

IRISH DIVISION.

The **SPRING MEETING** of the Division was held at St. Edmundsbury, Lucan, on Thursday, April 30th, 1908, by the courtesy of Dr. Leeper, who entertained the members at luncheon after first escorting them round the institution.

At the meeting afterwards the chair was occupied by Dr. Leeper, and there were also present—Drs. T. Drapes, James J. Fitzgerald, H. M. Cullinan, J. O'C. Donelan, M. J. Nolan, John J. Fitzgerald, H. M. Eustace, J. A. Oakshott, and W. R. Dawson (Hon. Sec.). Letters regretting inability to attend were received from the President of the Association and Drs. P. O'Doherty and J. Patrick.

A resolution expressing the sense of the loss sustained by the Association in the death of Dr. Conolly Norman, and of sympathy with Mrs. Norman, was unanimously passed.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, confirmed, and signed.

A letter was read, acknowledging a copy of a resolution passed at last meeting, recommending the proposals of the Irish Asylum Officials Superannuation Committee to the favourable notice of the Chief Secretary for Ireland.

A letter was read from one of the Hon. Secretaries to the Conolly Norman Memorial Committee, asking for the sympathy and support of the members of the Division. The project of establishing a memorial to the late Dr. Norman was unanimously approved.

Dr. James F. Fitzgerald, Assistant Medical Officer, District Asylum, Clonmel (proposed by Drs. B. C. Harvey, J. O'C. Donelan, and W. R. Dawson), and Dr. Richard R. Kirwan, Assistant Medical Officer, District Asylum, Castlebar (proposed by Drs. F. C. Ellison, E. Fleury, and W. R. Dawson), were after ballot declared unanimously elected ordinary members of the Association.

Dr. W. R. Dawson was elected Divisional Secretary, and Drs. M. J. Nolan and T. Drapes, Representative Members of Council, for the ensuing year.

The following dates were fixed on for the meetings of the Irish Division in the ensuing session: Saturday, November 7th, 1908; Thursday, April 22nd, and Thursday, July 1st, 1909.

It was left to the Hon. Secretary to arrange a place for the Summer Meeting of the Division.

The report of a Committee of the Division appointed at last meeting to consider the best method of promoting increased interest in the work of the Association amongst the Assistant Medical Officers was received and adopted. It was suggested (1) To try to secure reduced rates from the railway companies; (2) To offer a medal or prize for competition by Assistant Medical Officers, subject to the approval of the Association; (3) To invite the Assistant Medical Officers to join in collective investigations; (4) That offers of hospitality should be secured for Assistant Medical Officers; (5) That Resident Medical Superintendents should try to allow their Assistants to attend one meeting in the year; (6) That the Autumn Meeting should be set apart for considering the reports of collective investigation.

The Secretary called attention to the circumstances connected with the election of a Resident Medical Superintendent to Carlow Asylum, the committee of which were endeavouring to appoint the Assistant Medical Officer, though not legally qualified either by length of time registered or in the asylum service, and had been threatened with a mandamus. After some discussion a resolution was unanimously passed expressing satisfaction that the Executive were enforcing the legal requirements.

Dr. JOHN J. FITZGERALD read a paper entitled, "Twelve Months' Experience of the Treatment of One Thousand Cases of Insanity, without the Employment of Chemical or Mechanical Restraint, or Seclusion." It was discussed by the Chairman and Drs. Drapes, Donelan and Oakshott, and Dr. Fitzgerald replied.

A letter from Dr. W. Graham was read, calling attention to the report of a trial in the course of which it appeared that His Honour, Sir Francis Brady, had animadverted on the making of wills by asylum patients, and said that he would not uphold such wills. After a general discussion it was decided to suggest to the

Lord Chancellor that it might be desirable for him to issue specific directions respecting will-making by lunatics.

The meeting terminated with a cordial vote of thanks to Dr. Leeper for his kind hospitality.

The SUMMER MEETING of the Division was held at Waterford District Asylum, by the courtesy of Dr. Oakshott, on Thursday, July 2nd, 1908.

After a visit to the Asylum in the morning the members enjoyed a very pleasant trip down the harbour to Dunbrody Abbey and the new Barrow Bridge, in a steam launch kindly lent by J. N. White, Esq., M.R.I.A. They were then entertained at lunch by Dr. Oakshott, who occupied the chair at the subsequent meeting, there being also present:—Drs. T. Drapes, R. R. Leeper, James J. Fitzgerald, John J. Fitzgerald, A. Fitzgerald, H. M. Eustace, G. F. West, O. F. McCarthy and W. R. Dawson (Hon. Sec.). Dr. Mary S. P. Strangman attended as a visitor. Apologies were received from the President of the Association and from Drs. W. Graham, O'Neill, Nolan, Bond, Redington, Allman, Donaldson, Steen, Burrell, Cullinan, Rutherford, Pierce, Lawless, Martin, Revington and Rainsford.

The minutes of last meeting were read, confirmed, and signed, and the Hon. Secretary reported on various matters arising out of them, stating amongst other things that a conditional mandamus had been obtained to compel the Committee of Carlow Asylum to appoint a properly qualified Medical Superintendent.

A letter from Mrs. Conolly Norman was read, thanking the members for the resolution of condolence passed at last meeting.

A letter from the Registrar in Lunacy was read, stating that the Lord Chancellor could not lay down definite rules as to will-making by lunatics.

The following was unanimously elected an Ordinary Member of the Association:—William Douglas Sammon, L.R.C.P.I., L.M., L.R.C.S.I., Assistant Medical Officer, Richmond Asylum, Dublin. Proposed by Drs. J. O'C. Donelan, J. M. Redington, and D. F. Rambaut.

Drs. W. Graham and James J. Fitzgerald were unanimously elected Representative Members of Council for the ensuing session, to replace Drs. Nolan and Drapes, who were found to be ineligible by reason of having held the post for the last three years consecutively.

It was decided to hold the Autumn Meeting of the Division at the Royal College of Physicians, Dublin.

The following were appointed a Committee of the Division to watch legislation in the interests of the insane, in view of the impending Irish Poor-Law Amendment Bill, viz.: Drs. Donelan, Dawson, Graham, Nolan, James Fitzgerald, Leeper, Drapes, and Oakshott.

The Chairman, having called attention to the fact that the expenses of the Hon. Divisional Secretary in attending meetings were not paid, it was unanimously resolved, on the proposal of Dr. LEEPER, seconded by Dr. DRAPES, to ask the Council to consider the matter with a view to making a grant towards the Secretary's expenses in attending the London meetings.

Dr. OAKSHOTT contributed some "Notes on Waterford District Lunatic Asylum":—

The Waterford Asylum was erected in 1833, and opened in July, 1835, with accommodation for 100 patients, fifty of each sex. The original building consisted of a central administrative Block with Clock Tower on top, and corridors right and left, so arranged that both sleeping and day rooms faced the east.

The building was from the design of a Mr. Wm. Murray, whose plans seem to have had the approval of the then Board of Control, as a number of asylums were erected in Ireland about the same time on a similar plan.

It was more like a prison or penitentiary than a hospital for sick people with its long, vaulted, flagged corridors and single rooms with small windows placed high up from the ground. It appears strange with all the advantages the site possesses that the plan was not so arranged that the inmates could have the benefit of the sunlight and beautiful view available from the south and west aspects.

Whatever may have been the drawbacks to this building it must have been a vast improvement on the accommodation provided previously for the lunatic poor of the city, as it appears that before it was opened the only place of refuge

for them was the "House of Industry" which they shared with tramps and dissolute characters of both sexes. An insight into the character of those confined there can be gathered from a note taken from 'Ryland's History of Waterford,' published in 1827. "This institution (House of Industry) has derived great benefit from the introduction of a tread-mill." It is to be hoped that this beneficent instrument of discipline was not used as a mode of treatment for the poor lunatic.

The prison-like character of the old building can still be seen in a few places, altered though it has been from time to time, but in 1835 it must have been dreary in the extreme with its long, badly lighted, cold, cheerless corridors, with flagged floors, whitewashed walls, and small windows, only admitting the minimum quantity of light and air, and its dismal airing courts surrounded by high walls.

When the Asylum was first opened, and for twenty-eight years afterwards, the Superintendent, or Manager as he was then styled, was a layman. The first Manager was a Major Rowan, who only held the position for a few years, and was succeeded by Capt. Dobbs. They were assisted by a Visiting Physician, who at first was not expected to visit daily.

On the retirement of Capt. Dobbs on pension in 1863, Dr. Thomas Crowe Burton was appointed the first Resident Medical Superintendent, Waterford being the last asylum to be placed under the care of a resident physician. From the time of Dr. Burton's appointment a great improvement appears to have been made in the condition of both patients and staff, as the discipline must have been very lax previously if one can judge from the frequent reports and dismissals of attendants during his short time of office, extending only for two years, when he was transferred to Castlebar Asylum. Dr., now Sir Francis, MacCabe was appointed early in 1866, and continued the work of improving the condition of the establishment. He was after six years good service promoted to the important position of Governor of Dundrum Central Criminal Asylum. The vacancy created by Dr. MacCabe's promotion was filled by Dr. R. V. Fletcher, the late respected Resident Medical Superintendent of Ballinasloe Asylum, to which he was transferred after about two years service, when he was succeeded by Dr. Piersie Connolly, who had been for many years previously Visiting Physician to the Asylum. He also only held the position for two years, dying in November, 1877.

On his death an interregnum of three months occurred, the Asylum in the meantime being managed by the Visiting Physician and the Clerk. It was not until February, 1878, that the late Dr. Ringrose Atkins was appointed. He held the position for exactly twenty years, dying in 1898.

It is hardly necessary to remind the members of this Association of the late Dr. Atkins. He was well known as an alienist and a writer and lecturer on various subjects. His memory is still revered here, where he endeared himself to all classes and creeds by his amiable and charitable disposition.

By his early and unexpected death, the writer of these notes was selected to fill the vacancy, being the last but one Superintendent in Ireland to be appointed before the Local Government Act (Ireland) 1898 came into force. As already stated the Asylum was originally constructed to contain 100 patients, but as the space provided shortly became insufficient the Asylum was enlarged from time to time, at first by internal structural alterations and afterwards by additions built to the parent Asylum, the most extensive of these being the red-brick building erected in 1895 at the south side, which raised the accommodation to 484 beds. The space thus provided having again become insufficient for the wants of the district the Committee, in 1903, after long and careful consideration, decided to further enlarge the institution by erecting two detached pavilions for 60 patients of each sex to act as hospitals for the sick and infirm, to alter certain rooms on the first floor of the oldest part and convert them into four large dormitories and a dayroom, enlarge the windows at the back and front of these rooms, heat a number of wards with hot pipes, build a house for the Resident Medical Superintendent and convert his old dwelling, part into quarters for the Assistant Medical Officer, and part into apartments for attendants, and utilise a room made available by these changes for the meetings of the Committee.

These additions and alterations raised the accommodation to 605 beds and provided separate sleeping rooms for the attendants, as heretofore they had to sleep in the dormitories with the patients.

All the changes in the original design of the institution clearly show the marked improvement in the style of buildings of the present day from the dreary prison-like structure of over seventy years ago. It is interesting to note on going over the records the anxiety of the Governors to provide for and ameliorate, if possible, the condition of the lunatic poor of the district; this is characteristic of the people of Waterford, who are remarkable for their charitable disposition. A stranger coming to live among them cannot help being struck by the number of charitable institutions in the city and by the generous help always afforded to the deserving poor.

Dr. MARY S. P. STRANGMAN, introduced by the Chairman, read a paper entitled, "The Atropin Treatment of Morphinomania and Inebriety," which was discussed by the Hon. Secretary and Drs. Leeper, Eustace, James Fitzgerald, and West (see page 727).

Hearty votes of thanks were unanimously passed to Dr. Oakshott for his conduct in the chair and his kind hospitality; to J. N. White, Esq., M.R.I.A., for kindly lending his steam-launch for the use of the members; and to Dr. Strangman for her paper; and Dr. Oakshott having replied for himself and Dr. Strangman, the meeting terminated.

COMPLIMENTARY.

THE PRESENTATION OF THE FREEDOM OF KIRKWALL TO DR. CLOUSTON.

THE freedom of the Royal Burgh of Kirkwall in far Orkney has been conferred on Dr. Clouston, who was surrounded by his family and friends on that auspicious occasion. Provost Slater said that the list of distinguished men on the Burgess' Roll was honourable because each of them had been a man of outstanding distinction in the country. Dr. Clouston had conferred distinction on the county, of which Kirkwall was the chief town, and came of an old Orkney family who have held lands there for very many years. Provost Slater proceeded to sketch Dr. Clouston's career, with which we are all familiar; and referred to his kindness and hospitality, specially to Orcadians; his help and his influence had been a boon and a blessing to many. Provost Slater handed the burgess ticket to Dr. Clouston. It was engrossed as follows:

KIRKWALL, the twenty-eighth day of August, one thousand nine hundred and eight.—Which day the Magistrates of the Royal Burgh of Kirkwall admitted Thomas Smith Clouston, Esq., M.D., LL.D. Edinburgh, a Burgess and Guild Brother of the said Burgh, with all the privileges and immunities thereto belonging, on the occasion of his first visit since his recent retirement from the arduous duties of Medical Superintendent of the Royal Edinburgh Asylum after a service of thirty-five years, in recognition of his very distinguished professional career, of his world-wide reputation as an authority on mental diseases, of the additions he has made to the literature of his profession, and of the deep interest he has always taken in his native county of Orkney. This Burgess and Guild Brother Ticket was directed to be prepared and delivered to him, the said Thomas Smith Clouston, by acceptance hereof, becoming solemnly bound to discharge every civil duty incumbent by law on a true and faithful Guild Brother of the said Burgh. A memorandum of which admission, written upon stamped paper, is enrolled among the records of the said Burgh.—In witness whereof, these presents are subscribed by the said Magistrates and by the Town Clerk, and the seal of the Burgh is impressed hereon.

JAS. SLATER, Provost.
WM. B. BAIKIE, Senior Bailie.
WM. F. WHITE, Junior Bailie.
WM. J. HEDDLE, Town Clerk.

Provost Slater in handing the burgess ticket to Dr. Clouston remarked, amid cheers, that he had great pleasure in doing so on behalf of the citizens of the Royal Burgh.