

MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.—IRISH MEETING.

A Quarterly Meeting of the Medico-Psychological Association was held at the Royal College of Physicians, Dublin, on Thursday, November 29th, 1885. Present, W. H. Gurner, F.R.C.S.I., in the chair, Dr. Ashe, A. Patton, M.B., Dr. Merrick, T. Draper, M.B., J. Moloney, L.K.Q.C.P., E. M. Courtenay, M.B.

Dr. MOLONEY showed some interesting specimens of instruments of restraint formerly in use in Swift's Hospital.

Dr. PATTON read notes of two cases of insanity connected with injury of the recto-vesical septum during parturition. In one recovery resulted after severe hæmorrhage; in the other, after a prolonged condition of melancholia, the case became one of dementia, with masturbation and filthy habits, afterwards refusal of food, requiring forced alimentation, with delusions of grandeur resulting in chronic and hopeless insanity. (See "Cases.")

The CHAIRMAN considered that recovery seldom resulted when associated with habits of masturbation.

Dr. MERRICK pointed out how recovery had followed in Dr. Patton's first case after a severe hæmorrhage, and that oftentimes improvement resulted from some severe shock to the system.

Dr. COURTENAY said that in many cases the recovery of the patient was often immediately after a severe outbreak of boils.

Dr. ASHE gave some details of a case of *petit mal*.

The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the religious habits of epileptics.

Dr. MOLONEY related an interesting case of a clergyman who took bromide of potassium as part of his daily food for a considerable time to ward off epilepsy.

Dr. MERRICK stated that he only remembered one case of anæmic epilepsy in which recovery had taken place, that in the County Antrim a curious belief existed that pork was a cause of epilepsy, and that in his asylum the epileptics refused to eat pork.

Dr. COURTENAY read a paper on "The Diet Tables of English Asylums."

The following were elected members of the Association:—

Myles, William Zachary, L.F.P.S.Gls., Asst. Med. Officer Richmond Asylum.

O'Neil, William Daniel, L.K.Q.C.P.L., Ass. Med. Officer Richmond Asylum.

Gordon, William Spear, M.B., Ass. Med. Officer, District Asylum Mullingar.

Harvey, Crosbie Bagnall, L.A.H.Dub., Asst. Med. Officer District Asylum, Clonmel.

"AFTER CARE."

ADJOURNED MEETING, BETHLEM HOSPITAL, 29TH OCTOBER, 1885.

Were present: Alfred J. Copeland, Esq., Treasurer of Bethlem Hospital, in the chair; Surgeon-General C. B. Francis, Dr. D. Hack Tuke, Dr. Norman Kerr, Dr. Cobbold (Earlwood Asylum), Dr. T. Clay Shaw, Hon. Treasurer of "After Care;" Rev. H. Hawkins, Hon. Secretary; Mrs. Ellis Cameron, Hon. Secretary Ladies' Committee; the Hon. Mrs. G. M. Glyn, Hon. Mrs. Pelham, Mrs. Pelham, and several other ladies.

The HON. SECRETARY, in his report, referred to the death of the Earl of Shaftesbury, first President of the Association. Some incidents of his relation to it were referred to; the expression of his interest in the subject of "After Care" when first brought under his notice; his acceptance of the Presidency, and his presence as Chairman at four successive anniversaries; his opinion of the need of "After Care," and of a home for mental convalescents. The result of a sale of fancy articles by Mrs. H. Hawkins was announced, for which a sum of £19 2s 6d was forwarded to the treasurer's account at the Union Bank of London, Argyll Place.

Dr. SHAW read a statement of funds in hand or promised; referred to the boarding-out system advocated by Dr. Lockhart Robertson as one way of find-

ing accommodation for convalescents, and explained his estimate of the annual expense of a home at £300.

Dr. HACK TUKE said that he was not particularly fond of the Scotch system of boarding-out, but some of the objections which weighed with him adversely would certainly not apply to convalescent patients being placed in families. Boarding-out might, therefore, be worthy of consideration, seeing that a home involves such serious outlay, not for once only, but every year.

Dr. NORMAN KERR declared himself to be dead against the boarding-out system. The risk of relapse would be a serious difficulty. There was need of a home for convalescents, but he considered that the estimate of £300 per annum was insufficient. He suggested drawing-room meetings, and considered that a sum of £1,000 should be aimed at.

Surgeon-General C. R. FRANCIS spoke decidedly in favour of a home.

It was proposed by Dr. NORMAN KERR, and seconded by Surgeon-General FRANCIS, "That the Committee be authorised to take steps to raise funds for the equipment and subsequent conduct of the projected home by means of drawing-room meetings and otherwise; two funds to be opened: (1) one of donations for equipment; (2) the other of annual subscriptions."

Mrs ELLIS CAMERON referred to the movement of 1815 for the improvement of the condition of lunatics, and the corresponding effort to better the position of convalescents; to the progress of the Association since the formation of the Ladies' Committee; to the interest taken in the subject by the late Earl of Shaftesbury; to the want of a specific home; and to the reception she had given to applicants. She also proposed that sub-Committee meetings should be held at intervals of two or three months.

Proposed by Dr. NORMAN KERR, seconded by Dr. HACK TUKE, "That Lord Brabazon be requested to accept the office of President; that, failing Lord Brabazon, Mr. S. Morley be similarly invited," the Hon. Secretary to communicate the invitations.

The TREASURER, in assenting to the meeting of the Association at Bethlem (on 29th January), observed that reference should previously be made to Dr. Savage.

With thanks to the Chairman, the meeting separated.

CONGRESS OF PSYCHIATRY AND NEURO-PATHOLOGY AT ANTWERP.

We briefly noted in the last number of the Journal the assembling of an International Congress of Psychiatry and Neuro-Pathology, initiated by the *Société de Médecine Mentale de Belgique*, and presided over by M. Desguin, to whose admirable fairness and courtesy we bore witness. We propose now to give an abstract of the proceedings which will serve to indicate the principal subjects of deliberation. These proceedings are contained in a report of the Congress which has been issued by the secretaries, who notify their intention of presenting a more detailed statement at a subsequent time. Among our Original Articles appears one of the papers which was read at the Congress, for permission to publish which, we have to thank the author, as well as the Secretary of the Congress, M. Ingels. We hope to be able to present in a future number at least one more of the valuable papers which were read at the meetings of the Congress.

MONDAY. SEPTEMBER 7TH, 10 P.M.

M. DESGUIN opened the first meeting by making the following speech:—Gentlemen and dear Colleagues—The first magistrate of the city of Antwerp gave expression just now to the interest he takes in the work of the Congress which is about to commence; he also assured you of the cordial feeling that awaits you in our city, and bade you welcome in the name of the Administration of the Commune.

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