

symptom, *vis.*, the "most frightful desire to injure his wife and children," was made to disappear by suggestion with the aid of hypnosis. Though the patient, who was neurasthenic and depressed, was not cured, he entirely lost the idea, and, indeed, would hardly believe that it had ever existed. The third case was one of neurasthenia and shell-shock in an officer who had on two occasions been blown up and buried. He fell in love with a girl, and after behaving rudely to her mother was told that the parents did not wish to have anything more to do with him. This worried him and "aggravated all his neurasthenic symptoms." He could not bring himself, however, to write and apologise and accept the decision. He was put to sleep under a light hypnosis and a suggestion was made to him that he should write. On awakening he immediately put this into effect before attempting to do anything else. After this he certainly improved.

The first case is really one of "marked emotionalism," and shows how the patient's mind righted itself after being put into a "condition of blank and calm." The second shows how a distressing obsession can be got rid of, and the third indicates that a "persistent 'aboulia' causing a more or less severe mental paresis" can be abolished by suggestion. Dr. Jeffrey says that, from his experience, he is "convinced that hypnosis and suggestion treatment have an important therapeutic place in the treatment of the psycho-neuroses," and that "given a suitable case it is worthy of trial."

An interesting discussion followed, in which most of the members present took part.

Dr. PIERCE made some reference to forthcoming changes in lunacy administration, and this was followed by a talk about the nursing examination and the effect that the altered conditions of asylum work might have upon it.

The following resolution was then proposed by Dr. MIDDLEMASS, seconded, and unanimously carried, that "in the opinion of the Northern and Midland Division of the Medico-Psychological Association the question of the revision of the Handbook should now be considered by the Education Committee with a view to its improvement in certain parts; at the same time this Division is of opinion that the present standard of teaching and of the examination for the nursing certificate of the Association should not be reduced."

A very interesting and enjoyable meeting was brought to a close, a hearty vote of thanks having been accorded to Dr. Eades for his kind hospitality.

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#### SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

THE AUTUMN MEETING of the above Division was held at University College, Bristol, on Friday, October 24th, 1919, at 2 p.m.

The following members were present: Drs. Brown, Devine, Eager, Lavers, Mules, MacBryan, Nelis, Soutar and Thomas, and the Hon. Divisional Secretary (Dr. Bartlett).

Dr. Soutar was voted to the Chair.

Letters of regret for non-attendance from Drs. Aveline and MacDonald were read.

Dr. Bartlett was nominated as Hon. Divisional Secretary.

Drs. MacBryan and Soutar were nominated Representative Members of Council.

Dr. Devine very kindly extended an invitation to the Division to meet at the Portsmouth Mental Hospital, April 23rd, 1920.

The Chairman alluded to the loss the Association had sustained in the recent deaths of Dr. Mercier, Dr. Drapes and Dr. Wiglesworth, which were all recorded with deep regret by all members present.

Dr. Eager then read his paper on "Head Injuries in Relation to the Psychoses and the Psycho-neuroses."

The CHAIRMAN expressed the unanimous appreciation by the audience of the able work of Dr. Eager in this valuable record of the after-effects of head injuries.

Drs. SOUTAR, DEVINE, LAVERS and BARTLETT joined in the ensuing discussion.

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