W.U. with regard to the revision of the Asylums Officers' Superannuation Act. The Association has communicated with the different authorities to see whether the pensions of retired mental hospital servants could be increased.

It has been agreed that the Association should administer the Convalescent Fund of the Asylum Workers' Association.

Sir James Crichton-Browne delivered the first Maudsley Lecture at the Royal Society of Medicine on May 20th.

At the May meeting it was agreed that Dr. C. Hubert Bond should be nominated President-Elect.

A special Sub-Committee has been formed to go into the matter of post-graduate study.

We greatly regret having to announce the deaths of Drs. T. Drapes, C. A. Mercier, E. G. Fearnside, and E. S. H. Gill during the past year.

The report was received and approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The Treasurer (Dr. CHAMBERS) submitted the revenue account and balance sheet for 1919. He pointed out that there had been a considerable diminution in the cost of the production of the Journal, and thanks were due to the Editors for having carefully regulated their requirements in accordance with the increased cost of labour and materials, and the falling revenue. Owing to the Editors' wise economy, and to the amount of arrears which had been paid, the balance at the bank justified an increase in the size of the Journal for the current year; the result will be a serious increase in the printer's bill at the end of the year. It was very important that the Journal should be restored to its former standard of excellence, and, as members were aware, it was for this reason proposed to increase the annual subscription.

Nearly all the subscriptions written off were accounted for by the Association having excused members for the period of their foreign service. As the result of further inquiries and correspondence, a considerable amount will have to be written off at the end of the current year.

The Association and the General Secretary were to be congratulated on the large number of new members recently elected.

The report was received and adopted.

REPORT OF THE EDITORS—1919.

During the war the Editorship of the Journal was largely in the hands of the late Dr. Thomas Drapes, who was ably supported by Dr. Henry Devine and Dr. G. Douglas McRae as Assistant Editors. The other Co-Editor, Lt.-Col. J. R. Lord, was only referred to on matters of great moment or difficulty. The death of Dr. Drapes on October 5th, 1919, was a great loss to the Association, and especially to the Journal. Fortunately, Lieut.-Col. J. R. Lord was able to resume active work as Co-Editor, and there was not the slightest hitch in the production of the Journal, owing to the business-like methods adopted by Dr. Drapes, and the admirable order in which he left it.

It thus became necessary to supplement the Editorial staff, and at the Quarterly Meeting of the Association held on November 25th, 1919, it was decided to revert to the custom of having four Co-Editors. Lieut.-Col. W. R. Dawson, O.B.E., as representing the sister isle, was asked to join, and subject to their consent it was decided that the two Assistant Editors, Drs. Devine and McRae, should be raised to the status of Co-Editors. All this in due course materialised and the names of the four Co-Editors appeared on the cover of the January number of the Journal, 1920.

During 1919 the Journal began to recover from the embarrassments imposed by war conditions, and its size remained curtailed for financial reasons only. In the April number, 1919 (p. 65), was a notable contribution by the late Dr. Henry Maudsley on "War Psychology: English and German," one of his last productions—the importance of which will, no doubt, be more and more appreciated when the future history of Europe comes to be written.

The Journal took a new lease of life in January, 1920, and the Co-Editors are grateful for the very satisfactory support accorded them by the members of the Association. More assistance, however, would be thankfully received as regards Reviews and the Epitome. With an improvement in the financial position of the Association it will be possible to expand the Journal to its former size, and to enhance its importance and interest by the publication of more illustrations, which have to be restricted in number at present.

For the Co-Editors.

JOHN R. LORD.

Lt.-Col. Lord moved the adoption of the report.

The PRESIDENT congratulated Col. Lord on the excellent standard maintained by the Journal, and the great pains he had taken to bring it back to its pre-war standard.

Lieut.-Col. LORD, in acknowledging the President's remarks, made sympathetic

THE MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.—For the Year 1919.

REVENUE ACCOUNT—January 1st to December 31st, 1919.

1918.		1919.		1918.	
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Dr.					
654 15 5	To Journal—Printing, Publishing, Engraving, Ad-vertising, and Postage	542 19 1		175 0 0	By Dividends—General
300 3 6	Examinations, Association Prizes, and Clerical Assistance to Registrar	351 13 4		60 15 8	" Sale of Journal
20 1 8	Petty Disbursements, Stationery, Postages, etc.	22 5 2		6 8 8	" Handbook
81 17 9	Annual General, and Divisional Meetings	133 14 11		13 0 2	" Statistical Forms, etc.
183 12 0	Rent of Premises at 11, Chandos Street, care of Office, etc.	109 18 0			" Advertisements, etc.
8 8 0	Audit and Clerical Assistance	8 8 0			" Fees, Certificates of Psychological Medicine
46 16 5	Miscellaneous Account	110 17 9	1279 16 3		" Certificates of Proficiency in Nursing
1213 14 9	Balance	260 5 2			" Subscriptions
155 9 2					
1369 3 11		£1540 1 5			

BALANCE-SHEET—31st December, 1919.

1918.		1919.		1918.	
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Liabilities.					
140 10 2	To Journal Account, balance of	160 19 8			By Lloyd's Bank—Bankers
83 8 0	Examinations Account, balance of	87 12 6			" Sales Account, balance of
14 0 6	Petty Disbursements Account, balance of	2 0 7			" Fees Account, balance of
25 18 0	Meetings Account, balance of	20 1 0			" Subscriptions Account, balance of
25 18 0	Rent Account	29 1 0			" Maudsley Bequest, balance of
19 6 5	Miscellaneous, balance of	24 1 10			" Stocks, value at this date:
16 11 4	Library Account, Dividends	14 8 6			New Zealand, 3½ per cent., 1940
166 7 8	Gaskell	105 11 0			Victoria, 3½ per cent., 1923
24 5 6	" Income Tax	3 15 0			Do. 3 per cent., 1929-49
	" Dividends	122 11 8			Manchester Corporation, 3 per cent.
	"	7 6 6			New South Wales, 3½ per cent., 1930-50
	"	24 18 6	662 7 9		Midland Railway Preference, 3½ per cent.
	"				War Loan, 5 per cent., 1929-47
516 5 7	Balance at 1st January	3791 8 0			
3559 5 6	Aid: Balance of Revenue Account	260 5 2			
155 9 2	" Investments, appreciation of				
97 13 10					
3812 8 6		4051 13 2			
12 12 0	Deduct: Subscriptions written off				
8 8 6	Library Dividend transferred	240 2 7			
	Investments, depreciation of	333 11 7			
		3718 1 7			
3791 8 0		£4380 9 4			
£4307 13 7					

(Signed) JAMES CHAMBERS, TREASURER.
(Signed) BOLT, GOODFELLOW & Co., F.S.A.A.

FRANCIS H. EDWARDS } AUDITORS.
G. F. BARHAM }

reference to the late Dr. Drapes and his work as Editor. He said he found, after having been out of touch with Journal matters during the war, that everything connected with it was in such excellent order that there was no difficulty in resuming office.

The report was duly adopted.

REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON POST-GRADUATE STUDY.

Lieut.-Col. J. R. LORD communicated a verbal report on the work of this Sub-Committee. He said that, following the direction of the Association, he convened a meeting of this Sub-Committee on June 30th, 1920, at No. 11, Chandos Street, London. There was a good attendance of members, and Dr. Hubert Bond was elected Chairman, and himself (Col. Lord) Secretary. Acting on the powers given to the Sub-Committee in the reference, they added thereto Prof. G. Robertson (Scotland), Dr. J. O'Connor Donelan (Ireland), Dr. H. Devine, Dr. J. Middlemass, and Dr. E. Goodall (Wales). The second meeting had been held that day (July 26th), when the matter was further discussed. It was found to be a very intricate one, but some further progress was made. The next meeting would probably, he said, be called in September.

REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

Dr. R. H. COLE read this report :

The Committee has met four times as in previous years. The Committee has continued to urge the claims of mental nurses and is able to report that it has secured for them fair representation in the Nurses Registration Act, also that Dr. Bedford Pierce has been appointed on the first Council established by that Act, and further that the Minister of Health has been approached with the view to the formation of a supplementary register for nurses trained in institutions for mental defectives. Suggested amendments to the Asylums Officers' Superannuation Act, 1909, have been considered and a conference has been held between representatives of this Association and the Clerks' and Stewards' Association and the National Asylum Workers' Union with the object of preparing an amending Bill. Efforts have been made to promote legislation to improve facilities for the early treatment of mental disease on the lines laid down by the recent Report of the Association, and a deputation was received very sympathetically by the Minister of Health on this subject. The same matter is being pressed forward by the newly formed British Federation of Medical and Allied Societies which the Association has joined.

H. WOLSELEY LEWIS, *Chairman*,
R. H. COLE, *Secretary*.

It was duly agreed to.

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS.

Dr. F. H. EDWARDS submitted this report :

We have examined the vouchers and books of the Association and beg to report that the balance sheet and revenue account present accurately the financial position of the Association.

F. H. EDWARDS } *Auditors*.
G. F. BARHAM }

The report was agreed to.

MORNING SESSION.—TUESDAY, JULY 27TH.

Held at Cheddleton Mental Hospital, Dr. Bedford Pierce in the chair.

REPORT OF THE EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE.

Dr. A. W. DANIEL moved the adoption of the following report :

This Committee has held eight meetings, and in addition much work has been done by Sub-Committees.

One candidate presented himself for the Professional Certificate Examination, and he was successful.

There was no candidate for the Gaskell Prize and Medal.

LXVI.

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The number of candidates for the Nursing Certificate is showing a great increase now that the training of mental nurses is compulsory. The numbers last May were for the Preliminary 2036, of whom 1308 were successful; for the Final 612, of whom 371 were successful.

A Sub-Committee has been formed to arrange for the rewriting of the Handbook for Attendants on the Insane, and their work is in progress.

Much time has been spent on the revision of the syllabus of training, the regulations, the schedules, and the rules for the conduct of the examinations. Our suggestions have been approved by the Council and are now presented for confirmation. It may be stated that the more important alterations are:

- (1) That the three years of training must be spent in one institution or service, as decided at the last annual meeting.
- (2) That instead of two examinations there shall be three, one at the end of each of the three years of training.
- (3) The minimum number of lectures and demonstrations has been materially increased.
- (4) The regulations are to apply to all nurses joining the service after November, 1920.

Regulation No. 5 reads as follows:

- (5) Nurses who possess certificates of having trained for three years in a general hospital, or poor-law infirmary, approved by the Council, shall be exempt from the First and Second Examinations and shall be eligible for the Third Examination for the Medico-Psychological Certificate after training for a further period of one year in one recognised institution.
- (6) The fees payable by candidates have been increased.
- (7) It has been decided that examiners and coadjutors shall be paid.

The proofs of the regulations and syllabus will be obtainable from the General Secretary.

Lieut.-Col. J. KEAY seconded.

Prof. GEORGE ROBERTSON (Edinburgh) said there was one item in the Report to which he would like to direct attention. He referred to that part in which it was stated that a nurse who had received training at a general hospital might receive the nursing certificate of the Medico-Psychological Association after only one year's further training in a mental hospital. That constituted a departure from past observance, when two years' further training in a mental hospital was the time insisted on. On that point he did not think anyone would accuse of him of not taking an interest in hospital nurses. He had often spoken on their behalf; probably, in the opinion of many, much too often, for he had done it in season and out of season. Hence he could claim to have shown himself to be thoroughly interested in their welfare. But he regarded the present intended alteration in the Association's regulations in this respect as a very serious departure, and one which ought not to be accepted by members. He therefore wished to move that the Report be referred back to the Committee for re-consideration and further report. The first hospital nurse introduced by him, who worked in the general wards of an asylum, was at Murthly Asylum, in Perthshire, in 1896. Nurses had previously been trained in asylums by Dr. Campbell Clarke, and he recently met one of the first of these nurses, who presented to him the certificate which she had obtained from Dr. Campbell Clarke—the first obtained by a mental nurse. After that the Scottish Division of the Association took up the training, and, at a later date still, the Association as a whole took it up. In furtherance of the idea of employing hospital-trained nurses in mental work he proposed in this Association twenty years ago that, seeing that the training of hospital and of mental nurses overlapped considerably with regard to such subjects as physiology, anatomy, and general nursing in emergency, hospital nurses might be relieved of one year of training, and be granted a certificate after two years', instead of three years', training. At that date so little did the Association approve of a reduction in the length of the training that not one member was found to support his motion, and he was unable to find a seconder. Not until ten years later was the reduction made from three years to two for hospital-trained nurses; and on that occasion it was proposed by Dr. Mercier, and was carried without dissent. He, the speaker, approved of the time of the training being reduced, but he was strongly against the proposed

further curtailment to one year, and that for a variety of reasons. He had probably trained more hospital nurses in mental work than had anybody else. He did not think the average hospital nurse understood in one year mental cases nor acquired the proper attitude concerning them. These hospital nurses came to asylums looking at disease from a physical, not from a mental standpoint. To show how different was the attitude of the hospital nurse from that of the mental nurse, when the latter sat down by the bedside of a patient to understand the patient, the hospital-trained sister would ask her if she had nothing to do. In asylums it was well understood that one of the main duties of a nurse was to sit down by the side of patients, talk to them, and try to elucidate and understand their personality. The general hospital nurse received a training in technique and in method, whereas the mental nurse required to be trained in resourcefulness and observation. The training in the two cases was of a different kind. Therefore not only did hospital nurses require to overcome some handicap when they came to an asylum, but even general practitioners, of whom he had had some experience during the war, when they came into an asylum did not seem to get into touch with the patients, or ever to understand mental cases. Dr. Yellowlees, the present "Father" of the Association, Dr. Clouston, and Dr. Rutherford all stated it was preposterous to think hospital nurses could ever look after mental patients. That was wrong, but he was sure they would be opposed to reducing the period of training of hospital nurses in asylums by another year.

The other objection he felt to the change was, that he thought they would be degrading the value of the mental certificate by saying that for such nurses one year of asylum training was sufficient to learn all that was required in order to be able to look after mental cases. (Hear, hear.) A great deal of trouble had been experienced in getting the public to appreciate the good work which mental nurses did, and how they kept up to the demands which were made upon them. There had always been a tendency for hospital nurses to look down upon mental nurses, for that department of the profession had been regarded as the Cinderella of nursing. It had, however, a fairy godmother in the Association, and through it mental nursing had attained to a status and position which had become higher and higher, and had it not been for the regrettable threats of strikes, the outcome of general industrial unrest, during the last year or two, they might have now been almost on a level, in the estimation of the public, with hospital nurses. But if now the Association were to step in and state that hospital nurses who had scarcely been in contact with mental patients could learn all that they required to learn in one year, it meant a depreciation of the value of the training in this special branch of nursing.

The other point in connection with this matter was, that the General Council of Nursing would have to consider all the statutory regulations regarding training. If this Association were now to pass the suggested alteration to the effect that one year's mental training for the hospital nurse was sufficient, it was possible that the General Nursing Council might order that the hospital nurse should have two years of training in a special hospital before she could be regarded as being an efficient mental nurse. Therefore they were, to some extent, in the hands of the Nursing Council. Of course the latter would take advice from this Association, but he thought it would be disadvantageous for this meeting to depreciate the value of asylum training. It was hoped that reciprocity would be achieved between the different branches of nursing. For many years past hospital nurses had been relieved of one year of training because of this overlapping, but a similar favour had not yet been granted for mental nurses passing to general hospitals, though he understood that was being contemplated. When the College of Nursing was being established, he put that point to Sir Arthur Stanley, and that gentleman agreed that arrangements should be made to grant a similar concession to mental nurses to that which had been conceded to hospital nurses. But if this Association was going to pass a regulation of the kind set forth in this Report, degrading the value of the period of mental training, it was not at all likely they would be able to get concessions on equal terms.

For those reasons he sincerely trusted—and that because he was interested in hospital nurses in asylums—that this proposed alteration would not be approved, but that the Educational Committee would reconsider this serious departure.

The PRESIDENT said, as a matter of procedure he understood Prof. Robertson's

proposal to be that this Report be referred back. He was not sure, however, that that would not be rather unfortunate. It would place the Educational Committee in rather a difficult position in regard to their new regulations. He understood Prof. Robertson's criticism was directed to only one item in the Report. On looking at the Association's rules, it appeared that the Educational Committee was entrusted with the regulation of the examinations for the Certificates of the Association, and such other matters touching the teaching of psychiatry and the nursing of the insane as are designated to it by the Association or by the Council. It did not say it was entrusted with the carrying out of the regulations. Still, however that might be, if the annual meeting did not approve of the Report of the Educational Committee, it would be difficult for that Committee to go on. He was wondering whether Prof. Robertson would be satisfied to agree with the adoption of the Report, with an express amendment on the point he had criticised.

Prof. ROBERTSON said he preferred to take that course; that the Report as a whole be adopted, with the amendment that instead of the word "one," the word "two" be inserted. He did not put his remarks in the form of a motion, as he did not think that would be in order.

Dr. S. R. MCPHAIL seconded the motion with pleasure. Prof. Robertson's speech was the most interesting one he had ever heard that gentleman make. He would simply be a Saul among the Prophets and second it.

The PRESIDENT said the matter was now before the meeting. They must take this one question now only, afterwards going back to the remainder of the Report. This particular amendment referred to whether nurses who were trained in general hospitals or poor-law infirmaries should be exempted from the first and second examinations.

Lieut.-Col. E. W. WHITE said he wished strongly to support Prof. Robertson on this matter. It was quite true to say that the training of nurses originated in Scotland. It was in the '80's—about 1887—that it was introduced into England, namely, in the City of London Asylum. Dr. Greenlees, a Scotsman who was the speaker's active coadjutor in the matter, and he both favoured the project. They trained a large number of nurses, and for the first three or four years they issued their own nursing certificate from the City of London Asylum. When the Association started issuing certificates, the City of London Asylum cancelled theirs in favour of the Association's. Many nurses passed through that asylum, and then went into general nursing, for which they had to do three years' training. One or two general hospital nurses came to the asylum and obtained the nursing certificate of the Association. He considered it absolutely essential, for the maintenance of the real value of the Association's nursing certificate, that the two years in an asylum should be exacted, as proposed by Prof. Robertson, in place of one year as set out in the Report. The latter would mean a depreciation, a lowering of the standard of the certificate, which required to be kept up to the highest point. He regarded the matter as one of very great importance, and asked his hearers, in coming to a decision, to consider the future, and insist on the certificate being valued as it should be.

Dr. W. F. MENZIES said this Report came from the Educational Committee on the recommendation of a special Sub-Committee. He was not himself a member of that Sub-Committee, and therefore he was able to speak independently. They mentioned that the foundation of their request for an alteration from two years to one year was, that for two years the training was in ordinary nursing subjects, and during the third year there was specialisation in mental subjects. That, of course, constituted a strong argument. The other reason was, in his mind, that to object to one year was not the way to go about it. He could cite six cases he had had in the last year who were willing to come for one year, but were not willing to come for two years. Members of the Association must not confine themselves to their own training, but must consider also midwifery and other accessory departments. For many years he had heard, at intervals, that Prof. Robertson and his coadjutors were the earliest to introduce hospital nursing in asylums; he now expressed the hope, once for all, that Prof. Robertson would not repeat that statement. If that gentleman could only cite 1896, he, the speaker, could tell him that more than four years earlier Dr. Wigglesworth had hospital-trained nurses in the wards of Rainhill; when he, Dr. Menzies, was there in 1891 they were there. Hence it was not Scotland which began this thing, it was

England. His experience of those nurses, from 1890 onwards, was that only the enthusiast came to the asylum, that the nurse qualified by hospital training who wanted to learn the nursing of mental cases was a girl who was interested in her profession, and took good care that in a year she would become efficient in mental nursing, and would understand all the principles of it. The ordinary hospital nurse was so bad that everyone was quite willing to part with her in six months. The good nurse who was interested in her work could be easily trained in one year if she had secured a good hospital certificate beforehand.

Dr. E. S. PASMORE desired to support Prof. Robertson's amendment in favour of two years of mental training for hospital nurses as a condition of securing the Association's nursing certificate. He thought Prof. Robertson struck the key-note when he said the reduction of the two years of mental training to one year would depreciate the value of asylum training. Prof. Robertson's description of the attitude of the hospital nurse in the asylum was true—she did not appreciate the importance of mental disease. All her training for two or three years had been concentrated in the wards, and if one spoke of patients committing suicide, these nurses, in the first few months, showed a tendency to laugh at the idea. He remembered having on the staff of his asylum a lady who had been assistant-matron at a general hospital. She was like a baby in the asylum, and for the first nine months did not seem able to do anything helpful. She appeared to be continually under the impression that anything in an asylum was derogatory, and not up to the standard of hospital nursing. He believed that if the training of hospital nurses in mental work were reduced to one year, the status of mental nurses would be depreciated. They would be even more looked down upon by hospital-trained nurses, and he did not think any larger number of nurses would be attracted to asylum work thereby.

Dr. R. H. COLE said the subject now being discussed was a very important one. Medical officers engaged in dealing with mental disease had been apart from physical disease practitioners so long that they should now try to come together. This was an opportunity to do so by means of the nurses. Everybody would acknowledge that the nurse in the general hospitals would not come to the asylums as the regulations existed at present. They were willing to enter asylum service as "superior persons," *vis.*, as assistant-matrons, but not as nurses, thereby, as Prof. Robertson had said, depreciating the true value of mental nursing. Hospital nurses were being taught about mental disorders, and that people undergoing treatment in hospitals were not to be regarded as persons suffering from physical diseases only, but also as personalities. Lectures were now being given to nurses at general hospitals on mental disorders. He considered that mental nursing was a branch of general nursing and to some extent subsidiary, as also were midwifery and other branches. He thought there ought to be reciprocity; that a woman should be required to train in a mental hospital for only one year if she were a hospital nurse, and that mental nurses should only be required to train in a general hospital two years to be physical nurses. He felt very strongly about this. He was on the Sub-Committee, the members of which thought it desirable to make this change. He was, therefore, against the amendment.

The PRESIDENT said it would be well to have a considerable expression of opinion, if only briefly, from each member, before it was put to the vote, as the matter was an important one.

Dr. M. J. NOLAN said he had had hospital nurses in his hospital since 1894, and therefore he knew something about it. He wished to say a word in favour of one year's training in a mental hospital. He considered that a hospital nurse, who had been well trained in a general hospital and certificated, if she were worth anything, would be able to pick up what was required to make her efficient in mental nursing in one year. He looked upon it as a similar case to that of the man who had a licence in surgery and medicine yet took a midwifery diploma in addition. One would not expect a man to possess a diploma in midwifery before he was qualified in medicine and surgery. Similarly, he thought a hospital nurse who had put in three years of general training should be able, after one year's training in an asylum, to learn ample for the purpose. And this would have the effect of bringing into asylum service a large number of nurses who were anxious to come in order to gain knowledge of mental nursing, but who might not come if the period required were to be made more than one year.

Dr. J. MILLS desired to utter a brief word in favour of the one-year period. He did so because the admitting to the asylum service of nurses who already possessed a knowledge of physiology, anatomy and general nursing would be an advantage generally in the treatment of the patients. He favoured the one-year regulation with the view of improving the general standard of the staffs of asylums, on the principle that "a little leaven leaveneth the whole."

Dr. C. J. SHAW said that for the very reasons given by the last speaker he wished to support Prof. Robertson's amendment. The aim should be to raise the status of the mental nursing profession, and he did not think this would be done by lowering the value of the nursing certificate issued by the Association. Mental nursing was very different from ordinary physical nursing. The very best nurses were needed in asylums, and medical officers wished to do their duty by them and make the certificate granted to them one of real value, a value as near as possible to that of the ordinary certificate for physical nursing. At present there was no such reciprocity existing. If a mental nurse entered a general hospital she had to go through the whole general training, and if general nurses were allowed into asylums for one year and then granted a certificate, he did not think those responsible would be doing their duty by the mental nurse. He had had considerable experience of trained nurses in asylums, and, as far as he had seen, they were not anxious to stay there two years and take the certificate. The regulation as it at present stood was calculated to maintain the high value of the certificate; and asylums should have good mental nurses and the very best of the hospital-trained nurses. If members were going to make the mental nursing certificate too easily obtained, then it would incline ordinary nurses to view the certificate granted by this Association with even more contempt than at present. Many of them came to be assistant-matrons, and he thought the best of the asylum nurses who obtained the Association's certificate went into general hospitals with that view, and the best of nurses from general hospitals entered asylums with the same object. He did not think it was advisable to reduce the value of the Association's certificate by making the period of training in a mental hospital only one year instead of two.

Dr. COLIN McDOWALL said all the speakers, so far, had been superintendents of large institutions, where large numbers of patients had to be treated. He thought that the views of the men who ran the smaller institutions should also be known by the Association. In such a place as his own, where there were only eighty patients, forty of them female, and perhaps 70 *per cent.* of them suffering from chronic mental disorders, it would be seen to be impossible to think of training women efficiently in mental nursing in the course of one year. Indeed it could not fully be done in two years; he doubted if it were possible in three years. He therefore felt that the amendment now before the meeting should be supported, making the training, at the very least, two years for general nursing in asylums.

Lieut.-Col. J. KEAY said that though he moved the adoption of the Report of the Educational Committee he hoped it would not be out of order for him to support Prof. Robertson. He thought the Association would be making a mistake in doing anything to lessen the standard of its certificate in mental nursing. He thought a reduction of the time required in a mental hospital for a trained hospital nurse would have that tendency. During the last five and a-half years he had had considerable experience of trained nurses. He had at the present time, in the hospital of which he had charge, a large number of trained nurses and sisters, as well as some mental nurses. He had formed the opinion, after carefully thinking out the subject, that a good mental nurse was better than any hospital nurse. He believed that the best nurses in his hospital, whether for mental or any other cases, were mental nurses. He considered that the mental nurse who had had the Association's training should be able to go into a general hospital and obtain the certificate for general nursing as easily as the trained hospital nurse could enter an asylum and obtain this Association's certificate. He placed them, in his mind, on an absolute equality. If that were done generally he thought they would be on the right lines. He would not do anything to assist general hospital nurses obtaining the Association's certificate at a cheaper rate, or give facilities which the mental nurse did not enjoy when she sought the general nursing certificate.

The PRESIDENT said he would now put the amendment to the meeting, and he hoped that in arriving at a decision one aspect of the subject would be ignored,

namely, the immediate welfare of the institutions. He did not think that was germane to the subject. Because it might be convenient to get hospital nurses into asylums on easy terms, he hoped that would not be allowed to influence members' decisions. He thought all members saw that the real thing was the dignity of the mental nurse, and what was going to be best for mental nurses; not what was best for institutions. It would be seen that those two were not the same thing. Members were acting as the trustees of mental nursing.

Twenty voted in favour of the amendment, ten against.

~~The PRESIDENT said that, the amendment having been carried, the proper course was to put to the meeting for adoption the Report of the Educational Committee as amended.~~

Prof. G. ROBERTSON said it gave him great pleasure to move the adoption of the Report of the Educational Committee as amended, and to include in it a resolution of thanks to the Committee for their labours in the matter.

Dr. E. S. PASMORE seconded.

The PRESIDENT said this proposition having been duly moved and seconded, it gave members an opportunity of raising any other matter in the Report if they desired to do so.

The amended Report was agreed to.

SUGGESTED INCREASE OF SUBSCRIPTION.

Dr. J. CHAMBERS proposed that the annual subscription be, in future, one-and-a-half guineas. He explained that the increase in the expenditure was due mainly to the cost of producing the Journal. Hitherto, since the commencement of the war, the Association had been able to carry on owing to the Editors having reduced the size of the Journal. But that procedure had its limitations, and it would prove detrimental to the interests of the Association if its Journal could not now be restored to something like its former standard of excellence. He felt it was a real necessity that the subscription should be increased in order that the work of the Association should be carried on properly.

Dr. J. MILLS seconded, and the resolution was carried.

TRAVELLING EXPENSES OF THE HANDBOOK COMMITTEE.

Dr. J. CHAMBERS, at the request of the President, proposed that the travelling expenses of the members of the Handbook Committee be paid. He said that this matter had received a great deal of consideration, and he hoped that the Association would adopt this course.

Lieut.-Col. E. W. WHITE asked whether a profit would be made out of the sale of the handbook.

The PRESIDENT replied in the affirmative.

Dr. J. CHAMBERS said the sales of the handbook had increased very much, and last year the receipts therefrom were £60 15s. 8d.

Lieut.-Col. E. W. WHITE said he had much pleasure in seconding the proposition. The PRESIDENT said he was a member of the Handbook Committee, and he did not propose that the expenses other than travelling expenses of the Committee should be paid. The Committee did not hold a large number of meetings, but when they had occurred, members had travelled to them from Ireland and the North of Scotland, as well as from London, Manchester, Liverpool, etc., and, nowadays, travelling was a very expensive matter. And, seeing that this book formed a source of income for the Association, it was regarded as not unreasonable that the actual travelling expenses should be defrayed by the Association. That was the reason the matter had been brought forward.

Dr. J. MILLS, in supporting the motion, said he thought the members of the Committee should receive a guinea a night when absent from home.

Dr. J. CHAMBERS said he could not accept that addition to his proposal.

Dr. J. MILLS said that in that case he would not press it.

Dr. J. B. SPENCE thought members as a whole were about to commit themselves to something they knew nothing about; they had no idea what the expenses would be. The next proposition on the agenda was that the coadjutors of the oral nursing examination should be paid. If that were adopted, it would constitute a heavy claim on the nursing certificate profits.

Lieut.-Col. E. W. WHITE said it must be remembered that the Handbook Committee was only a temporary one, which would cease to exist when the handbook had been completed.

The PRESIDENT said that there was not, as yet, any amendment before the meeting, but it was open for further discussion. He thought it would be open for the resolution to read "Third-class travelling expenses." He did not think any member of the Committee was asking for first-class travelling expenses.

Dr. J. CHAMBERS included that in his proposition.

Lieut.-Col. E. W. WHITE seconded the addition.

Dr. W. F. MENZIES desired, as a member of the Committee, to explain that there were certain members in Ireland and the North of Scotland who could not afford to come to London for the meetings, and it came to be a question of either paying the travelling expenses of such members or their being absent from the meetings. In the latter event the Association suffered, because it was without the experience and advice of those members. The greater part of the expenses were hotel bills, and that the members did not expect or ask to have back.

The resolution was carried.

PAYMENT OF COADJUTORS OF THE ORAL NURSING EXAMINATION.

Dr. A. W. DANIEL moved that the coadjutors of the Oral Nursing Examination be paid one guinea for 30 candidates, or under 30; and over 30, two guineas; to include all three examinations; and that the examiners appointed to examine the three papers for the nursing certificates should receive £40 per annum in each case.

Lieut.-Col. J. R. LORD seconded.

The PRESIDENT said this was a new method of paying the examiners. Examiners for the written examination sometimes received a considerably higher fee—when there were many candidates the fees amounted to as much as £70. It was now suggested that the examiners of the written paper should receive a £40 fixed fee per annum. From the money so saved it would be possible to pay the coadjutors something to meet their travelling expenses. It was understood that the candidates for the two examinations, the first and the final, should be taken at the same time; there were no coadjutors needed for the second examination.

Dr. S. R. MCPHAIL said he did not quite understand the position in this matter. Was it the idea that the Association should pay the coadjutors because it provided them? In the past, each superintendent chose his own coadjutor, because, apparently, the President had never declined the nomination of the examining superintendent.

The PRESIDENT replied that there was no alteration in the method of appointing coadjutors. All appointments were subject to the approval of the President.

Dr. S. R. MCPHAIL thought he had in his time examined as coadjutor at fifteen different institutions, and in all except two his out-of-pocket expenses were paid by the particular asylum. Was it not the usual practice for the asylums to pay the coadjutors? He thought it was right and proper for the institution to pay these expenses. He had never asked a man to help him examine without refunding him his out-of-pocket expenses.

Lieut.-Col. E. W. WHITE said he could support what Dr. McPhail said. For many years he had examined at Southern County Asylums—Darent and neighbouring asylums—and in every instance his travelling expenses had been paid by the committee of the institution. He thought the practice still continued.

Dr. E. S. PASMORE said he did not think, in view of the increase in remuneration of nurses, that asylum committees would agree in future to pay as they did before.

Dr. J. MIDDLEMASS opposed the resolution. It was not the Association which benefited by the examination, but the nurse and the institution to which she belonged. He regarded the proposal as reasonable. He did not think any committee would decline to pay the expenses of a coadjutor if it were put to them. At his institution there was a St. John Ambulance examination, and they were willing to pay four guineas expenses, and he thought the reason inducing the institution to do it in that case would apply in this.

Dr. F. R. P. TAYLOR asked whether it was not true that the Educational Committee, when they met yesterday and fixed the fees for the nursing examination,

took into account the likelihood that they would have to provide this money for the coadjutors. Therefore if the present proposition were negatived he took it that the question of fees would have to come up for a further discussion.

Dr. D. BOWER thought the motion should be divided into two parts: the remarks just heard were not a mere negative. One portion related to the examiner for the written examination, the other to coadjutors for the oral.

The PRESIDENT said that even if travelling expenses were paid it did not say it was for travelling expenses: it was really an honorarium of a guinea. The coadjutor could have his travelling expenses as well. The amount offered for examining thirty was almost an insult. (Hear, hear.)

The motion was approved.

The PRESIDENT said he presumed the payment should begin at the next examination.

MOTION INVOLVING THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS.

The PRESIDENT said he had to bring up another matter, which was somewhat new in character, a motion involving the expenditure of funds. As Chairman of the Handbook Committee he had had to move in the matter without the authority of the Association as a whole. It was provided that no motion involving the expenditure of funds exceeding £25 could be approved or arrived at except at an annual meeting. He had received no authority from the previous annual meeting to offer an eminent writer a fee of 25 guineas for writing a special chapter for the handbook on "The Mind in Health." The Handbook Committee thought it advisable to get a psychologist to write this article, who probably had now written the article. He, the speaker, now asked this meeting to sanction the fee, and he asked a member to propose that the fee be paid, if the article should prove to be acceptable.

Dr. F. R. P. TAYLOR said he had pleasure in moving accordingly.

Dr. J. MILLS seconded.

The motion was duly approved.

The meeting then had a desultory discussion on the next Maudsley Lecture, which will be definitely brought up for consideration at the next meeting of the Association.

DATES OF THE QUARTERLY AND DIVISIONAL MEETINGS.

The following dates for the Quarterly Meetings were agreed upon: Thursday, November 25th, 1920; Thursday, February 25th, 1921; Thursday, May 26th, 1921.

The Divisional Meetings were proposed as follows:

South-Eastern Division.—October 14th, 1920, at Three Counties Asylum, Arlesey, Beds.

Northern and Midland Division.—October 21st, 1920, at the Coppice, Nottingham; April 21st, 1921, at Gateshead Mental Hospital, Stannington.

South-Western Division.—October 29th, 1920; April 24th, 1921.

Scottish Division.—November 19th, 1920; March 18th, 1921.

Irish Division.—November 4th, 1920, at Royal College of Physicians, Dublin; April 7th, 1921; July 7th, 1921.

ELECTION OF CANDIDATES AS ORDINARY MEMBERS.

The following lady and gentlemen were elected as Ordinary Members:

WANKLYN, WILLIAM McCONNELL, B.A. Cantab., M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond., D.P.H., Principal Assistant in the Public Health Department of the London County Council, Public Health Department, 2, Savoy Hill, W.C. 2.

Proposed by Drs. C. H. Bond, P. T. Hughes, and M. A. Collins.

DUNCAN, JESSIE GALLOWAY, M.B., Ch.B. Glasg., D.P.H. Camb., Assistant M.O.H., L.C.C., Visiting M.O., South Side Home, Streatham; 33, Heybridge Avenue, Streatham, London, S.W. 16.

Proposed by Drs. G. E. Shuttleworth, G. Warwick Smith, and R. Worth. HARPER, R. SYDNEY, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond., F.R.M.S., Capt. R.A.M.C., Approved Neurologist, Ministry of Pensions, Neurologist in Charge Psycho-Therapeutic Clinic, Ministry of Pensions, Brighton; 4, Adelaide Crescent, Hove, Sussex.

Proposed by Drs. H. E. Haynes, R. Whittington, and R. Worth.

ROSCROW, CECIL BEAUMONT, L.R.C.P.&I.Edin., Medical Superintendent, City Mental Hospital, Winson Green, Birmingham.

Proposed by Drs. J. B. Spence, A. Miller, and Wm. Reid.

SUTCLIFFE, JOHN, M.R.C.S.Eng., L.R.C.P.Edin., Medical Superintendent, Cheadle Royal, Cheadle, Cheshire.

Proposed by Drs. Scowcroft, Dove Cormac, and G. G. Parkin.

CLARK, R. M., M.B.&C.M.Edin., Medical Superintendent, Whittingham Asylum, Lancashire.

Proposed by Drs. R. M. Stewart, B. H. Shaw, and W. Starkey.

HENDERSON, CYRIL JOHN, M.B.Durh., A.M.O., The Royal Albert Institution for the Feeble-minded, Lancaster.

Proposed by Drs. W. H. Coupland, D. M. Cassidy, and David Blair.

LOYD-DODD, E. H. H., L.R.C.P.&S.I., L.M., Second A.M.O., Leavesden Mental Hospital, Woodside, Leavesden, Watford, Herts.

Proposed by Drs. F. A. Elkins, T. W. Hills, and R. Worth.

KERR, FELIX ARTHUR, M.B., Ch.B.Glasg., A.M.O., Rubery Hill Mental Hospital, Birmingham.

Proposed by Drs. T. C. Graves, C. B. Forsyth, and A. Miller.

WILSON, JAMES LEITCH, M.B., Ch.B.Edin., A.M.O., Brooke House, Clapton, E. 5.

Proposed by Drs. G. H. Johnston, R. H. Cole, and R. Worth.

JACKSON, JOHN LUKE, M.B., Ch.B.Belfast, Senior A.M.O. and Deputy Superintendent, Hants County Asylum, Knowle, Fareham.

Proposed by Drs. H. Devine, F. E. Stokes, and R. Worth.

PAPER.

"The Minimal Requirements for a Small Clinical Laboratory." By W. G. THOMSON, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. Aber., Assistant Medical Officer, County Mental Hospital, Cheddleton, Leek.

I have been asked to outline the apparatus necessary for the setting up of a small laboratory in an asylum and to give the probable cost. I hope those of you who already have a laboratory in full working order will bear with me while I try to show others that the fitting up of a small laboratory where useful clinical and pathological work could be done need not be an elaborate or costly affair.

The late Sir Robert Morant once said—he was talking of general hospitals, but his words apply equally to asylums—that the day of the two hours to a round had gone and the day of two hours to a bed had come. If there be any truth in his words, there is no doubt that laboratory work must have a share in these two hours. How big a share it is to have I do not try to estimate, nor am I concerned with other questions that have been discussed—for example, whether one ought to have centralised laboratories or not. Asylums are usually self-contained units in most things. Why should they not be self-contained in this respect—that each should have its own laboratory?

The great thing is to get a start—a small laboratory will lead to a larger and more fully equipped one, where we may have at least one man working on his own local problems, and possibly trained men working on the bigger general problems. Much material is undoubtedly going to waste in asylums, and the setting up of a laboratory is an economic question. It would help indirectly to keep down the rates. To take a concrete example, we had here, some years ago, a small epidemic of typhoid which involved about forty cases. From the nature of the outbreak and its course we came to the conclusion it was due to a carrier. We had to rely almost entirely on outside help for the detection of the carrier. This help was most costly, and, in the aggregate, cost us more than the setting up of a laboratory would have done. There is also the question of dysentery, which is endemic in a large number of asylums. This disease, in our experience at least, causes more chronic ill-health amongst the patients than almost any other. This means the loss of many working days—days which might be saved if we were able readily to detect carriers. But much patient work will do this, and it can be done, I feel sure, even in a small laboratory.

At this asylum (Cheddleton) we made a modest beginning with laboratory work.

We found an unused room. It was a dull room, so we had it painted white to give us more light. We had a bench made, bought an incubator, centrifuge, and some glassware, and as we already had a microscope we were almost ready to start. The bench we covered with plate glass. This glass had been in the institution for some years. I do not recommend those of you who are thinking of setting up a laboratory to cover your benches with glass. It is an unnecessary expense. A more economical way is to impregnate plain white wood with a solution of copper sulphate and potassium permanganate. This gives a smooth black surface after it has been polished with linseed oil. It is not corroded by ordinary acids.

A reliable microscope would cost at the present time £30 to £40. One must have an oil-immersion lens, and it is the most expensive item. Our bench cost us little. We had it fitted up by our own workmen and patients, who also fixed up for us a sink and shelves. The fitting up of the shelves, sink and bench cost us about £5.

We managed to obtain two cupboards, a couple of tables and a chest of drawers. These we found unused in a store-room, and there are in most institutions similar articles to be found. I cannot estimate the cost of these things. All our glassware, other than bottles which we found in the dispensary, we bought from a firm which deals in laboratory outfits. Much expense can be avoided by using for many purposes ordinary dispensary bottles, especially those with glass stoppers. This glassware, by which I mean flasks, test-tubes, beakers, Petri dishes, funnels, watch-glasses, rods, etc., did not cost us more than £20. We had one bad bargain. Our microscope slides we had to buy at a time when the Government would allow them to be sold only in large quantities, with the result that we have enough to last us for years. This difficulty should not occur again. Our incubator cost us £21 and our centrifuge £7. Both are electrically driven—in fact all our apparatus which require power or heat are worked by electricity. Although this is possibly not the best way, it works very well. We had a few initial difficulties with the wiring. I am led to believe that incubators controlled by gas or paraffin are cheaper, and that a water-driven centrifuge is more steady. We did not invest in a steam steriliser, but we manage to work with a hot-air steriliser and a double-bottomed rice-cooker, with the occasional use of the milk-pan steriliser in the main kitchen. Our hot-air steriliser cost us £16, and a reliable balance, which is essential, cost us £3 10s. These were the heaviest items of expenditure on the bacteriological side.

Our stocks of media and stains we have gradually acquired. We spread the whole cost over some months and the drain has not been heavy. We spent about £7 10s. in buying peptone, agar, sugars, and some of the commoner stains and chemicals. Our cultures we obtained from the Lister Institute at a nominal cost. In addition we have isolated from our own cases strains of typhoid, dysentery and other organisms.

At an outside estimate all the things I have mentioned from the start cost us £80, if we exclude our bad bargain in the slides and the microscope.

On the histological side we bought a microtome and a paraffin bath. The bath, which is worked electrically, cost us £9, and the microtome £7 15s. On the clinical side we have simply added a few instruments to those already in use. A hæmocytometer, hæmoglobinometer, ureometer, and albuminometer can be bought for £5.

It is not very interesting to listen to the reading of a catalogue of apparatus and its cost. I have had prepared a fairly complete list of things necessary for fitting out a laboratory, and if anyone would like a copy I have one here. Our laboratory as it is at the present time cost us £115. I think now if we had to do the whole thing over again that we could save on this amount.

We are now dealing with all the ordinary routine work, by which I mean the examination of sputum, blood, fæces, spinal fluid, stomach contents, throat swabs, urine, etc. We have eliminated typhoid, and are working on our own dysentery problem and on acidosis. We also cut and stain our own sections from *post-mortems*. Much of the burden of routine work has been taken off our shoulders by our laboratory attendant, whom we trained ourselves. He is also our *post-mortem* room man.

It is an additional interest in our work that we are now able to follow up our cases in the laboratory and to see the methods by which full diagnoses are reached.

We have an incentive to keep ourselves abreast, at least in regard to what I might call the purely physical side of our cases.

I know that the difficulty in the way of many asylums has, in the past, been, not the provision of the necessary apparatus, but the lack of medical officers who have the training to take up even simple bacteriological work; but after all this need not be a difficulty. Study-leave is now given in order that a man may take a course in psychiatry. Why should leave not be given so that a man may take a short course, say of three months, in practical bacteriological and pathological methods? Medical superintendents, however, ought not to expect too much from men who are not fully trained. We do not want to divorce the purely clinical side from the other sides of medicine, at any rate in the earlier stages of investigation, if at all.

I have read in the Journal—I think in the report of the annual meeting of 1914—that many asylums were then without a laboratory. I do not know how conditions have altered since that time, but the war has shown us the necessity of having a complete medical organisation in each unit, and that organisation is not complete without a bacteriological laboratory.

The PRESIDENT, in calling for a discussion, said the paper was very much to the point, brief, and yet full of information of great value.

Dr. PASMORE desired to compliment Dr. Thomson on a very able paper, and on the lucid and terse manner in which it was put together. He was sure those medical superintendents who had not a fully equipped laboratory in their establishment would be guided to some extent by the estimate of cost which Dr. Thomson had here laid down. He quite agreed with the author that the clinical work ought not to be divorced from the laboratory. If one started a laboratory in a mental hospital, the tendency was often to have a separate pathologist, not altogether a good thing, because such an official did not come into contact with the actual clinical work, and hence was not able to view the work from the two sides.

Dr. A. HELEN BOYLE said she had been much interested in Dr. Thomson's paper from the personal point of view. She had been wanting to get a little place in connection with Lady Chichester Hospital, and she would be glad to see Dr. Thomson's list afterwards, to note exactly what he regarded as the requirements. She was amazed at £115 being sufficient, and the author appeared to think it might be done even for less than that. At the present enormous cost of everything, even of a table, she would have thought it would have been much more. But, probably Dr. Thomson had had more assistance at hand than she would at her hospital. A small laboratory on the spot was an enormous help in any form of clinical work. (Dr. Thomson: The £115 does not include the microscope, which is a great additional expense.)

Dr. TOM A. WILLIAMS (Washington, D.C.) remarked that considerable experience in the differentiation of the work of the laboratory and that of the wards had existed in America, where the policy had been one of centralisation, and the co-ordination of many activities in many asylums into one institution in the same State—a teaching place—generally administered by someone who was a professor in one of the Colleges. This professor had under his control a central laboratory, in which nearly all the work of that State was carried out. In a laboratory of that sort were employed many assistants, some of them highly specialised, and some others who were desirous of specialising in laboratory work, others in clinical work. It was really advanced research, and had been responsible for a definite increase in knowledge in the specialty. The drawback had been that there was a strong tendency towards specialisation, so that the clinical men in the asylums were liable to neglect the operations in the laboratory, and thus fail to realise the importance of that side of the work. This tendency had been largely overcome in the following way: these men were all, in turn, sent for three months to the central institute for special training in laboratory work, methods and aims, from which they returned to their own institutions, so that they might leaven the rest of the staff there with the knowledge acquired. Further, from the central institution were sent, periodically, men specially expert in different spheres of inquiry, either to instruct those in the remote institutions, or to study some special problem, such, for instance, as an outbreak of asylum dysentery. In the course of the study of that special problem they enlisted the sympathy and services of the

staff, and in that way they proved themselves to be very valuable educationally. In the State of Massachusetts, where that was most advanced, and in the State of New York, where it was now nearly as advanced, as well as in the State of Pennsylvania, it had led to the establishment of such laboratories as Dr. Thomson referred to in his paper in every institution, in which the immediate, urgent and necessary routine work was done by members of the asylum staff. It had led, further, to the co-ordination of the activities of the central institution in work which demanded specialised knowledge and training for its solution. Hence in most of these smaller laboratories there was no microtome, no provision for histological investigation, but the material for such was sent to the central institute, where it was worked up. The asylum laboratory became mainly bacteriological and serological, because problems of that kind must be solved on the spot by the clinical men who were interested. In that way smaller laboratories could be established, even for less money than Dr. Thomson's estimate, for the necessary routine work of a mental hospital.

Dr. J. MIDDLEMASS wished, in a word or two, to express his appreciation of Dr. Thomson's paper. All would agree there were many cases, apart from epidemics, which required bacteriological examination in an asylum. Pathological examinations on the spot were of the greatest benefit, as he knew from his own experience—for instance, in examinations of the cortex of the brain. Such an examination had, in many instances, cleared up a doubtful case. Every asylum should possess facilities for a study of that kind: it was very simple, and did not need more than a couple of days for determining whether a case was one of general paralysis. Every asylum would be the better for having some such laboratory as Dr. Thomson had outlined in his paper.

LUNCHEON.

Members were then kindly entertained to luncheon by Dr. and Mrs. Menzies, whose generous and genial hospitality was acknowledged before rising from the table by a few graceful words from the President.

AFTERNOON SESSION.—JULY 27TH.

THANKS TO THE RETIRING PRESIDENT AND OFFICERS.

Lieut.-Col. E. W. WHITE said a very pleasant duty had been assigned to him, one which he felt he was unable to carry out in fitting and adequate terms. It was that of proposing a very hearty vote of thanks to the President and other officers of the Association for the way in which they had discharged their several duties during the past year. The President, Dr. Bedford Pierce, whom they all admired, and whose career they had watched for years past, until he attained his present position, for which he had always been felt to be well fitted, had filled the post in a most thoroughly conscientious and able way, and to the entire satisfaction of the members. He had thereby added, if possible, lustre to the Association, with which he had been closely connected for many years, from the days of Hack Tuke onwards. He had filled the posts of chairman of various Committees, and had done a great deal of detail work for the Association.

With regard to the other gentlemen covered by this resolution, the Association was blessed with very good officers, who denied themselves in every way in order to discharge faithfully the duties of their offices. Sometimes the work had been done under great difficulties, because we were only as yet just emerging from the effects of the great war. Still, the duties had been carried out in a way which must have given those officers a great deal of satisfaction when they reflected upon it.

Dr. BEVERIDGE SPENCE, in seconding the motion, said that after the appreciative and eloquent speech of Col. White it was not necessary for him to add much. Still, he would like to say that he had been struck that morning, as all through the year too, with the eminently business-like way in which the President transacted the Association's business; he always interpreted difficult points clearly, and lucidly expressed the salient features for the benefit of the meeting. As to his old friends, Dr. Miller and Dr. Chambers, and the others who occupied subordinate positions, they had continued their activities to the full satisfaction of the Association generally, and members were sure they were deeply occupied in promoting

the good of the Association in every way. He seconded the motion with much pleasure.

The resolution was carried by acclamation.

The PRESIDENT (Dr. BEDFORD PIERCE) said he would be lacking in feeling if he did not greatly appreciate the kind words which had been uttered by the proposer and seconder concerning the way in which he had discharged his duties as President. The work had been very easy to him, things had gone smoothly, and he thought the Association had during the past year re-established itself after the trying time of the war. He realised that the chief reason of that was the devotion of the officials of the Association; they had been loyally behind him all through in all he had done, so that very much of what had been said of him really applied to them. He did not think he need say more than that when he took up this office he relied upon the support of the Association. That support he had had, and in yielding up the office he thanked members for the very kind way in which he had been helped throughout in the duties he had tried to discharge.

His next—and his last—duty as President was to ask Dr. Menzies to come forward and occupy the chair as President for the ensuing year. He did not think Dr. Menzies would like him to say very much in introducing him; indeed, if he were to do justice to the occasion he would be taking up time which would be more profitably spent in listening to the new President's address. There could be no doubt that Dr. Menzies was a man whom the Association would be delighted to honour. He was worthy of the post; his learning, his experience and his culture fitted him for it; and all very sincerely welcomed him in taking up his new duties as President.

Dr. W. F. MENZIES was invested with the Presidential insignia by the retiring President, and took the Chair.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

The PRESIDENT then delivered his address on "The Mechanism of Involutionary Melancholia" (see p. 355), following which the meeting adjourned till the following morning at the Town Hall, Buxton.

GARDEN PARTY.

On the same afternoon the President and Mrs. Menzies entertained the members, ladies and guests to a garden party held at the Hospital. There was quite a large company, including members of the North Staffordshire branch of the British Medical Association and of the Hospital Committee, and residents in the neighbourhood. The gathering was a happy one, the weather being beautifully fine and the grounds were greatly admired. A central feature of the proceedings was the programme of music played both before and after tea by the remarkably efficient hospital orchestra. Dr. Menzies conducted the orchestra, of which he has good reason to be justly proud.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28TH.

The morning and afternoon sessions were held at the Town Hall, Buxton, Dr. W. F. Menzies in the chair. At the morning session an address was given by Dr. TOM WILLIAMS (of Washington, D.C., U.S.A.) on "A Discussion of some Determinants of Morbid Emotionalism," and a discussion on "Psycho-analytical Teachings as Illustrated in the Psychoses" was opened by Dr. W. H. B. STODDART, whose paper was entitled "A Brief *Résumé* of Freud's Psychology." Following this, Dr. C. STANFORD READ read a paper on "Homosexuality," Dr. W. REES THOMAS on "Sadism and Masochism," and Prof. W. BROWN on "Criticism of Present-day Psycho-analysis." In the absence of the author, Dr. BEDFORD PIERCE read Dr. H. G. BAYNES' paper on "Psycho-analysis."

After luncheon the subject was freely discussed, members expressing their views without reservation and not infrequently in a singularly candid manner. Prior to calling upon the various openers for their replies, the President read an interesting letter on Freud's psychology which had been addressed to the Association by Prof. Friedländer, of Freiburg-i.-Baden, Germany. Owing to the temporary limitations of the size of the Journal it is necessary to hold over these contributions, together with a report of the discussion, until the January number.

RECEPTION IN THE TOWN GARDENS, BUXTON.

The Mayor and Corporation of Buxton and the Buxton and High Peak Medical Society entertained members, ladies and guests of the Association in the Town Gardens to tea at 5.30 p.m. on July 28th. Subsequently members had an opportunity of visiting the Town Baths and Devonshire Hospital, where the modern installation for electro-therapeutic treatment was much admired.

ANNUAL DINNER.

The Annual Dinner of the Association was held at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, July 28th, at the Palace Hotel, Buxton. The function was well attended, the usual "toasts" honoured and a happy evening spent. Ladies were included among the guests and it is hoped that their presence may be an annual event in future.

Owing to inclement weather the excursions arranged for the two following days had to be abandoned.

IRISH DIVISION.

THE SUMMER MEETING of the Irish Division was held on Thursday, June 24th, 1920, at Purdysburn Villa Colony, Belfast, by the kind invitation of Dr. Graham.

Members present: Dr. Graham (in the Chair), Dr. Nolan, Dr. J. O'C. Donelan, Dr. Mills, Dr. Lawless, Dr. Patrick, Dr. Leeper (Hon. Secretary).

Letters of apology for unavoidable absence were received from Dr. Colles, K.C., Dr. Gavin, of Mullingar, Dr. Martin, of Letterkenny, Lt.-Col. W. R. Dawson and Dr. O'Doherty, Omagh.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed.

A great deal of correspondence in connection with the General Nursing Council for Ireland was read, and it was proposed by Dr. Mills, seconded by Dr. Patrick and unanimously approved:

"That Dr. Nolan and Dr. J. O'C. Donelan be nominated by the Division as representatives of the Irish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association on the Sub-Committee of the General Nursing Council for Ireland."

A ballot for the election of an ordinary member was next proceeded with, Dr. Patrick and Dr. Mills being appointed scrutineers. The Chairman subsequently declared that Dr. J. P. Boland, Assistant Medical Officer of Ballinasloe Asylum, was elected a member of the Association.

The meeting next proceeded to consider important matters in connection with the Nurses' Registration Bill, and a letter was read from the Chief Secretary in reply to the communication addressed to him by direction of the Autumn Meeting of the Medico-Psychological Association. The following is the text of the letter:

CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
DUBLIN CASTLE;

June 12th, 1920.

Sir,—Referring to your letter of April 21st last on the subject of the Constitution of the General Nursing Council for Ireland, I am directed by the Lord Justices to acquaint you, for the information of the Irish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain and Ireland, that the question of appointing a representative of the Asylum Medical Service or the mental nurses in Ireland will be considered in the event of a vacancy arising on the Nursing Council, or when the Council is being reappointed at the end of three years, if no vacancy occurs in the meantime.

I am to add that, as you are no doubt already aware, two representatives of the Irish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association have been invited to act on a special Sub-Committee of the General Nursing Council appointed to draft rules for the admission of mental nurses to the Register.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,
C. M. MARTIN-JONES.

THE HON. SECRETARY,
IRISH DIVISION,

MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF
GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND,
JAMES'S STREET, DUBLIN.