

Conference with the L.C.C. Asylum Board.—After some correspondence, it was arranged that a conference should be held at Spring Gardens, on Monday, November 25th, when Lady St. Heliers presided, and this Association was represented by the Chairman (Dr. Rayner), Dr. Percy Smith, Mrs. Marriott Cooke, and the Assistant Secretary. Mr. H. F. Keene, Clerk to the L.C.C. Asylum Committee, explained that the Trustees of the Queen Adelaide Fund wished to approach the Mental After-Care Association with a view to its co-operation with them to ensure a more useful distribution of that fund. It was suggested that in future this Association should be asked to visit all cases discharged from the L.C.C. Asylums, where there existed any doubt as to the advisability of a grant or as to its amount. It was felt that the wide experience of this voluntary Society would be useful in visiting and reporting on the home conditions of such cases, and although this will, it is hoped, eventually mean a largely increased scope of work, the Council at their next meeting unanimously agreed to adopt the suggestion.

It is hoped that this scheme will be in working order early in 1916.

Vice-Presidents.—During the year the Association lost a valued friend and supporter by the death of Mr. H. D. Greene, K.C., but the Council is glad to state that Mrs. H. D. Greene has kindly taken an interest in the work and promised to become an annual subscriber. Canon Gildea, D.D., a Vice-President, has also passed away.

Council.—The Council received with much regret the news of the death of Sir James Moody, for a very long time one of their number, who had taken much interest in the work from its earliest years. Miss M. G. Wilde, Poor Law Guardian (Kensington), has kindly consented to fill one of the vacancies.

A list of a large number of institutions from which cases have received assistance from the Association is appended, and the Report concludes with acknowledgments to various bodies for their support, including the Corporation of London and a number of the City Companies, several Boards of Guardians, mostly in the neighbourhood of the Metropolis, with a few more distantly located, and the Guild of Help; also some asylums where collections are regularly made on behalf of the Association, and a few parishes in which contributions from the offertory funds have been allocated to the same good object.

The Association serves a quite unique and beneficent purpose, which no other charitable organisation fulfils, and deserves wider and more general recognition from all those who have the welfare of the mentally afflicted at heart. Its President is the Earl of Meath, Dr. Henry Rayner its Chairman, with Miss Vickers as Secretary.

OBITUARY.

DR. C. S. MORRISON.

THE death of our late colleague while he had scarcely passed the prime of life occasioned the sincerest regret on the part of his medical brethren and of those of the public who had the privilege of knowing him. The following tributes to his worth on the part of friends who knew him well have already appeared in the local press, and we feel we cannot do better than reproduce them here:

"With great regret we record the death of Dr. Cuthbert Stanislaus Morrison, Medical Superintendent of the Hereford County and City Asylum, who, after an illness extending over several months, passed away on December 17th, 1915, at Clifton, Bristol, whither he had gone for the benefit of his health. Fifty-five years of age, he leaves a widow but no family, and for Mrs. Morrison in her bereavement the greatest sympathy will be evoked.

"The late Dr. Morrison was compelled to relinquish his duties at the asylum in July last owing to a complete breakdown in his physical condition, brought on by extra strain caused by additional work thrown upon him by the call for doctors for the war, coupled with a large transference of patients from Cardiff, also necessitated by the war, on account of the accommodation there being required for wounded soldiers. This influx occurred in May, and brought the total number of patients at Burghill Asylum up to nearly 600, of which some 70 were from South Wales. The reception of these patients and the work entailed in becoming acquainted with the nature of the individual cases naturally imposed much additional responsibility on the Superintendent, whose health had already become

indifferent. As a matter of fact, but for these pressing duties, Dr. Morrison would have taken leave at an earlier date, which would probably have had the effect of prolonging his life. The Committee of Visitors, who manage the asylum, recognised his need for recuperation, and were quite ready to grant him extended leave for the purpose, but the doctor's high sense of devotion to duty would not permit of his doing other than remaining at his post under the special circumstances. Dr. Morrison was regarded by the Visitors as an extremely capable superintendent, with not only a highly scientific, but also a practical, turn of mind, which showed itself in various ways, much to the advantage of the economical working of the institution, and, more satisfactory still, the benefit derived by the patients. That his loss at the age of fifty-five will be very much deplored by the Asylum Visitors need hardly be said, and those of the patients who are in a condition to appreciate kindly and efficient treatment will likewise realise that they have lost a good friend. One is supported in this by the fact that cases have been by no means infrequent in which discharged patients have taken the trouble to write to the late Superintendent acknowledging with gratitude the benefit they have received while temporary inmates of the institution over which he presided with distinguished success.

"By the members of the medical profession in the city and county his great capabilities as a mental specialist were recognised and highly appreciated, and though he was not a man who sought to make many friendships—the nature and extent of his duties hardly permitted of this—yet those he did make were deep and lasting; and those who were closely acquainted with him held his forceful character in the highest esteem.

"Dr. Morrison received his medical training at Edinburgh University, where he qualified in 1888, and where he was late demonstrator in anatomy. He was appointed assistant medical officer at Hereford County and City Asylum, before securing a similar post at the Derby County Asylum; in later years he was destined to return to his first love. This was some twenty-four years ago, when he took the place of Dr. Morris as senior assistant under Dr. Chapman. About four years later Dr. Chapman resigned; Dr. Morrison was selected from among a large number of highly qualified applicants as his successor, and thus held the post of Superintendent for about twenty years. He was shortly due to retire on a full pension. He wrote voluminously and with much force and enlightenment on mental diseases. 'The Inference of Local Degeneracy by Comparison with the Vital Statistics of its People,' which appeared in the *Journal of Mental Science* in 1907, attracted much attention. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine, he was also a member of the Medico-Psychological Association, in whose affairs he took a keen interest. In 1911 Dr. Morrison became Vice-president of the section for Neurology and Psychological Medicine of the British Medical Association. Of the Hereford and Worcester Branch of this body he was also an ex-President, and for many years acted as Hon. Secretary. On one or two occasions he came into the public eye. Once it was in connection with the Aymestrey murder trial, when the prisoner Haywood was sentenced to death for killing his wife. Dr. Morrison gave evidence for the defence as regards the prisoner's mental condition. A man must have been insane to commit such a diabolical crime as was laid to his charge, the doctor urged; but the jury found other circumstances to outweigh his evidence. The doctor held strong views on the relation of alcohol to mental disorders, and emphatically protested against the practice of some parents in the rural districts of giving cider to their children as part of their midday meal. Dr. Morrison was an adherent of the Roman Catholic faith. He was present at the sacerdotal jubilee celebration of the late Bishop Hedley at Belmont, some years ago, and had the privilege of doing honour to the venerable prelate in the recognised episcopal form."

"AN APPRECIATION BY A MEDICAL COLLEAGUE.

"By the death of Dr. C. S. Morrison the medical profession of this county has lost one of its most popular and distinguished members. Although it was generally known that his health had not been satisfactory for some time, it was confidently hoped that a prolonged rest from his arduous duties as Physician-Superintendent of the County and City Asylum would restore him to his former vigour, and bring him back amongst us for further usefulness. To the great

regret of all his friends this hope has not been realised, and we have to deplore his demise at a comparatively early age.

"In the profession generally, and also in the medico-psychological branch of it, Dr. Morrison was regarded as a sound authority in his speciality and a successful superintendent and administrator. He was for many years a prominent member of the Medico-Psychological Association and the British Medical Association, and for a considerable period he acted, with much acceptance, as Secretary to the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Branch of the latter body, and quite lately as its President.

"In 1911 he was Vice-President and Secretary of the Neurological Section at the annual meeting of the British Medical Association, and he also gave valuable service to the old-established Herefordshire Medical Society. In these capacities he proved himself to be a man of many parts and generous sympathies.

"During his occupancy of the office of Superintendent at Burghill he saw great additions and improvements, with every one of which he was associated and for which he had unflinchingly laboured, thinking always of the comfort and well-being of the unfortunate people under his charge. For the welfare of the institution he gave of his very best, and so high was his sense of duty, that even trivial details were not deemed too unimportant to engage his personal attention. The result of such devotion to duty, and the extra strain in several directions which he lately encountered no doubt contributed largely to his breakdown in health. In the committee room and at Association meetings Dr. Morrison was a forceful and convincing speaker. He upheld his views strongly when once convinced that they were sound, and was not slow to unmask anything which savoured of opportunism. Whatever he undertook he did it with all his might, without a thought of self or reward. Dr. Morrison did not make a great many really intimate friends; but to the few who had the privilege of his intimacy he gave the firm hand of friendship which lasted for all time. His was a large-hearted and generous nature which radiated sympathy and kindness to all those who came within its reach. Upright, unselfish to a fault, with a high sense of duty and universally beloved, he possessed a personality which will live in the memory of all who knew him."

DR. W. H. MACFARLANE.

On August 2nd, 1915, from heart failure, Dr. W. H. Macfarlane, Medical Superintendent of the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, Tasmania. (Communicated by Dr. G. F. Read.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editors of THE JOURNAL OF MENTAL SCIENCE.

SIRS,—Dr. Mercier, in your January issue, defines "cause" as "the necessary connection between an action and the sequent change, or accompanying unchange, in the thing acted on." He had previously suggested that any circumstance which prevents a change should be called the "reason" rather than the cause of the "unchange." This is a good distinction, though it seems to put out of action the alternative clause in his definition. I do not, however, write to find fault, but to show how it is possible to come still nearer to the basis of the idea of causation by recognising yet another distinction—namely, that between cause and occasion. For example, in the case of Newton's traditional apple, the cause of the fall was gravity, the occasion was doubtless the giving way of the stalk. The following considerations will explain the distinction and show its importance.

Change is not supposed to take place *per saltum*; it is always regarded as a continuous process. A process of change in any system may be called complete when it begins from one state of static equilibrium and ends in another such state. Every process takes place by virtue of an expenditure of energy, and (when the whole of the system involved in a complete process is taken into account) the potential energy of the final state is always less than that of the initial state. Any process may be considered under two aspects, either (1) as a change *from* the equilibrium of greater potential energy, or (2) as a change *to* the equilibrium of less potential energy. Under the former aspect it is called the cause; under the latter aspect it is called the effect.