

ii. That the admissions be divided into "First admissions" and "Not first admissions."

iii. That Direct and Indirect admissions be differentiated under separate columns.

Dr. URQUHART suggested that Table IIA of the present Statistical Tables be retained as an optional table.

As time was not available for further discussion, Dr. G. M. ROBERTSON, seconded by Dr. KERR, moved "That a Committee consisting of Drs. Clouston, Urquhart, Oswald, and Marr be appointed to meet the Scottish members of the Statistical Committee, and to take such steps as they consider necessary to collect the opinion of members of the Scottish Division regarding the tables, to codify these opinions as far as possible, and present the result to a special meeting of the Division." This was agreed to.

A vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the meeting. The members afterwards dined together in the Station Hotel, Perth.

IRISH DIVISION.

SPECIAL MEETING.

A Special Meeting of the Division was held, with the sanction of the President of the Association, at the Royal College of Physicians, Dublin, on Friday, February 17th. Dr. Oscar Woods occupied the chair, and there were also present Drs. O'Neill, Norman, Harvey, Oakshott, Finegan, W. Graham, J. J. Fitzgerald, and W. R. Dawson (Hon. Sec.).

The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed and signed, and the Secretary explained that the President had sanctioned the calling of the meeting in order to consider the recent Order of the Irish Local Government Board, in so far as it affected the management of asylums, it being clearly understood that any action taken would be on behalf of the Division only. A letter was then read from Dr. M. J. Nolan, in which he regretted his inability to attend, and called attention to certain points in the Order which he considered absurd and unworkable.

A prolonged discussion then followed, in which all the members present joined, and though some speakers approved of certain isolated points in the Order, the opinion of the meeting was condemnatory of it as a whole. Finally the following resolution was proposed by Dr. W. Graham, seconded by Dr. J. J. Fitzgerald, and passed unanimously:

"That Drs. Norman and Woods be empowered to embody a resolution on the terms as discussed, and that same be forwarded to the Inspectors of Lunatics."

Dr. Woods being obliged to leave, Dr. Norman was then voted to the chair; and Dr. Finegan wished to propose a resolution with reference to Youghal Auxiliary Asylum. As the meeting had been called for a specific purpose this was ruled out of order; but the members present informally expressed a wish that the Secretary, or, failing him, Dr. Nolan, should attend the meeting of the Association at York, and lay the facts before the Parliamentary Committee with a view to securing their good offices, and that if neither could go the Secretary should bring the matter in writing under the notice of the said Committee.

The meeting then terminated.

RECENT MEDICO-LEGAL CASES.

REPORTED BY DR. MERCIER.

The report of the Australian case credited in our last issue to Dr. Cleland was, in fact, kindly sent by Dr. Andrew Davidson, of Callan Park, to whom Dr. Mercier desires to apologise and make this reparation.

[The Editors request that members will oblige by sending full newspaper reports of all cases of interest as published by the local press at the time of the assizes.]

The Guardians of Coventry v. the Guardians of Epsom.

This was a very curious case which turned upon the precise time at which a person became insane. About two and a half years ago a girl, named Amelia

Massara, entered St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Convent at Coventry, and became successively a postulant and a novice, but did not actually take the vows and become a nun. At the end of the two and a half years she resolved to leave the nunnery and return to the world, and preparations were made accordingly. She discarded her religious garments and assumed others, and was escorted into the train for Euston, her intention being to live with friends at Sutton, in Surrey. She actually arrived at Sutton Station, having been unaccompanied since she left Coventry, and was found by the stationmaster at Sutton, wandering aimlessly about the platform. The friends at Sutton do not appear to have expected her, and when she arrived she cried "Oh, Mrs. Lowe, take me in, take me in," and then almost fainted. Her manner was very peculiar, and when Mr. Lowe saw her, he said at once, "Oh, she's off her head." Next day she was certified and taken to Brookwood Asylum, where in time she became convalescent. An order was then made by the Surrey Justices for her removal to Coventry, and against this order the Guardians of Coventry appealed. It appears that if the girl was insane when she left Coventry, she would have been properly chargeable to Coventry, but if she was then sane, she would have her settlement in Epsom. She was unquestionably insane when she arrived at Sutton, and Dr. Barton, of Brookwood, testified that, in his opinion, she had been insane for "some time" before entering the asylum, and that her insanity while at Coventry had been overlooked. On the other hand a number of nuns, who had been in daily contact with Massara, proved that she was a bright intelligent girl, and had shown no signs of insanity while in the convent. Upon this evidence the court (Surrey Quarter Sessions) found that Massara was capable of forming the intention of leaving Coventry at the time she did so, and allowed the appeal.—*Daily Graphic*, January 7th.

The case is probably unique. It certainly seems that if the girl could find her way unassisted from Euston to Sutton, she must have had her wits about her sufficiently to form the intention of leaving Coventry, which was the fact that decided the case.

"CORK AUXILIARY ASYLUM.

"Mr. Sloan asked the Chief Secretary if he was aware that Dr. Kelly, Roman Catholic Bishop of Cloyne, had been permitted by the Lord Lieutenant, and contrary to the advice and remonstrance of the Inspectors of Lunatic Asylums, to detach 350 lunatics from the County Asylum in Cork and lodge them in an unused industrial school at Youghal, which he had prepared for this purpose; that the Bishop received a capitation grant for each patient, that there was no resident doctor to take charge of these patients, nor any qualified nurse in charge of them, that the house, built and arranged for a doctor, has been handed over to the chaplain, and that the Resident Medical Superintendent of the Cork Asylum had been refused permission to visit the auxiliary asylum; and, if so, would he say what steps, if any, did he intend taking in the matter.

"Mr. Wyndham said that in 1901 the Lord Lieutenant, under Section 9 (4) of the Local Government Act of 1898, signified his approval of the plans for the conversion of an industrial school building at Youghal into an auxiliary asylum, established for about 400 patients, under the 76th Section of that Act. The plans which were submitted in 1900 by the Cork District Asylum Committee, of which Dr. Kelly, Lord Bishop of Ross, was a member, were recommended for His Excellency's approval by the Inspectors of Lunatic Asylums. A capitation grant of 2s. per week was payable for each patient in the auxiliary asylum under Sections 58 and 76 of the Act. There was no resident doctor as the committee decided to appoint a visiting medical officer instead, but the consent of the Lord Lieutenant to the appointment of a visiting medical officer has only been given as a tentative measure which would be open to reconsideration in the event of the arrangement being found defective. The institution had been placed in charge of a community of nuns, who were assisted by the ordinary asylum attendants. It was understood