

The SECRETARY reported that, the matter being urgent, he had ventured to send a memorandum to the Parliamentary Committee suggesting certain changes in the Lunacy Law of Ireland, with the request that they would bring the subject under the notice of the framers of the proposed Irish Council Bill. The Lunacy Legislation Sub-committee had met on April 3rd and drawn up a modified resolution, which had been forwarded to the Chief Secretary for Ireland.

The action of the Secretary was approved, and after a prolonged discussion a modification of his Memorandum was agreed on, and copies were directed to be forwarded to the General Secretary in time for the May General Meeting of the Association, and to the Royal Commission on the Feeble-minded. The amended Memorandum was essentially the same as that of the Lunacy Legislation Sub-Committee, as published in the April number of the JOURNAL, with the addition of the following clause :

" In the event of any legislation dealing with Irish Lunacy matters, an enactment should be introduced to extend to Ireland the provisions of the Act of Settlement in the matter of deportation of Pauper Lunatics."

It was also suggested that the question of the conversion of the asylum service into a National Service might receive consideration.

The following were constituted a Committee to watch the Irish Council Bill, and if necessary take action, with reference to lunacy administration :—Drs. Rainsford, O'Mara, Norman, Donelan, W. Graham, Nolan, Fitzgerald, Leeper, Drapes, and Dawson.

A vote of thanks to the Secretary for his action in the matter was passed unanimously, and he replied.

#### COMMUNICATION.

Dr. R. R. LEEPER read a paper entitled " Notes on some Cases of Melancholia." The proceedings terminated with a cordial vote of thanks to Dr. Donelan for his kind hospitality.

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#### OBITUARY.

##### DR. CHARLES FÉRÉ.

Charles Samson Féré was born at Auffay, in Normandy, half way between Dieppe and Rouen, on the 13th June, 1852. He began his medical studies at Rouen in 1870, and, two years later, proceeded to Paris, where he had the advantage of such teachers as Broca, Guériot, Panot, and Guyon. At that time he desired to become a surgeon, but he fell under the powerful influence of Charcot at the Salpêtrière, and thereafter devoted himself to neuropathology. His inaugural thesis (1882) was entitled *Functional Disorders of Sight caused by Cerebral Lesion*. In 1884 he was successful in the competition for the appointment of Assistant Physician at the Salpêtrière, and in 1887 was promoted to the post of Chief Physician at the Bicêtre, which he held until his untimely death.

I do not intend to present even a short account of the work accomplished by Féré, which is, on the whole, familiar to those interested in psychiatry. Hypnotism, hysteria, the heredity of degeneration, criminals, and epileptics have been the subjects of his special scientific investigations. His earlier study of surgery had rendered him a good anatomist, and resulted in the publication of his useful book on the anatomy of the nervous system. Philosophical researches had a strong attraction for Féré, and issued in the contribution of many papers on the pathology of the emotions, on sexual instinct, on work and pleasure, on the disorders of intellect. For a considerable number of years he was a member of the Society of Biology, and submitted most interesting and important studies on muscular work, on the physiology of voluntary movements, on sensory excitations, on muscular fatigue, on teratology, and on teratology from the experimental standpoint.

Féré was a tall man, with a long black beard, a high broad forehead, large and pensive eyes. His strongly marked features were expressive of a gentle melancholy. At a first glance he appeared rather rough and cold in manner, but he was truly kind, gentle, and exquisitely sensitive. Féré led a simple life, and sought neither honours or rewards. His life was passed in the hospital, the laboratory,

and the library, constantly at work in spite of frequent and severe headaches. His indomitable will and steady perseverance did not fail until he was completely exhausted. He died on the 22nd of April.

During the course of his too short life he maintained his sweet remembrance of his beloved Normandy, of the ancient city of Rouen, and especially of his native village. He liked to speak of Auffay and its Roman origin—the place of the high beech tree. There he lies at rest—*sub tegmine fagi*.

A LIST OF THE MORE IMPORTANT OF FÉRÉ'S WORKS.

*Contribution à l'étude des troubles fonctionnels de la vision par lésion cérébrale.* Thèse, Paris, 1882.

"Notes pour servir à l'histoire de l'hystéro-épilepsie." *Archives de Neurologie*, 1882, N. 3, p. 160, 281.

"La médecine d'imagination." *Progrès médical*, 1884, no. 16; 1886, nos. 35, 36, 37.

"La polarisation psychique" (avec Binet). *Revue philosophique*, 1885.

"Sensation et mouvement." *Revue philosophique*, octobre, 1885.

"*Le magnétisme animal*." 1884. 4<sup>e</sup> edit. 1894.

"A Contribution to the Pathology of Dreams and of Hysterical Paralysis." *Brain*, January, 1887.

"La famille névropathique." *Archives de Neurologie*, 1884, N. 7, p. 1 et 173. 1894. 2<sup>e</sup> edit. 1898.

*Traité élémentaire d'anatomie médicale du système nerveux.* 1886 (242 figs). 2<sup>e</sup> edit. 1891.

*Sensation et mouvement, études expérimentales de psycho-mécanique.* 1887. 2<sup>e</sup> edit. 1900.

*Dégénérescence et criminalité.* 1888.

*Du traitement des aliénés dans les familles.* 1889.

*Les épilepsies et les épileptiques.* 1890. (67 grav., 12 planches.)

*Pathologie des émotions.* 1892.

"Contribution à l'histoire du choc moral chez les enfants." *Bulletin de la Société de médecine mentale de Belgique*, septembre, 1894.

"Hysteria, Epilepsy, and Spasmodic Neuroses." *Twentieth Century Practice of Medicine*. Vol. x. New York, 1897.

*L'instinct sexuel.* 1889. 2<sup>e</sup> edit. 1902.

"Les troubles de l'intelligence." *Traité de pathologie générale de Bouchard*.

*Travail et plaisir.* 1904.

RÉNÉ SEMELAINNE.

FRANK SCHOFIELD, M.D.

We regret to record the death of Dr. Frank Schofield, who was for many years a colleague of the late Dr. Paul at Camberwell House. Dr. Schofield received his medical education at St. George's Hospital, where he proved to be an able and diligent student, and where he was for a time Demonstrator of Anatomy and Physiology. In his capacity as Demonstrator he had the gratification of receiving from the members of his class at the end of the session a valuable presentation. He took the diplomas of M.R.C.S.Eng. and L.S.A. in 1861, and the degree of M.D.St. Andrews in 1862. On the advice and through the influence of the late Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson, who was a life-long friend, he was appointed Assistant Medical Officer to Camberwell House in 1861. He was then in his 23rd year. His predecessor was Dr. Murray Lindsay. Later he was promoted to be Medical Superintendent at Camberwell House, and he held this post till the autumn of 1899, when the delicate state of his health compelled him to resign.

On his retirement he went with his wife and family to reside at Weymouth. For a few years he to some degree regained strength, and he enjoyed the rest from the strenuous professional life of London. In the end of last year his health markedly failed, and after a severe illness of four months' duration, borne with great patience and fortitude, he passed away peacefully, greatly beloved and keenly regretted by a wide circle of friends.

LIII.

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