

"its ability to cure the curable and to treat with kindness the incurable"—and he indicated how the life approximated more closely to home life and the advantages to be derived from living in an old country house with historic associations.

Dr. McDOWALL thanked Dr. Mould for his very interesting paper, and a conversational discussion followed.

Dr. W. J. VINCENT read a report on a case of "Conjugal General Paralysis," and showed photographs of the man and his wife. He pointed out that, though cases had probably been frequently met with, the number recorded is comparatively few apparently. The cases are instructive in the fact that there was a history of syphilis in the husband which had been acquired after marriage; that he was the first to be affected mentally; that his disease took the "expansive" form, grandiose delusions, etc.; whilst his wife suffered from the "stuporose" form, depression gradually merging into dementia. The husband had no congestive attacks, while the wife had, but in both the concomitant physical signs were well marked. The husband was a commercial traveller, *æt.* 50, under-sized and somewhat ill-developed. He was happy, contented, and self-satisfied, and showed the usual characteristics of general paralysis. He gradually became demented, and died about two years after admission.

The wife was *æt.* 50, and was admitted three years after the husband. She was depressed and apathetic, and became steadily demented. She had several epileptoid seizures, and died about one and a half years after admission.

In both cases the post-mortem examination showed the characteristic changes.

A discussion followed in which Dr. Mould, Dr. Ewan, and others took part.

Dr. KELLY read Dr. French's paper "The Vagrant or Can't Work," which had been postponed from the last meeting. He pointed out how in his prison experience he had come in contact with this class. The general crimes committed by them were: "sleeping out," "wandering abroad," "begging alms," but never any great criminal offence needing much brain work.

The following was the table usually used for classification: (1) (a) Congenital deficiency with epilepsy; (b) congenital deficiency without epilepsy; (2) imperfectly developed stages of insanity; (3) mental debility after attack of insanity; (4) senility; (5) alcoholic; (6) undefined. But for purposes of generalisation these six categories resolve themselves into two classes: (1) Those who are congenitally feeble-minded; (2) those who are not. He further divided them into true and quasi-vagrant; the former are almost always congenitally defective, the latter have become vagrants from stress of external circumstances, and are much more frequently charged with really criminal offences. He stated that out of 104 cases under his observation, 122, or 63 *per cent.*, were found congenitally defective. He then briefly sketched the history of a typical case of the class referred to, and drew the following conclusions from his experiences:

- (1) Three in every four beggars and vagrants are really feeble-minded.
- (2) Two out of every three, or 65 *per cent.*, of those found defective could be shown to be congenitally feeble-minded.
- (3) The chief causal factor in the condition of this latter class is parental alcoholism.
- (4) That this particular class is not as a class criminal.
- (5) That all vagrants and masterless men found to be defective should be recognised as demented, segregated at special work, farm colony labour for preference, and thus made to defray to the State the cost of their maintenance.

Comments on the paper were made by Dr. Mould and Dr. Vincent, and regrets were expressed that Dr. French was unable to be present.

A hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Mould for his hospitality brought the meeting to a close.

#### SCOTTISH DIVISION.

A MEETING of the Scottish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain and Ireland was held, by the courtesy of Professor D. Noel Paton, in the Physiological Laboratory of the University of Glasgow, on Friday, 19th March, 1909.

The following members were present:—Drs. Oswald, Baugh, Bruce, R. B.

Campbell, Carre, Clouston, Donald, Easterbrook, Graham, Gostwyck, Hotchkis, Ireland, Carlyle Johnstone, Yellowlees, Keay, Kerr, J. H. Macdonald, G. D. Macrae, Maclachlan, Marshall, Parker, Richard, Robertson, Rorie, Shaw, Skeen, Turnbull, and Marr (Divisional Secretary).

There were also present as guests Drs. Henry J. Watt, Ivy McKenzie, and Carl Browning.

Dr. Oswald was called to the chair.

Letters of apology were submitted from Principal Sir Donald MacAlister, K.C.B., Drs. Mercier, Watson, Urquhart, and Tuach Mackenzie.

Professor D. Noel Paton said he had been asked by Principal MacAlister to express his regret at not being able to be present at the Meeting, and to extend to the Members of the Division a hearty welcome to the University of Glasgow. Professor D. Noel Paton said he had the greatest pleasure in welcoming them to the Physiological Laboratory.

The minutes of the last Meeting were read and approved, and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

The Chairman, after making suitable reference to the death, since last meeting, of Drs. Alexander Robertson and David Brodie, two members of the Association, suggested that Dr. Ireland, who was perhaps more intimately acquainted with both than any other one present, might say a few words. Dr. Ireland made sympathetic reference to the death of the two members, and paid a high tribute to the manner in which they had distinguished themselves during their medical career. It was unanimously resolved, on the motion of the Chairman, "That it be recorded in the minutes that the Members of the Scottish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain and Ireland desire to express their deep regret at the loss of Dr. Robertson and Dr. Brodie; their appreciation of the esteem in which they were held by the medical profession in Great Britain, especially in Scotland; and their sympathy with the two families in their bereavement, and that the Secretary be instructed to transmit an excerpt of the minutes to the relatives of Dr. Robertson and Dr. Brodie."

Drs. R. D. Hotchkis and R. B. Campbell were unanimously elected Representative Members of Council, and Dr. H. C. Marr Divisional Secretary.

Drs. W. D. Campbell, James Laurie, J. D. Maclachlan, Arthur Kellas, A. G. McIntyre, and D. G. Campbell were, after ballot, duly elected members of the Association.

Dr. Ivy McKenzie, M.A., B.Sc., of the Pathological Department of the Glasgow University, read a paper on "The Wassermann Reaction, and especially its Significance in Relation to General Paralysis." This paper is published in the current number of the *Journal of Mental Science* (see page 437). Unfortunately time did not allow a long discussion of the paper. After some remarks by Drs. Lewis Bruce, Marr, and the Chairman, the next business of the Meeting was proceeded with, viz. "A Short Account of recent Progress in the Analysis of Reactions," by Henry J. Watt, M.A., Ph.D., Lecturer on Psychology in the University of Glasgow. After the paper had been read Dr. Watt gave a very interesting demonstration of Reaction Time Apparatus.

Drs. McKenzie and Watt received the warm thanks of the Division for the great trouble they had taken in preparing the papers and giving the demonstrations.

The members afterwards dined together in the North British Station Hotel.

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#### IRISH DIVISION.

THE SPRING MEETING of the Division was held at Farnham House, Finglas, Dublin, on Thursday, April 29th, 1909, by invitation of Dr. Dawson, who showed the members over the institution and afterwards entertained them at luncheon.

At the subsequent meeting the chair was occupied by Dr. T. Drapes, and there were also present Drs. R. R. Leeper, A. D. O'C. Finegan, W. Graham, J. O'C. Donelan, J. A. Oakshott, James J. Fitzgerald, O. F. McCarthy, J. Mills, F. E. Rainsford, M. J. Nolan, and W. R. Dawson (Hon. Sec.). Dr. G. F. Shepherd also took part in the proceedings after his election. Apologies were received from