

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

OXFORD AND READING BRANCH—WINDSOR DIVISION.

At the Annual General Meeting of this Division, held at the King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor, on Friday, May 31, 1929, the following resolutions were approved for submission to the Representative Body of the B.M.A. :

(1) "That all departments of hospitals dealing with early nervous, borderland, or mental patients, whether sent in as observation cases or otherwise, should be under the care of experts in this branch of medicine."

(2) "That County Councils and County Borough Councils should be asked, in re-allocating beds which come under their ægis under the De-rating Act, to consider the claims of the early nervous and borderland patients, for whom, in most places there is now no provision whatever."

(3) "The Association is of the opinion that in any scheme which may be devised, the early nervous or borderland cases should be separated from the mental cases sent in through the Public Assistance Committee for observation, and that both classes should be separated from chronic mental cases."

(4) "The Association is of opinion that it should be possible to have a Visiting Specialist in charge of these wards, this system having proved satisfactory, so far as observation wards are concerned, in various institutions throughout the country."

THE TAVISTOCK SQUARE CLINIC.

The annual general meeting of the Tavistock Square Clinic took place at the Hotel Russell on May 6. Sir Frederick Willis presided.

SIR FREDERICK WILLIS said that the annual report was the record of good work. This Clinic was started eight years ago, because of the urgent need for treating cases of mental illness. It was a remarkable fact that the incidence of certified insanity in this country and also the recovery-rate had not improved for a large number of years—the more remarkable because in other spheres of medical treatment great improvements had been made. One reason might be that other illnesses were now treated earlier than formerly, whereas early mental illness had gone untreated.

Dr. CRICHTON MILLER stated that during the last twelve months there had been 5,447 attendances (4,582 adults and 865 children). There was no appreciable difference in the number of new cases, but the average length of treatment had increased. Adults who received treatment, as opposed to mere consultation or advice, had been seen, on the average, fifteen times. The number of cases referred to the Clinic by hospitals had doubled in three years, and that of cases referred from police courts (mostly children) had nearly trebled. The honorary and acting staff, including the clinical assistants, numbered thirty-three doctors. The Clinic was suffering from limitation of space and a scheme for extension had been prepared.

JOINT BOARD OF RESEARCH FOR MENTAL DISEASES.

CITY AND UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM.

**Annual Report of the Laboratory for the Year ending
March 14, 1928.**

[Abridged.]

STAFF.

THE Director, F. A. Pickworth, B.Sc., M.B., B.S.Lond., A.I.C., is assisted by D. L. Woodhouse, M.Sc., Research Scholar, and by H. A. Strecker, M.D., Hon. Research Appointment, H. Blunden, Bacteriological Assistant, A. T. Rennie, Histological Assistant, and G. Murray, General Assistant.

General.—The investigation of the fat-lipoid-cholesterol ratios in adrenals and gonads has now been completed and is ready for publication. Further experiments on basal metabolism have been carried out, although this work was interrupted

for several months by building alterations; it is now, however, being again regularly investigated. There has also been some delay in the investigation of the permeability of brain membranes. The study of the serological agglutination reactions has been continued. A special technique has been developed for the investigation of the bacteriology of the nasal sinuses. Many specimens of sphenoidal sinusitis from *post-mortem* examinations have been collected and preserved for special study of septic conditions adjacent to the pituitary gland, with a view to the correlation of endocrine disturbances consequent upon such conditions. The histological investigation of these and other sinuses is being carried out to determine whether there is a direct bacterial spread from the sinuses to the brain in addition to the toxic absorption effects which are known to occur.

Laboratory work includes the examination of 3861 specimens. Nineteen patients have been investigated for basal metabolism and 45 *post-mortem* examinations have been made.

Bacteriological.—A considerable amount of time has been expended in the elaboration of a satisfactory technique for the collection, transmission and culture of organisms from the post-nasal sinuses. In collaboration with the clinical work of Dr. Graves and surgical investigations by Mr. Stirk Adams over 500 specimens have been examined. A number of these have shown pure uncontaminated cultures of important streptococci and, what is perhaps of considerable significance, of diphtheroids and various "fæcal" organisms, such as *B. proteus* and *B. pyocyaneus* (but not *B. coli*). Much work has been done to elucidate the abnormal agglutination-response of patients by animal tests under a great variety of conditions. As in previous years, a considerable number of non-agglutinating organisms of the paratyphoid ("Salmonella") group have been found, with occasional undoubted pathogenic organisms (*B. typhosus* twice, dysentery Y twice).

Histological.—About half the number of sphenoidal sinuses examined *post-mortem* show evidences of active or previous inflammatory change. Over 20 such specimens have been collected and mounted, and many of these further investigated by histological examination of a section of the pituitary fossa and sinus for bacterial invasion. One case (G. S—) clearly showed the passage of organisms from the sinus membrane into bone, dura mater and pituitary. The method for the detection of Gram-negative organisms has been applied to the study of these sinus conditions and of the hypothalamic region of the brain. It is believed that this is a likely site of bacterial and toxic invasion of the brain *via* the pituitary stalk. There has also been an investigation of the stomach mucosa in *post-mortem* examinations, and in one case which showed multiple hæmorrhages resembling a leopard's skin, diplococci were found within the thrombosed vessels and deep in the tissue, these being considered responsible for the superficial hæmorrhages. Other specimens of stomach mucosæ have been obtained showing the various stages between this condition and erosions or multiple small ulcers.

Chemical.—Over 40 pairs of adrenal and gonad glands have been completely examined quantitatively for the fat-lipoid-cholesterol ratios, and this work is now being prepared for publication. There have been 59 investigations of the permeability quotient by Walter's bromide test, with especial reference to changes which might occur following non-protein therapy and arsenical treatment of general paralysis and other cases of mental disorder. These results have been correlated with colloidal gold determination, quantitative Wassermann tests and cell-counts. The basal metabolism experiments have been continued whilst the patient is sleeping, as it has been found that this is the only satisfactory method of investigation with patients whose cooperation is doubtful. This work is progressing, but no correlations or deductions can yet be made with regard to its bearing on mental disorder.

NOTICE BY THE HONORARY LIBRARIAN.

The following journals are circulated from the Library :

American Journal of Psychiatry.
The Psychological Review.
Journal of Neurology and Psychopathology.
L'Encéphale.

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