

Divisional Committee of Management, which now consists of the following members:

<i>Retire in 1905.</i>	<i>Retire in 1906.</i>	<i>Retire in 1907.</i>
Dr. Amsden.	Dr. J. Bayley.	Dr. Hunter.
Dr. F. H. Edwards.	Dr. Harding.	Dr. Rawes.
Dr. Wolseley Lewis.	Dr. R. Stillwell.	Dr. Lord.

Dr. D. G. THOMSON read a paper entitled "A Few Remarks on the Registration of Nurses and the Nurses' Registration Bill from the Mental Nursing Point of View" (see page 451), and after the discussion on this,

Dr. MOTT, F.R.S., gave a lantern demonstration on "The Significance of the Convolutional Pattern of the Human Brain."

Votes of thanks were passed to Drs. Thomson and Mott for their communications, and to Dr. Hunter and the Visiting Committee of the West Ham Asylum for having so kindly received the Division.

#### SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

A meeting of the South-Western Division was held at Broadmoor Asylum on Tuesday, April 26th.

Dr. Brayn was voted to the chair, and there was a numerous attendance of members and visitors.

The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed, and two candidates, Ernest John Manning, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Assistant Medical Officer, Broadmoor, and W. Sim Garden, M.B., B.Ch., Assistant Medical Officer, Cotford, were elected members of the Association.

Dr. Macdonald was elected Hon. Sec., and Dr. Braine-Hartnell and Dr. MacBryan were elected representative members of Council.

Dr. Brayn and Dr. Soutar were elected members of the Committee of Management.

Friday, October 28th, was agreed upon as the date of the Autumn Meeting, and the members accepted Dr. Weatherly's invitation to meet at Bailbrook House.

Tuesday, April 11th, was named as the date of the Spring Meeting, 1905.

The Hon. Sec. made a short statement regarding the report of the Committee on Divisional Expenses.

Dr. Baker read a paper on "General Paralysis and Crime" (see page 437).

Owing to the large amount of business to be got through, and the prolonged and interesting discussion on Dr. Baker's paper, it was agreed to postpone Dr. Cotton's paper to the Autumn Meeting.

Dr. Brayn was accorded a hearty vote of thanks for presiding and for his hospitality.

#### NORTHERN AND MIDLAND DIVISION.

A meeting of the Northern and Midland Division of the Medico-Psychological Association was held at Scalebor Park, Burley-in-Wharfedale, on April 7th, 1904, Dr. Gilmour presiding.

The following members were present:—Drs. Adair, Donelan, Eurich, Geddes, Groves, Johnstone, Kay, Legge, May, Middlemass, G. Mould, Merson, Macphail, Mackenzie, J. G. Macdonnell, Nixon, Pierce, Pope, Rambaut, Rutherford, Stewart, Maule Smith, and Trevelyan.

Visitors: Drs. Eddison, Archdale, Josephine Brown.

The following were elected ordinary members:—Percy Douglas Hunter, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.Lond., Assistant Medical Officer and Pathologist, Durham County Asylum (proposed by Drs. Skeen, Geddes, Pierce); George Francis May, M.D., C.M.McGill, L.S.A., Assistant Medical Officer, Durham County Asylum (proposed by Drs. Skeen, Geddes, Pierce); Alan Rigden, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.Lond.,

M.P.C., Assistant Medical Officer, Salop and Montgomery County Asylum (proposed by Drs. Rambaut, Miller, Pierce); Augustine Francis O'Downey, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.Edin., Assistant Medical Officer, Salop and Montgomery County Asylum (proposed by Drs. Rambaut, Miller, Pierce); Geoffrey Plumpton Wilson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.Lond., Assistant Medical Officer, Kesteven County Asylum, Sleaford (proposed by Drs. Ewan, Green, Pierce); Mervyn Alex. Archdale, M.B., B.S.Dur., Assistant Medical Officer, East Riding Asylum, Beverley (proposed by Drs. John Merson, John S. Anderson, B. Pierce); Josephine Brown, M.B.Lond., Assistant Medical Officer, Bracebridge Asylum, Lincoln (proposed by Drs. Torney, Adèle de Steiger, Norah Kemp).

Dr. Bedford Pierce was unanimously re-elected Secretary of the Division.

Drs. Richard J. Legge and Chas. K. Hitchcock were unanimously elected representative members of Council.

#### CONTRIBUTIONS.

Dr. MAULE SMITH (Wakefield) gave an interesting demonstration of pathological specimens.

Dr. GILMOUR read a paper "On the Value of Saline Injections in Certain Acute Cases of Mental Disease." After using saline solutions of various strengths and composition he now recommends the use of a 75 per cent. solution of common salt. After the rectum has been cleared out by the ordinary methods he injects *per rectum* from ten to fifteen ounces of this solution three or four times daily at a temperature of 98°—105° F. In many cases the injections are immediately followed by improvement—the pulse-rate falls and the tension increases. The mental symptoms quieten, and sleep frequently results. The tongue cleans, and appetite is improved. As the excess of fluid is generally excreted by the kidneys the bladder may require attention. The injections are rarely returned. These injections are most serviceable in acute delirious cases with agitation and restlessness. He has not observed any bad effects. Dr. Gilmour briefly recounted some illustrative cases.

Dr. POPE welcomed Dr. Gilmour's treatment by saline injections as an alternative to the dire necessity of forced alimentation at this stage, with its dangers and difficulties in cases of acute delirious mania. He would, however, draw attention to the occasional sapræmic condition produced by absorption from the bowel, and agreed with Dr. Gilmour that the rectum should be carefully emptied and cleansed as a preliminary.

Dr. RUTHERFORD MACPHAIL, in complimenting Dr. Gilmour on his interesting and practical paper, emphasised the value of short clinical communications of this nature. The West Riding asylums had in the past taken a lead in furnishing pathological reports of cases of mental disease and doing original work. Pathology to be of any real value implied expert knowledge such as only a few of our members possessed, but accurate clinical observation, in his opinion of greater importance, had been too much neglected in the past, and asylum physicians could each and all make interesting communications of this nature to our branch meetings. He hoped that this was the first of many clinical papers from the medical staff of Scalebor Park. The value of Dr. Gilmour's remarks would have been enhanced had they been accompanied by observations on the blood-pressure in the patients before and after the saline injections.

Dr. MAULE SMITH (Wakefield) thought that Dr. Gilmour's paper had an important bearing on the treatment of insanity due to toxic conditions. The absorption of large quantities of normal saline would have the mechanical effect of washing out toxins accumulated among the brain-cells, thus removing irritation and inducing sleep. He asked whether any difference was noted in the recovery rate of people who had a strong predisposition to insanity and those in whom the insanity was due apparently entirely to toxic influence.

Dr. EDDISON (Leeds) expressed his thanks to the Society for being allowed to be present at the meeting. He thought Dr. Gilmour's remarks extremely interesting. He believed that the advantage derived was produced exactly in the same way as in the case of patients suffering from febrile conditions in whom restlessness and excitement is lessened by allowing plenty of fluid. The waste by sweat in febrile cases is too much underrated, and it ought not to be forgotten

that all such cases are losing a great amount although the skin is hot and dry. He asked Dr. Gilmour whether he had found simple water injections were not just as useful as saline ones, and asked, further, whether Dr. Gilmour meant that rectal injections had any advantage compared to water taken by the mouth, supposing the patient willing to swallow. He had often thought that a good deal of the apparent advantage derived from injections of fluids in febrile and other cases was due merely to the absorption of water and consequent relief to the whole system, and particularly the nervous system, by the much needed water.

Dr. EURICH (Bradford) asked whether Dr. Gilmour had used saline solutions of other composition than "normal saline," e.g. Karlsbad or Kissingen waters, which could be injected for a longer period without causing irritation.

Dr. TREVELYAN, of Leeds, also took part in the discussion, and Dr. GILMOUR replied.

Dr. MIDDLEMASS opened a discussion upon "Traumatism and General Paralysis" (see page 433).

Dr. BEDFORD PIERCE gave a brief account of his impressions on visiting the asylum at Heidelberg, and also gave some details of Dr. Kraepelin's clinical methods. These remarks were supplemented by Dr. Eurich.

The meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Gilmour for presiding, and for his hospitality to the members.

#### SCOTTISH DIVISION.

A meeting of the Scottish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association was held by invitation of the Corporation of Glasgow at Girgenti Inebriates' Home, Montgreenan, on Friday, March 25th, 1904.

The following members were present:—Drs. Angus, Baugh, Carlyle Johnstone, Carswell, Clouston, Easterbrook, Ford Robertson, Hotchkis, Ireland, Kerr, Macnaughton, Marr, Parker, G. M. Robertson, Rutherford (senior), Sir John Sibbald, Turnbull, Urquhart, Yellowlees, and Bruce, Divisional Secretary.

There were also present:—Ex-Bailies D. M. Stevenson, James Steele, John Battersby, Councillors J. P. Maclay, John Dallas, William Nicol, Kennedy, and Burgess, Dr. Cunningham, Mr. A. Walker, Mr. James R. Motion, Dr. Devon and Provost Wilson.

Dr. CLOUSTON was called to the chair.

The following were elected ordinary members:—James Hinshilwood, M.D., Surgeon to Glasgow Eye Infirmary (proposed by Drs. Carswell, Oswald, and Parker); James Devon, L.R.C.P., L.F.P.S., Prison Surgeon, Glasgow (proposed by Drs. Carswell, Oswald and Parker); Angus John Grant, M.D., B.Sc., L.R.C.P.E., of Ennerdale, Haddington (proposed by Drs. Bruce, Ronaldson, Clouston, and Macpherson).

The minutes of the last meeting having been printed in the *Journal of Mental Science* were taken as read.

The Divisional Secretary read the report of the Retiring Allowances Committee, which was as follows:

"The Retiring Allowances Committee beg to report that all the Members of Parliament for Scotland have been approached upon the subject of retiring allowances for workers in Scottish Parochial and District Asylums. Out of the 72 Members so approached 44 replied; 24 of these promised support, 18 expressed sympathy, and 2 were doubtful. The Secretary for Scotland was unable to receive a deputation owing to pressure of business.

"The Committee do not think this an opportune moment to propose that a Bill should be introduced into Parliament. They therefore ask for further instructions from the Division, and they suggest that in the event of a General Election taking place every Scottish candidate should be personally approached."

Dr. URQUHART moved and Dr. MARR seconded that the report be received and adopted in the minutes, and this was unanimously agreed to.

Dr. CLOUSTON moved that the Committee be reappointed to watch the interests of Scottish asylum workers and servants with regard to the question of retiring