

Dr. T. Stewart Adair was re-elected Secretary to the Division.

Dr. J. Middlemass and Dr. J. H. MacKenzie were elected Representative Members of Council for the Division for the ensuing twelve months.

The kind invitations of Dr. Johnston to hold the Autumn Meeting, 1912, at Bracebridge Asylum, Lincoln, and of Dr. Cassidy to hold the Spring Meeting, 1913, at the County Asylum, Lancaster, were accepted, and it was left to the Secretary to fix the dates.

Dr. BEDFORD PIERCE referred to the sub-committee which had been formed to inquire into the "Status of British Psychiatry and of Medical Officers," and said that the Secretary, Dr. Bernard Hart, would welcome any suggestions with regard to the subject, and he hoped that any members who had views would write to Dr. Hart in order that the matter might be freely ventilated.

Dr. J. R. S. ANDERSON read an interesting paper on "Insomnia." He dealt with the various causes of the condition, and especially its relationship to the insane. He then considered the various drugs that were in use for producing sleep, and the methods of treatment that might be beneficial. Dr. FARQUHARSON, Dr. McDOWALL and others spoke on the paper, and a suggestion was put forward that a collective investigation on the use of sedatives in certain classes of cases might be attempted by the Association.

Dr. T. W. McDOWALL read a paper written jointly by himself and Dr. COLIN McDOWALL on "Abnormal Development of Scalp" (see p. 398).

Dr. PARKER read a paper entitled "Observations on a Case of Dementia Præcox" (see p. 483).

The meeting was brought to a close by a hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Farquharson for his kind hospitality.

IRISH DIVISION.

THE SPRING MEETING of the Irish Division was held on Thursday, April 18th, at the Stewart Institution. Dr. Hetherington was voted to the Chair, and there were also present Dr. Mayne Courtney, Dr. Nolan, Dr. Plumer, Dr. Drapes, Dr. Oakshott, Dr. Lawless, Dr. Greene, Dr. Mills, Dr. Rainsford, and Dr. Leeper, Divisional Secretary.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed.

Before the other business of the meeting was proceeded with it was proposed by Dr. Nolan and seconded by Dr. Drapes—"That we, the members of the Irish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain and Ireland, tender to Mrs. Henry Cullinan the expression of our deepest sympathy with her in her sad bereavement, and desire to place on record the sense of the loss the Branch has sustained by the death of Dr. Henry Cullinan."

The resolution was unanimously passed in silence, the members standing in their places.

A cordial invitation was given to the Division to hold their Summer Meeting at Londonderry by the courtesy of Dr. Hetherington, and the date was unanimously fixed upon for July 2nd subject to the approval of the President.

The date of the Autumn Meeting was fixed for Thursday, November 25th, the date of the Spring Meeting April 17th, 1913, and the Summer Meeting of next year to be held on July 8th, 1913.

On a ballot being taken the scrutineers reported that Dr. Leeper was unanimously elected Hon. Secretary to the Division and Drs. Nolan and Drapes representative members of Council.

Dr. Cecil Rutherford, M.B., B.Ch., Assistant Medical Officer, St. Patrick's Hospital and St. Edmondsbury, and Dr. Vivian Wallace, L.R.C.P. & S.S., Junior Assistant Medical Officer, Mullingar Asylum, having been proposed and seconded and balloted for, were declared to be unanimously elected as ordinary members.

Dr. NOLAN explained the recent developments as regards the Asylum Officers' Superannuation Bills now before Parliament, and the differences that existed between Lord Wolmer's Bill and that recently introduced by Sir Charles Nicholson. The Chairman expressed the thanks of the meeting for Dr. Nolan's clear explanation, and after much discussion and some adverse criticism of those

who in Scotland and elsewhere opposed the measure, it was proposed by Dr. Lawless and seconded by Dr. Oakshott, and passed unanimously—"That the Irish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association is of opinion that in computing the rate of pension for the staffs of Irish asylums the pension should be computed at a rate of one-fortieth instead of one-fiftieth as at present, inasmuch as the pay of the staff is lower in Ireland than in England and Scotland, while the contribution rate is the same." Copies of the resolution were ordered to be sent to Lord Wolmer, Sir Charles Nicholson, Mr. William Redmond, Mr. Nanetti, Mr. Hayder, and Dr. Shuttleworth.

Dr. MILLS, of Ballinasloe, made a statement to the Division, by permission of the Chairman, regarding a complaint which had recently been made by several medical men in his district to the Asylum Committee to the effect that he had engaged in private practice contrary to the conditions of his appointment. Dr. Mills said that he wished to bring the matter before the meeting, and to explain to the members of the Association his action in the matter complained of.

The members present fully discussed the points raised, and accepted the explanation given by Dr. Mills, and the Chairman desired to express to him the sympathy of the members in the trouble he had been caused.

Dr. RAINSFORD read a paper entitled "Some Cases of Medico-Legal Interest" (see p. 476), which led to an interesting discussion.

Dr. HETHERINGTON expressed his appreciation of the communication, and said that it should prove helpful to medical men in dealing with these difficult cases.

Dr. J. MAZERE COURTNEY thought that none of the cases mentioned by Dr. Rainsford could be classed as insane; they were, however, most interesting psychological studies. He doubted if at any time laws would be enacted to deal comprehensively with all of these cases owing to the extreme difficulty of classification.

Dr. NOLAN considered that no law could ever be formulated to meet these cases of moral depravity, and mentioned the case of a learned judge who harboured an escaped paranoid in his house, and was so impressed with the exaggerated delusions of persecution from which the patient suffered that he refused to allow of his being sent back to the asylum from which he had escaped. Dr. Nolan was much struck by this incident, as showing that judges' personalities must have a great weight in dealing with individual cases such as Dr. Rainsford had described.

Dr. GREENE said that it seemed a great pity medical assessors were not appointed in these cases, as in the Workmen's Compensation Act, to sit with the judge and assist him in dealing with these most difficult matters, and strongly condemned the practice of giving evidence as it exists.

Dr. DRAPES approved of Dr. Greene's suggestion, and wished to point out the all-importance of this personal equation of judge and jury in dealing with these cases which led to so many inconsistent verdicts.

Dr. LEEPER also spoke, and referred to the history of the British law regarding criminal responsibility, and alluded to its uncertainties and nebulosity.

Dr. RAINSFORD having thanked the meeting for their kind reception of his paper, replied to the various points raised by those who had joined in the discussion.

The CHAIRMAN proposed a vote of thanks to Dr. Rainsford for his kindness and hospitality in entertaining the Division, and for the pleasant day they had spent, which was passed unanimously, and the proceedings terminated.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editors of the JOURNAL OF MENTAL SCIENCE.

DEAR SIRS,—I should like to say, on my own behalf, in reference to Dr. Mercier's vigorous defence of the British School of Psychiatry in your April number, that I think my friend has put his views in too strong language, so that his motive is liable to be misunderstood, both in regard to Dr. Turner and especially in regard to Prof. Kraepelin and the other continental authors referred to. I cannot think that the word "plagiarist" is compatible with international amity or scientific