

clearly demonstrated. The operation should be made an illegal one except when undertaken under certain definite conditions and by those specially authorised. The community is sure to benefit in the long run, and in thanking, as I do very heartily, Dr. Stansfield and Dr. Faulks for their excellent papers, I trust this meeting will mark the beginning of a new era in the prophylaxis of insanity. As regards those of the community existing outside asylums, but who have the germs of insane states within them ready to transmit, it is only by the proper education of the public, in the main alive to its own welfare, that these can ever be reached.

Dr. R. H. STEEN was of opinion that though sterilisation was the best cure, it was not practicable. He disagreed with Dr. Stansfield on the question of detention in farm colonies, and thought they were the best available methods of preventing the propagation of insanity.

Dr. M. A. COLLINS did not think we had sufficient facts at our disposal to justify us in recommending sterilisation to the public. He thought that much more could be ascertained by extending comparative inquiries among sane families, and by carefully tracing the histories of sane members of insane families. He, however, agreed that in some cases sterilisation was the only remedy.

Drs. STANSFIELD and FAULKS replied.

Mr. T. HUNTER, L.C.C., of the Visiting Committee, in proposing a vote of thanks to Dr. Stansfield and Dr. Faulks for their papers, said that his wish was that the medical profession should lead the Committees, and not *vice-versa*. Many of the London Asylums' Committee were giving much thought at the present time to such problems as had just been discussed. He expressed his warm appreciation of the papers and discussion, and thought it would be an excellent thing if the Committee could hear all that had been said. He concluded with a spirited appeal to the medical profession, and particularly the junior members, not to be too cautious in pressing the question on the public notice and in giving their advice.

Mr. H. F. KEENE seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

After the meeting Mrs. Stansfield kindly entertained the members to tea in the Medical Superintendent's house.

SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

The AUTUMN MEETING of this Division was held at the University of Bristol on Friday, October 28th, 1910.

The following members were present:—Drs. Blachford, Bullen, Sydney Cole, W. S. Graham, Lavers, P. W. Macdonald, Morrison, Morton, Nelis, Eden Paul J. R. Perdrau, Phillips, Pope, Prentice, J. M. Rutherford, Soutar, Thomas, E. Barton White, and the Hon. Divisional Secretary.

Prof. Fawcett, and Dr. Schölberg, Pathologist to the Cardiff Infirmary, were also present as visitors.

Dr. Soutar having been voted to the Chair, the minutes of the last meeting were taken as read and duly signed.

The following candidates were elected members of the Association:

John Cosserat Mackenzie, M.B., C.M.Edin., Assistant Medical Officer, City and County Asylum, Hereford. (Proposed by Drs. Morrison, Aveline, and J. W. Rutherford.)

Thomas Waddelow Smith, L.R.C.P.Lond., M.R.C.S.Eng., Second Assistant Medical Officer, Devon County Asylum, Exminster. (Proposed by Drs. Davis, Richard Eager, and Aveline.)

Jean René Perdrau, M.B., B.S.Lond., Third Assistant Medical Officer, Devon County Asylum, Exminster. (Proposed by Drs. Davis, Richard Eager, and Aveline.)

Edward Barton White, L.R.C.P.Lond., M.R.C.S.Eng., Assistant Medical Officer, Cardiff City Mental Hospital, Whitchurch, Glam. (Proposed by Drs. Goodall, Aveline, and J. W. Rutherford.)

It was resolved to hold the Spring Meeting fixed for April 28th, 1911, at the Somerset and Bath Asylum, Cotford, near Taunton.

A letter was read from Mrs. Manning, in which she expressed her thanks to the members for their kind sympathy.

Dr. SYDNEY P. COLE then proceeded to give a demonstration on "The Comparative Anatomy of the Frontal Lobe, and its Bearing upon the Pathology of Insanity" (see p. 52). A series of brains illustrating his remarks were exhibited by means of lantern-slides.

The CHAIRMAN, Professor FAWCETT, Drs. POPE and PAUL took part in the discussion which followed.

Dr. E. BARTON WHITE read a paper, written in conjunction with Dr. SCHÖLBERG, Pathologist to the Cardiff Infirmary, on "Pituitary and Supra-renal Growths in a Case of Insanity" (see p. 18).

The paper was illustrated by means of specimens, drawings, and micro-photographs.

This was commented on by the CHAIRMAN, Drs. COLE, MORRISON, and POPE.

Dr. PERDRAU read a paper on the "Clinical Aspect and Treatment of Asylum Dysentery," in which he described the form of treatment recently carried out at the Devon County Asylum (see p. 93).

On account of the lateness of the hour Dr. W. S. GRAHAM's paper, "Notes of a Case of Melancholia Associated with Cerebral Abscess," was, with his permission, postponed to the next meeting.

A vote of thanks was accorded to Professor Fawcett and the University authorities for the use of the room, and to Dr. Soutar for so kindly presiding.

A number of the members subsequently dined together at St. Stephen's Restaurant, Bristol.

NORTHERN AND MIDLAND DIVISION.

The AUTUMN MEETING of this Division was held at the kind invitation of Dr. C. L. Hopkins, at the City Asylum, Fulford, York, on Thursday, October 20th, 1910. Dr. Hopkins presided.

The following fifteen members were present: Drs. M. A. Archdale, A. R. Douglas, J. W. Geddes, J. Herbert, C. K. Hitchcock, C. L. Hopkins, H. Kershaw, H. J. Mackenzie, G. F. May, C. McDowall, T. W. McDowall, J. Middlemass, B. Pierce, E. F. Trevelyan, and T. S. Adair.

The President, Dr. John Macpherson, expressed regret at being unable to be present.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

On the proposal of Dr. GEDDES, seconded by Dr. MIDDLEMASS, Drs. Hitchcock, McDowall, and Pierce were unanimously re-elected to form the Divisional Committee for the next twelve months.

Dr. MIDDLEMASS then read his paper on "Hereditary Syphilis and General Paralysis." He commenced by apologising for bringing forward so well-worn a subject. The idea occurred to him some time ago that in cases of general paralysis where no history of personal syphilis could be ascertained, an explanation might be found in hereditary syphilis as a cause. Probably most people are of the opinion that developmental or juvenile general paralysis is due to inherited syphilis, and in the great majority of the cases he had seen there was a clear history pointing in this direction. In one such case reported the Wassermann reaction had been found to be positive. He went on to suggest that in cases where there is no history of acquired syphilis, a positive Wassermann reaction might point to hereditary syphilis and not to the untruthfulness of the patient.

In the discussion which followed Dr. HOPKINS referred to the use of the Ross-Jones test. Dr. TREVELYAN spoke of the relation of tabes to syphilis in families, and mentioned an interesting case. Dr. HITCHCOCK considered that general paralysis depended on the temperament of the individual as well as on acquired or hereditary syphilis.

Dr. BEDFORD PIERCE gave a most interesting account of his visit to the "International Congress on Psychiatry," held in Berlin from October 3rd to 7th, 1910. After giving a brief sketch of the arrangements made for the holding of the Congress and the cordial reception extended to the visitors, he briefly outlined the various items that were brought before the Congress, amongst which may be mentioned papers on "Asylum Planning," "Work as a Therapeutic Agent," "The