

restraint of the liberty of the subject. He was very strongly in favour of that proposition, and he should do nothing to diminish or qualify that. If people disobeyed the law, that seemed to him to be a reason for making the law more stringent. The law of larceny would not be abolished because, notwithstanding all laws against larceny, people still stole. Such a line of legislation could not be followed. As to what had been justly described as non-confirmed insanity, or incipient insanity, cases which were capable of being cured, he might say that he entirely sympathized with their object, and certainly, as far as he was concerned, he would try and give effect to their suggestions.

MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEBEC.

At the meeting held at the Protestant Hospital for the Insane, Verdun, on the 15th October, 1898, the new Rules of the Society, prepared by Messrs. Villeneuve and Chagnon, were read and adopted.

The following were elected honorary members of the Society:—Dr. H. M. Hurd, Baltimore; Dr. Ritti, Charenton; Dr. Urquhart, Perth; and Dr. Villers, Brussels.

Several important papers were read, which we hope to publish in the next number of this Journal.

With reference to *Medical Certificates and Commitment*, Dr. VILLENEUVE said that he had been continuing his studies on the subject. He gave a synopsis of what had been done in other countries, and pointed out that the medical certificates should show (1) that the person is insane by a detailed statement of the symptoms observed by the medical man; (2) that there is necessity for placing the person in an asylum for treatment or for the public safety—as shown by his actions and circumstances, which should be proved by the depositions of eye-witnesses; (3) that the physical condition of the person permits of his removal to the asylum. The Society adopted a motion by Dr. Villeneuve to remit this question to a special committee for report.

At the next meeting the question of alcoholism and the establishment of special hospitals for alcoholics will be discussed.

DEPARTMENT OF HOSPITALS FOR INSANE, VICTORIA.

FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF MEDICAL STAFF.

The first meeting was held at Kew on the 5th October, 1898; present, Dr. M'Creery in the Chair, Dr. Watkins, Dr. Beattie Smith, Dr. Samson, Dr. Lathbridge, and Dr. Steell.

Dr. BEATTIE SMITH stated that Dr. Norton Manning, whilst assuring them of his warm interest in forming a Medico-Psychological Association, said that he would be precluded from joining because of imminent changes. Since then, New South Wales had, by resignation, lost the services of Dr. Norton Manning, who, for a lifetime, had firmly, judiciously, and steadily forced upon his Government the necessities for advanced treatment of the insane, with great success. Dr. Eric Sinclair, his successor, as might reasonably have been expected, excused himself from being present on the plea of his whole time being then occupied, and at the moment not wishing to bind others without consulting them.

Dr. M'CREERY then moved—

“That an Intercolonial Medico-Psychological Society be formed, and that invitations be sent to all the Asylums Staffs of the various Australasian Colonies to be present next year in Melbourne, with a view to forming an Association which may become affiliated with the Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain and Ireland.”

This was seconded by Dr. WATKINS and carried unanimously, and the Hon. Secretary was asked to acknowledge the letter from the Home Association, explaining the action taken.

NURSING.

The subject of nursing lectures, Dr. M'CREERY stated, had advanced a step further, as we were now in the midst of the first annual compulsory examination for probationers, prior to their inclusion on the staff at the end of twelve months' service. The examinations were being conducted by a Board, consisting of the Inspector of Asylums and Drs. Watkins and Beattie Smith, each of whom examined all papers, which were numbered, and two of them carrying out orals and practicals, no examiner conducting his own. So far as the seniors were concerned, the examination was not yet compulsory, and the only thing one could do was to block the promotion of those who were not efficient, and who had not availed themselves of the facilities afforded by lectures and demonstrations, and so accept the decision of the Public Service Board that the first qualification for promotion was merit.

Dr. M'Creery stated that some time ago the Under Secretary had asked him to draw up new *rules and regulations* for the guidance of attendants and nurses, as the Public Service Board considered the existing ones not clear enough, and these had now been prepared and were ready for circulation.

On the motion of Dr. WATKINS, it was decided that Mrs. Rosenblum be communicated with in a sympathetic letter on behalf of the staff, on the occasion of the death of her late husband, our friend and fellow-worker.

BORDERLINE INSANITY.

Dr. M'CREERY now read his paper entitled "Borderline Insanity, or Imperfect Insanities," comprising under the following four headings a well-condensed series of views:—(a) a want of full development cannot resist wrong actions, yet not insanely certifiable; (b) a fixed chain of delusions on certain subjects, while acting well on others; (c) controlled centres enfeebled, cannot avoid temptations; (d) intellectual faculties developed though moral tone bad; a danger to society as constituted, through enfeebled will and loss of control due to drugs, alcohol, &c.

The main contention of this paper was on *will power*. Will, Dr. M'Creery stating, was "the act of recalling and retaining ideas, with their accompanying emotions, in the field of consciousness."

After a discussion and vote of thanks for the paper, the meeting adjourned till 6th October, when Dr. GODFREY presented some observations on the symptoms and treatment of cocaineomania, which were well received and discussed.

Dr. SAMSON next gave the meeting some of his "Views on Asylum Construction," and then Dr. Beattie Smith read "Notes on some Surgical Cases at the Ararat Hospital for Insane," by Dr. JAMES L. THOMPSON, including (1) a case of malignant disease of the testicle; (2) gangrene of the feet; (3) forcible rupture of the urethra; and (4) gastrotomy, together with the operative interference deemed necessary in each case.

The last paper comprised some clinical histories of cases under *thyroid treatment* by Dr. BEATTIE SMITH, who detailed how in one case he had endeavoured, and that, too, with the crowning success of ultimate recovery and discharge, to set up artificially in the patient that inflammatory fever and thermic condition which, by reason of episternal abscess, had proved useful to the patient's mind at an earlier period of her history; and how, in another case, he had, while others were under treatment, given thyroid tablets to a lady whose case was of some years' standing, though of recent admission, and had, for brevity's sake, been viewed, both before and after admission, variously, and now was placed under *diagnostic treatment*, with the happiest results. An old myxœdema, of no very great development to outward appearance, being discharged from the Asylum after about four months' treatment; the case-book notes from the commencement of the thyroid being:—General increase of body bulk; firm inelastic swelling of skin, with harsh dryness; dulled expression and imperfect hair nutrition; the supra-clavicular subcutaneous tumefaction, and the thickened fingers, being noticeable, as also the mottled face and red nose end; the memory was defective; there was irritability and suspiciousness with hallucinations, and now we have dementia with heavy, slow gait.

The thyroid was pushed by weekly increased doses from five to twenty grains

thrice daily, with the result that she became brighter, happier, conversed freely, was questioning about her surroundings, her home, and her relatives. She took her diet well all through. "After the weakness from confinement to bed for nearly two months she became busy in sewing, mending, piano playing, and took daily walking exercise specially regulated by accompanying nurse." "Gradually, from the commencement of the ten grains dose thrice daily, the improvement took place in the lessening of the subcutaneous thickening, and the brighter and more cheerful appearance." "A long day can now be spent with sewing, walking, and inside amusements, with judicious rests." "Returned after a two-mile walk, happy and delighted, and, though still with some mental impairment, anxious to return home." "Has been out for the day with her husband driving and walking, returning with no reluctance, knowing that to-morrow she will be leaving for home." "Left for home with husband, under instructions to continue the thyroid treatment, and report at intervals." "Report at end of month very satisfactory."

With the usual vote of thanks for this paper, and to Dr. M'Creery for presiding, the Conference terminated.

THE AFTER-CARE ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Meeting of the Association for the After-Care of persons recovered from Insanity was held under the presidency of Sir S. Wilks, F.R.S., at his residence in Brook Street, Grosvenor Square. The Secretary, Mr. Thornhill Roxby, reported that there had been a considerable increase in the number of cases dealt with, these having been 186 (55 males) in 1898, as compared with 147 in 1897. The receipts of the Society had also advanced from £561 in 1897 to £652 in 1898. Increased success also had attended the help given in starting these persons again in life.

The meeting was addressed by Sir S. Wilks, the Bishop of Islington, the Archdeacon of Essex, as well as by Drs. Savage, Blandford, and Claye Shaw.

The ARCHDEACON OF ESSEX spoke very favourably of his personal experience of the assistance afforded by the Society to persons in whom he had been interested. The meeting terminated by a vote of thanks to Sir S. Wilks.

RECENT MEDICO-LEGAL CASES.

REPORTED BY DR. MERCIER.

[The Editors request that members will oblige by sending full newspaper reports of all cases of interest as published by the local press at the time of the assizes.]

Reg. v. Keating.

Prisoner, a servant æt. 19, was indicted for the attempted murder of her illegitimate child, which she endeavoured to drop into a canal. Dr. Gill, medical officer of the prison, and Dr. Leg, of Prestwich, both stated that on the night of the attempt the prisoner was probably suffering from acute melancholia.—Guilty, but insane.—Manchester Assizes (Mr. Justice Phillimore).—*Times*, November 17th.

Reg. v. Taylor.

Walter Taylor, æt. 56, ex-bailiff, was indicted for attempting to murder Judge Parry. The judge had occasion to deprive the prisoner, on sufficient cause, of his bailiff's certificate. Prisoner forced his way on to the bench and fired three shots from a revolver at the judge, two of the shots taking effect in his honour's head. The third shot was fired as the prisoner was being held down on the floor, indicating that the attempt was a very determined one. For the defence it was shown