

In the present *questionnaire*, masturbation was much less strictly defined than in the paper issued to the unmarried women, being described as "handling of the sex organs to produce pleasure." In spite, however, of this more elastic definition, only 38 *per cent.* of the women admitted the practice at some time during their life, as compared with a percentage of 60 in the unmarried women. This difference is suggestive, but the number of subjects is too small to allow of any definite conclusions being drawn. The relative proportions of those who had discovered the practice accidentally and those who had been instructed in it by others do not differ greatly from those found among the unmarried women. There was a difference of 15 *per cent.* between the graduates and non-graduates who had commenced the practice before the age of 12 years, the lower percentage being among those who proceeded to college later. This would seem to point to the conclusion that intensive study at an early age makes a difference in this particular respect.

Only 116 of those who replied to the questions said that their marriage had proved unhappy, and most of the subjects found that there was a greater stability in their physical health after their marriage. Some interesting tables are given as to the reaction of the women to sex relations after marriage, and the figures are correlated with those concerning the practice of masturbation. In 62 cases the practice was continued after marriage.

There were 71 cases who admitted having had sexual intercourse before marriage, and 163 who had homosexual relations with physical expression (but of these latter cases only 92 said that the experience was associated with sex at the time). The figures are of interest, but no conclusions should be drawn from them, nor does Dr. Davis attempt to draw any. The whole question as to the value of information derived from answers to such *questionnaires* must be carefully considered. There is always a doubt as to whether it is not the more or less "abnormal" subjects who alone are likely to reply to such questions. But this implies no reflection upon the admirable care with which Dr. Davis has worked up the material at her disposal. We understand that the research is to be re-published, with the addition of typical case-histories. The whole paper is a model for future work on these lines. We must again express regret that no attempt was made to ascertain the nature of the fantasies which always accompany the practice of masturbation.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

Part IV.—Notes and News.

THE MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

THE Quarterly Meeting of the Association was held at the Rooms of the Medical Society of London on Thursday, May 21, 1925, Dr. M. J. Nolan, President, in the Chair.

The Council and Committees met earlier on the same day.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the last meeting, having already appeared in the Journal, were accepted and signed.

AMENDMENTS TO THE ASYLUMS OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1909.

The PRESIDENT said that, arising out of the minutes, there was the important question of the emendation of the Asylums Officers' Superannuation Act, 1909. A number of the bodies interested considered this matter, and that day the Parliamentary Committee submitted to the Council a *précis* of the amendments and alterations which were suggested. These the Council approved, and it now remained for the general meeting to indicate its pleasure in the matter. He asked the Secretary of the Parliamentary Committee to give the meeting a short abstract of them.

Dr. BROOKS KEITH said the amendments had been drawn up and dealt with by the Conference on this subject, and the suggestion was that these should be incorporated in a Bill to be introduced into the House by a Private Member.

Summary of Provisions of Amending Bill.

It is suggested that the Bill might be presented in three parts, *viz.* :

- (1) Provision to amend the Principal Act.
- (2) Provision to include the Royal Asylums of Scotland.
- (3) Power to amend the Asylums and Certified Institutions (Officers' Pensions) Act, 1918, regarding classification of officers and servants of mental defective Institutions.

The proposed amendments to the Principal Act are briefly as follows :

1. Age of retirement to be 50 in the case of females in both Class 1 and Class 2.
2. Power to be granted to Visiting Committees to grant a special superannuation allowance or gratuity to established officers and servants incapacitated through illness as well as injury, and the maximum gratuity to be increased to 2 years' salary and emoluments.
3. The widow or dependent children to be entitled to a gratuity as follows :
 - (a) If employee dies before completing 10 years' service, a sum equal to the amount of his aggregate contributions under the Act.
 - (b) If employee dies after 10 years' service, one year's salary or wages and emoluments.
 - (c) If employee dies after 15 years' service, one and a half years' salary or wages and emoluments.
 - (d) If employee dies after 20 years' service, two years' salary or wages and emoluments.

N.B.—Discretionary power to be given to Visiting Committees to award gratuities in cases of dependents other than widows or children (*e.g.*, mother, sister, etc.).

N.B.—Discretionary power for Committees to pay the gratuity either in a lump sum or in instalments spread over a period not exceeding three years.

4. Where a pensioner dies within two years of being pensioned the widow or dependents to receive the difference between the superannuation allowance which he has received and two years' pension.

5. All service to count towards pension whether continuous or not, and whether rendered at one or more institutions. The provision for sanction to remove to be deleted.

6. Section 7, which requires a pensioner to forfeit part of his pension on obtaining a subsequent appointment, to be deleted, *i.e.*, under the present Act if a pensioner obtains a subsequent appointment he is not entitled to receive more of his pension than together with the salary of his new appointment is equal to the salary, etc., of the appointment in respect of which his pension was granted.

7. An employee to be entitled to return of contributions on losing his office from any cause whatever, except by dismissal in consequence of an offence of a fraudulent character or of grave misconduct, but in the case of voluntary resignation this entitlement is to apply only after five years' service, and in the case of marriage after three years' service.

N.B.—Discretionary power to be given to Visiting Committees to return contributions in cases of voluntary resignation under special circumstances to persons leaving with less than five years' service.

8. No officer or servant to be permitted to continue in the service after the age of 65 unless the local authority pass a special resolution to the effect that his retirement will cause inconvenience to the service, in which case he may continue for a period not exceeding a year—and so on at the termination of each successive year of his age.

9. In the case of employees in the M.A.B. service who may be transferred from institutions which come under the A.O.S.A. to institutions which come under the Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act their services in these different institutions should be aggregated for pension purposes, and their pension or gratuity should be calculated in accordance with the provisions of the Act under which they are contributing at the time of retirement or death.

10. Five years to be substituted for ten years in calculating the amount of superannuation allowance or gratuity, and the calculation to be made according to the average amount of the salary, etc., which would have been payable to the employee if he had remained in good health and full-time employment during that period.

11. Those who contracted out of the original Act to be allowed to come in on payment of arrears of contributions.

12. The West Riding Asylums Board and the Staffordshire Asylums Board to be included in the definition of local authority in Section 17 of the Act.

The PRESIDENT asked if any member wished to make observations on these suggested amendments.

Dr. W. F. MENZIES asked what was the "local authority." Lancashire had fourteen such and Yorkshire eighteen. How was consent to be obtained from all those local authorities? If one local authority were to dissent the whole clause would fall through.

Sir WILLIAM JOB COLLINS said that as he was responsible for introducing into the House the principal Act, he might perhaps be allowed a word on this occasion. It was in the year 1909 that he introduced the Asylums Officers' Superannuation Bill to the House of Commons, and he would never forget the collaboration of Dr. Shuttleworth, who gave him most valuable help. Some of the amendments now suggested, he thought, appeared in the original draft, but were eliminated in the process of the passage of the measure through the House, largely through the activity of Sir Frederick Banbury, who was at that time a most difficult person to encounter. It was, indeed, only by arrangements with that gentleman behind the Speaker's Chair that he was able to secure a second reading of the Bill at 11 o'clock at night. He understood it was now proposed to introduce an amending Bill by a private member. He assumed, however, that it would have to be a Public Bill, and that, but for the exigencies of the session it might (thanks to the absence of Sir Frederick Banbury, who had been elevated to another place), pass without serious opposition. There were financial provisions in the original Bill which were lost in the Commons, and he, the speaker, was able to have them restored in the Lords, though it was really an infringement of the Commons' constitutional powers with regard to financial Bills. This was an interesting record of how the House of Commons waived its rights in the matter of finance, and accepted amendment after amendment which were passed by the Lords. He wished every success to the amending Bill, and he regretted that some of the amendments which were now to be included could not be secured in 1909. A further regret he had was that he was not now a Member of the House of Commons to repeat the assistance he was able to give to such a commendable object in 1909. (Loud applause.)

Dr. D. BOWER said that at the time referred to by the previous speaker he was Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee; he could corroborate everything which Sir William Collins had just said. He was sure that the Association would always feel grateful to Sir William for his great services in getting the Bill through the House. (Applause.) The matters dealt with in the amending Pensions Bill had been fairly fully thrashed out, and he thought the Association could now well give authority to the small Committee, which had been working in collaboration with committees of the bodies concerned to proceed with the Bill. He proposed this.

Lt.-Col. J. R. LORD said that this was not the last occasion on which the Association would have the opportunity of considering this matter; this step was merely a preliminary one, as the Bill had not yet been framed. He understood that a private member whose name had been mentioned in the Council would father a

Bill on the lines mentioned. He took it that the Bill would ultimately be published in the *Journal of Mental Science*, and would go through the usual procedure of being considered by the Council and Parliamentary Committee and probably further suggestions made, and, possibly, some of the proposed amendments modified. What was now before the meeting was that the Committee be empowered to proceed on the lines of the report they had heard. If that was the meaning of the proposer of the resolution he would second it.

Dr. BOWER said that was his meaning.

Dr. SHUTTLEWORTH said he was associated with Sir William Collins in regard to the passing of the Pensions Bill, and it was a great pleasure to see him present this afternoon and looking so well. He wished to bear testimony to the great industry and tact which Sir William Collins displayed in the passage through the legislature of the Bill of 1909. The opportunity he referred to came late at night and on the last day of the session, and Sir William seized it. There was opposition threatened from an M.P. well known as an economist, and it was a question of five minutes whether the Bill could be proceeded with. The Association, he felt sure, would wish again to thank Sir William Collins for all that he did in promoting the passing of the Asylums Officers' Superannuation Act of 1909. (Applause.)

The proposition was agreed to.

The PRESIDENT remarked that, before passing to the next item of business, he would like to say how pleased he was to see Sir William Collins at the meeting, because he remembered when they of the specialty in Ireland were rather lagging behind, and he and some other Irishmen tried to get Irish officials included in the Bill, Sir William Collins took the matter up most warmly, and went to a lot of trouble to get it put right; and those in Ireland felt a great deal of gratitude for what he did so well, as in no country did the interests of officials need so much safeguarding. In the upheavals which had taken place of late many things might have happened.

A ROYAL CHARTER.

The PRESIDENT said the next matter he had to refer to was the Charter. It would be remembered that the Association empowered a small Committee to draw up a Royal Charter for the Association, and considerable progress had been made with it since the last meeting. He particularly mentioned the names of Dr. F. H. Edwards, Dr. C. H. Bond and Dr. G. M. Robertson, as well as that of Dr. R. Worth, who had all been working very hard at it. It had now reached the stage of petition. He asked Dr. Edwards to state the present position briefly.

Dr. F. H. EDWARDS said it would probably be remembered that last year a small Committee was appointed to consider the question of preparing, and presenting in due course, a petition for a Royal Charter for the Association. The present position of this Association was that it was actually a limited liability company. In the year 1895 permission was obtained to drop the suffix "Limited," but the Association still remained in the somewhat undignified position of being a company such as might be formed by any small body of people who chose to join together and trade. And it was felt that the Association had now reached a size, dignity and importance which justified application for a Royal Charter. The general feeling was that unless they trod seriously on anybody's corns the matter should go forward. He did not think it was necessary to read the petition in full, but it set forth the claims the Association sought to be recognized, and they felt they were such as had been recognized by the granting of a Charter in the case of other bodies of a similar character. It was asked that there might be recognized the power the Association already possessed to examine candidates for diplomas in psychological medicine and in mental nursing as formerly, and, generally, to carry out the functions of the Association as already existed. The position of the Association, as an examining body especially, would be very much strengthened if this were granted. To-day the terms of the document had been approved by the Council, and before the next meeting he hoped the form suggested in which the Charter should be granted would be presented. Unless any member wished to ask a question on the petition, he would move that the Association approve the action the Council had taken in this matter.

Dr. PERCY SMITH seconded.

Lt.-Col. J. R. LORD said the meeting might like to hear the new name which had been suggested in the Charter for the Association.

Dr. EDWARDS replied that the proposed name was "The Royal British Medico-Psychological Association."

Dr. J. G. SOUTAR said he thought the addition of the word "British" was unnecessary. It was open to members of the specialty in all overseas regions to become members of the Association, and it did not seem advisable to limit it by attaching to it the word "British." Still, he did not press it.

Prof. G. M. ROBERTSON said it had been left open to the Committee who had been dealing with this matter to suggest any name they pleased. The word "British" was suggested as including not only the home countries, but also the Dominions beyond the seas.

Dr. SOUTAR said it was not his intention to propose an amendment.

Dr. EDWARDS replied that this Association had no special claims to consider itself to be *the* Medico-Psychological Association; there were many other countries which described their association dealing with psychiatry as *the* Medico-Psychological Association. Indeed, he believed Americans used this particular name.

Lt.-Col. J. R. LORD said that there were many such on the continent.

Dr. MENZIES said it was usual to leave out "British." We had our insular prejudices, but we did not put "British Empire" on our stamps. It sounded better to leave out "British," but it must be left to the Committee.

The proposal was carried.

OBITUARY.

The PRESIDENT said the Association had to regret the loss of one of its old and valued members. He asked Prof. Robertson to say a few words about the loss of Dr. H. Gardiner Hill.

Prof. G. M. ROBERTSON said he thought the death of Dr. Gardiner Hill should not pass without a reference of a very particular nature, seeing that his name would go down in history as that of one who had instituted a great reform in the care of the insane. Dr. Gardiner Hill, who had just died, was at one time Assistant Medical Officer at "The Lawn," Lincoln, and subsequently he went to Cane Hill as Assistant Medical Officer, and from there was promoted Medical Superintendent of Middlesex County Asylum, Tooting, where he served as Medical Superintendent for 28 years. While there he carried out most advanced and improved methods in the care of the mentally deranged, and carried out all the ideals established by his father while Assistant Medical Officer at The Lawn. Members were aware that the father of the deceased, in the year 1835, while quite a young man, aged 22, decided that it was not necessary that patients should be kept under mechanical restraint. That constituted a landmark in the history of the treatment of the insane in this country, and completed the work which had been begun by Pinel, in Paris, in 1793. Lincoln Asylum was visited by Dr. Conolly, of Hanwell, and he was so impressed by what Gardiner Hill had done that he introduced exactly the same methods on an extended scale into Hanwell. Others followed suit. At that time this country took the first step which had placed it in advance of all countries of the world in the humane care and treatment of the insane, a position which, the speaker thought, the country had never fallen back from. Their late colleague was an extremely sociable man, and one had a liking for him for, among other things, his interest in sport. He was not only a great golfer himself, but both his sons got their "Blue" at Cambridge University, and one of them was captain of the golfing team at the University.

A resolution of sympathy with the members of the family of the deceased member was carried by those present rising in their places.

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS.

Dr. Brooks Keith and Col. Lord were appointed scrutineers for the ballot.

The following were unanimously elected ordinary members of the Association:

DHUNJIBHOY, JAL EDULJI, *Capt. I.M.S.*, M.B., B.S. Bombay, Senior Physician Superintendent, Berhampore Central Mental Hospital, Bengal.

Proposed by Drs. J. G. Porter Phillips, T. Beaton and R. Worth.

SELKIRK, ELIZABETH THOMPSON, M.B., Ch.B. Edin., Assistant Medical Officer, City Mental Hospital, Birmingham.

Proposed by Drs. C. Roscrow, T. C. Graves and R. Worth.

MORRIS, JOHN VINCENT, M.B., B.Ch. Dubl., Assistant Medical Officer, Norfolk Mental Hospital, Thorpe, Norwich.

Proposed by Drs. O. G. Connell, A. W. B. Livesay and R. Worth.

DAVIDSON, THOMAS WISHART, M.B., Ch.B.Glasg., D.P.M., Assistant Medical Officer and Pathologist, City Mental Hospital, Humberstone, Leicester.

Proposed by Drs. H. Dove Cormac, L. C. F. Chevens and A. T. W. Forrester.

STAFFORD, HARRY, M.B., Ch.B.Manch., Assistant Medical Officer and Pathologist, Parkside Hospital, Macclesfield, Cheshire.

Proposed by Drs. H. Dove Cormac, L. C. F. Chevens and G. L. Brunton.

Dr. R. WORTH (Hon. General Secretary) said that owing to the sad death of Dr. C. M. Tuke, one of the Auditors of the Association, it was necessary to appoint a successor. Dr. H. J. Norman had been approached, and had kindly consented to allow his name being submitted as an Auditor to the Association. He thought Dr. Norman would commend himself to everybody present.

Agreed.

THE SIXTH MAUDSLEY LECTURE.

Dr. J. SHAW BOLTON, of West Riding Asylum, Wakefield, then delivered the Maudsley Lecture on "Mind and Brain" (*see p. 357*).

The PRESIDENT said that no subject could be of more compelling interest to members of the Association than that which had been chosen by the Maudsley Lecturer for the year, and few could have handled it so thoroughly in the time at his disposal. The depth of his original research, and the breadth and clarity of his deductions, showed him to be possessed of that happy blend of experiment and imagination which was held to be essential to progress in the investigation of the relationship of mind with brain. Possibly at no time in the history of the world had this problem received the degree of attention which it was now having, and it was one which would defy full solution until our present conception of brain and mind passed away. Meantime, its solution would no doubt continue to be presented in a variety of forms. To-day there was Sir Oliver Lodge's speculations as to the ether as the basis of life and mind, while on the walls of the Academy Sir William Orpen's panels presented, in a problem picture, the contest between man and beast—mind and matter. He was sure the lecturer, Dr. Shaw Bolton, deserved the Association's warmest thanks.

Dr. PERCY SMITH said it gave him much pleasure to accede to the President's wish and second this vote of thanks. Dr. Bolton had, in this lecture, taken his hearers over a very long space; he started with the early insect, and brought one up to the consideration of the unconscious mind, discussing in passing birds, mammals, reptiles and other forms of life. It had been his great honour to be associated with Dr. Bolton in the last three or four years as Examiner at Wakefield, and while down there he, the speaker, had seen his laboratory work. And members were familiar with Dr. Bolton's work on amentia and dementia, and his elaborate examination of the cortex in association with mental functions. Therefore it was certain that on this occasion there would be a most instructive and illuminating address. In one part of his address Dr. Shaw Bolton said few individuals sufficiently exercised their cortex to justify its possession. But Dr. Bolton was himself one of the few, for he had brought his own cortex to the highest degree of development. There were many points which could be discussed, if that were usual, and many would probably like to discuss his views on Freudianism, the unconscious mind, dreams, etc. But that must be left for the present. He was sure members would agree that the heartiest thanks were due to Dr. Shaw Bolton for his address.

Carried by acclamation.

Dr. SHAW BOLTON, in reply, said he was very grateful for the opportunity he had had not of giving this lecture, but of stating certain truths, which required stating by someone, though not necessarily by himself. He felt much indebted to the audience for the quiet and kind way in which they had listened to him, and had, despite the warmth of the room, refrained from going to sleep.

SOUTH-EASTERN DIVISION.

THE SPRING MEETING of the Division was held by the kind invitation of Dr. R. C. Turnbull at Severalls Mental Hospital, Colchester, on Thursday, April 30, 1925.