

Part IV.—Notes and News.

MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

A QUARTERLY MEETING of the Association was held at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London, W., on Tuesday, May 18th, 1909, under the presidency of Dr. Charles A. Mercier.

Present: Drs. T. S. Adair, H. S. Aveline, W. Bevan-Lewis, C. H. Bond, A. N. Boycott, J. Brown, L. C. Bruce, James Chambers, W. R. Dawson, J. F. Dixon, T. Drapes, F. W. Edridge-Green, J. A. Ewan, J. D. Greenlees, H. E. Haynes, R. D. Hotchkiss, J. W. Higginson, C. K. Hitchcock, G. H. Johnston, Robert Jones, W. S. Kay, N. Lavers, R. R. Leeper, H. W. Lewis, H. C. MacBryan, P. W. MacDonald, J. W. McDowall, H. C. Marr, M. E. Martin, W. F. Menzies, H. Hayes Newington, H. J. Norman, D. Orr, M. E. Paul, W. Rawes, H. Rayner, D. Rice, R. P. Rows, G. E. Shuttleworth, R. P. Smith, J. B. Spence, R. H. Steen, R. C. Steward, R. J. Stilwell, W. H. B. Stoddart, J. Turner, A. R. Urquhart, F. Watson, E. B. Whitcombe, D. Yellowlees.

The PRESIDENT said that the list of new candidates accidentally included the name of Dr. Graham Donald Campbell, who had already been elected by the Scottish Division, and therefore there was no need to duplicate the proceedings by electing him again that day, as no doubt the meeting would. The minutes of the last ordinary meeting had appeared in the JOURNAL, and it was customary to take them as read. That would be done. But since that meeting, an "extraordinary" meeting had been held, as was well known, and as the minutes of that meeting had not appeared in the JOURNAL, he would ask the Secretary to read them.

The SECRETARY (Dr. Hubert Bond) read the minutes of the Special General Meeting held on April 19th, and they were agreed to (see page 571).

The following candidates were elected ordinary members of the Association:—Beeley, Arthur, M.Sc. Leeds, M.B., B.S. Lond., D.P.H. Camb. (Assistant School Officer, E. Sussex Educational Committee), 7, Belle Hill, Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex (proposed by A. G. R. Foulerton, H. Hayes Newington and C. Hubert Bond); Crowther, Sydney Nelson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Lond., Senior Assistant Medical Officer, Surrey County Asylum, Netherne (proposed by F. C. Gayton, James Moody and R. H. Steen); Gloyne, Stephen Roodhouse, M.B., B.Ch. Leeds, D.P.H. Lond. (Assistant Medical Officer, East Sussex Education Committee), The Downs, Southover, Lewes (proposed by A. G. R. Foulerton, H. Hayes Newington and C. Hubert Bond); Hunter, Douglas William, M.B., Ch.M. Glasg., D.P.H. Camb., Assistant Medical Officer, Royal Albert Asylum, Lancaster (proposed by Archibald R. Douglas, D. M. Cassidy and J. S. Farries); Myers, Charles Samuel, M.A., M.D. Camb. (University Lecturer in Experimental Psychology, Cambridge), Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire (proposed by W. H. R. Rivers, W. H. B. Stoddart and Robert Jones).

THE INEBRIATES ACT.

The PRESIDENT said a notice of motion would be found on the agenda paper stating "That in the opinion of this Association, legislation to amend the Inebriates Act is urgently necessary, and that such resolution, if carried, be forwarded to the Home Secretary." That resolution was placed on the agenda at a time when the fate of the new Bill to amend the Inebriates Acts, based on the Report of the Departmental Committee to consider those Acts, was hanging in the balance. The Bill had been drafted by the Home Office strictly on the lines of the Report of that Departmental Committee, and the condition of affairs was wavering as to whether the Bill should be brought in or not. He had it from a high authority that if there was any chance at all of the Bill being brought in, it might decide its fate one way or the other if as many representations as possible were sent to the Home Secretary in favour of the Bill. He had got resolutions passed by one or two other bodies, and put the present resolution, which he had read, on

the agenda for this meeting. That was done some weeks ago, and he was sorry to say now that the Bill was dead. The Bill was one which provided for a large number of beneficial objects, and he did not doubt that its machinery was such as to carry out those objects in the most efficient manner possible. But unfortunately, in order to fulfil its purposes, the Bill required the expenditure of public money; and he need scarcely remind members that the present was not altogether a favourable time for asking Parliament for any increased grant of public money for any purpose whatever. So he had been informed that the Bill was now dead, and therefore the same urgent need for sending in that resolution no longer existed. But at the same time, to send the resolution on would do no harm; it would lie in the hands of the Home Secretary, and when another Session of Parliament arrived perhaps the financial straits would not be so considerable, and the new sources of taxation which the Chancellor of the Exchequer had hit upon would yield in that profitable manner which they were expected to, so that there would no doubt be a surplus over for beneficial objects of that kind. And it was hoped that on some future occasion the Inebriates Bill would become the Inebriates Act. Therefore he would put the resolution on the agenda from the chair, and ask those who were in favour of it to signify their approval.

Dr. PERCY SMITH asked to be allowed to make one comment on the resolution. He thought they should stop at the word "necessary." He assumed they would all agree to it so far, but he regarded the last part as superfluous. If the main part of the resolution were passed, naturally it would be forwarded to the proper quarter, and it was not needed to keep in the other wording. He moved that all the words after "necessary" be left out, though perhaps it was largely a matter of form.

The PRESIDENT pointed out that the meeting could authorise the resolution being sent to the proper quarter.

Dr. YELLOWLEES asked whether the Bill as drafted included the power of compulsory detention, because he contended that without such a provision nothing was of the least use.

The PRESIDENT said it provided for compulsory detention for inebriates who were committed from the Court. But there was a battle-royal, he understood, among the drafters of the Bill as to whether provisions for the compulsory detention of what one might describe as private inebriates—those who had not been convicted of any offence—should be embodied in the Bill, or not. He thought eventually those who required such provision were defeated, and it was not included in the Bill. He did not speak authoritatively on the matter.

Dr. YELLOWLEES asked whether it would not be wise to add to the resolution words providing for compulsory detention of all inebriates. He considered that without such, no amount of legislation was of the least service in such cases. It was only a suggestion.

The PRESIDENT asked Dr. Yellowlees if he would definitely move that.

Dr. YELLOWLEES said he would be pleased to move it.

Dr. PAUL asked whether the Bill was put forward as a private Bill, or was the idea to bring it forward as a Government measure?

The PRESIDENT replied that it was a Government measure. He suggested the following wording to meet Dr. Yellowlees' motion:—After the word "Act" to insert "including the power of compulsory detention of inebriates otherwise fitted for detention who have not committed offences against the law."

Dr. YELLOWLEES said those words would suit the case perfectly.

The PRESIDENT said the amended resolution would now read—"That in the opinion of this Association legislation to amend the Inebriates Act, including the power of compulsory detention of inebriates otherwise fitted for detention who have not committed offences against the law, is urgently necessary." It was scarcely necessary to go through the form of seconding the amendment, and he would ask those in favour of it, and of sending it to the Home Secretary, to signify their approval. Agreed.

PAPER.

Dr. JOHN TURNER read a paper entitled, "Observations on the Blood-Pressure and Vascular Disease in the Female Insane" (see page 418).

The PRESIDENT then exhibited for the inspection of members the Gurney Prize,

which had been awarded to him by the Royal College of Physicians. He reminded members that they had been good enough to offer, at the Cambridge meeting of the Association, their congratulations on the prize having been conferred on him; and, as he received it during his occupancy of the Presidential Chair, he considered it an honour conferred upon the Association as well as upon himself personally.

MINUTES

Of Special Meeting *re* Asylum Workers' Superannuation Bill held under the presidency of Dr. Charles A. Mercier, on the 19th April, 1909, at 4 p.m., at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W.

Present: Drs. E. H. Beresford, C. H. Bond, D. Bower, J. Chambers, S. C. Elgee, J. Glendinning, T. D. Greenlees, D. Hunter, H. A. Kidd, C. J. Morrison, C. Mercier, J. Merson, J. Middlemass, E. S. Pasmore, L. W. Rolleston, G. E. Shuttleworth, R. Percy Smith, R. H. Steen, and others.

A considerable number of members sent expression of regret at inability to attend.

The PRESIDENT explained the reasons that had decided him to somewhat hastily summon the meeting.

In default of any motion to the contrary it was agreed that the Association approves the principles of the Bill, namely assured pensions on two scales and contributions by the staff according to a fixed scale.

The clauses of the Bill were taken *seriatim*, and the Secretary communicated several letters he had received containing expressions of opinion upon the various clauses from members unable to attend.

In respect of those clauses concerning which the Parliamentary Committee had previously passed resolutions, such resolutions were put for approval or otherwise.

The Parliamentary Committee's recommendations in respect to the funds from which pensions should be paid, following some remarks from Dr. Shuttleworth as to the original views of the framers of the Bill, was withdrawn.

CLAUSES 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 of the Bill were passed without amendment.

CLAUSE 4.—The full consideration of Clause 4 was not taken, and was adjourned to a future meeting of the Association.

CLAUSE 2.—With a view to making more secure the position of those asylum officers and servants who have signed an undertaking whereby they agree to waive all claims to a pension, it was resolved to recommend that, in each of the subsections, after the word "employment" and before the words "to receive," the words "notwithstanding any contract made or implied before the commencement of this Act," should be inserted.

It was agreed that if the sense of this suggestion were adopted, the proviso might perhaps be better incorporated in Clause 14.

CLAUSE 4.—It was agreed that it might be necessary to insert some words to make it clear that time already spent in the service of one or more of the Metropolitan Imbecile Asylums under the Poor Law should be reckoned in aggregating service when computing a pension. And that similarly there were probably asylums in Scotland and Ireland (as, for instance, "Parochial" asylums in Scotland) which might require to be covered by special words.

CLAUSE 11.—It was agreed that, as the scheme of the Bill was a contributory one, it would be more just, and would very properly render a committee's action more free, if the words "at an age at which he would otherwise have been entitled to a superannuation" in Clause 11 be omitted.

CLAUSE 12.—It was resolved that the introduction of a right of appeal in the case of dismissal of any officer or a servant, beyond the Asylum Managers or Authority, was to be deprecated, and it was agreed that such right of appeal be limited to the assessment of the pension or other benefit under the Act. It was resolved to recommend that Clause 12 be amended to read:

"In case of any dispute between the managers or authorities of any asylum and an officer or servant in regard to the granting or computation of superannuation allowances or other benefit under this Act, there shall be a right of appeal to the Commissioners in Lunacy, whose decision shall be final."

CLAUSE 13.—It was agreed that the definition of "officer or servant," as worded

in this clause, did not sufficiently ensure the inclusion of certain staff attached to Asylum Committees, but not necessarily attached to the asylum itself. It was resolved therefore to suggest that the word "Asylum," at present at the end of the clause, should read "Asylum Authority."

It was further agreed that in Clause 13 it would be probably necessary to include a definition of "Managers or Authorities of any Asylum" and "Asylum Managers or Authority," in order to cover the different terminology in the three Lunacy Acts for the three divisions of the United Kingdom.

CLAUSE 14.—Dr. Shuttleworth read a new clause which the promoters of the Bill were suggesting should take the place of the present one. It was agreed that the new clause, and which ran as follows:

"The enactments specified in the schedule to this Act are hereby repealed, subject to this qualification, that this repeal shall not affect the payment of any superannuation allowance granted before the commencement of this Act, provided always that the requirements and provisions of this Act shall not apply to those cases where the Asylum Authorities have agreed, or by resolution have arranged, prior to the commencement of this Act, or may agree or resolve at or within three months after the commencement of this Act to deal with all or any of the persons then in their employ in a more generous manner than is provided by Clause 2 of this Act, and in those cases such agreement or resolution shall thereafter be considered binding on the part of such Asylum Authorities, so far as such existing employés are concerned,"

was more exact, and therefore preferable to the present clause. It was further resolved to recommend the following sub-section to Clause 14, thus amended:

"Provided also that it shall be competent for any officer or servant, who has served for not less than fifteen years under one asylum authority previous to the commencement of this Act, by giving notice within three months thereof to the managing authority, to be excluded from the requirements and provisions of this Act as regards superannuation allowance, but not to forfeit the benefit of the arrangements in that respect existing under Sections 280—282 of the Lunacy Act, 1890."

COMMITTEE TO ACT.—The following members were appointed as a Committee (a) to draw up a Statement of Evidence founded on the resolution passed at this Special Meeting, to be forwarded to the Select Committee of the House at present considering the Bill, and (b) as far as required, to wait on such Select Committee.

Drs. Charles Mercier, H. Hayes Newington, David Bower, Edwin H. Beresford, and C. Hubert Bond.

The meeting had the advantage during part of its sitting of the presence of Sir William Collins, M.P., who was good enough to give some valuable information upon several points in the Bill. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to him for his attendance.

SOUTH-EASTERN DIVISION.

The SPRING MEETING of the South-Eastern Division was held by the courtesy of Dr. Pasmore at the Croydon Mental Hospital, Upper Warringham, Surrey, on Tuesday, April 27th, 1909.

Among those present were Drs. R. R. Alexander, Josephine Brown, P. E. Campbell, R. H. Cole, J. F. Dixon, A. C. Dove, F. H. Edwards, F. C. Gayton, F. W. Edridge-Green, H. E. Haynes, J. W. Higginson, G. H. Keene, P. G. Kennedy, H. Kerr, H. A. Kidd, R. Langdon-Down, Mary E. Martin, J. M. Moody, F. J. Moore, A. Newington, E. S. Pasmore, David Rice, T. Claye Shaw, J. G. Smith, F. R. P. Taylor, D. G. Thomson, F. Watson, and R. H. Steen (Hon. Sec. of the Division).

The visitors included Alderman F. W. M. King, J.P., Chairman of the Visiting Committee; G. F. Carter, Esq., M.I.C.E., Borough Engineer; Fleet-Surgeon Corrie; and Drs. Pollock, Etches, Cohen, Berncastle, Furber, Macan, and Clarkson.

Apologies were received from Sir William Collins, Drs. Savage, Robert Jones, Outterson Wood, Bower, and Hollander.