

A few relevant facts about suicide were then mentioned, its possible relation to the climacteric in both sexes remarked on, and a summary given of the mental condition of 50 cases of potential suicide recently examined at Parkside Mental Hospital.

Various theories of suicide were then noted, including Freud's and Hoch's, and it was pointed out that while these theories might account for the mechanism of the actual suicidal attempt, they did not explain the deeper factor—the reason for that mechanism.

The present group had been formed to try and discover if this deeper factor is related in any way to inherited mental characteristics.

A short summary of the scheme was then given, which fell under the following headings :

1. The mental state of the patient.
2. The physical state of the patient, classifying under (1) type of personality and (2) physical type.
3. The personal history of the patient.
4. The family history, paying special attention to such matters as types, evidence of psychopathic personalities, definite morbid symptoms, etc.
5. Correlation of (1), (2), (3) and (4).
6. Pooling of results by all the investigators for the purpose of joint consideration.

Suggestions as to various methods of work were referred to under each of these headings.

In conclusion, the reference of the Commissioners in their last Annual Report to the necessity of research into the subject of suicide was mentioned, and the value of co-operative work in this connection emphasized.

Dr. FORRESTER gave a most instructive and interesting demonstration of treatment of recent cases by means of Swedish drill and other varied and graded exercises, including country dancing. The patients wore suitable and pleasing costumes. The beneficial effect of the treatment was evident, and Dr. Forrester spoke of the very satisfactory results which he had obtained.

Members were afterwards very kindly entertained to tea by Mrs. Forrester.

SCOTTISH DIVISION.

The AUTUMN MEETING of the Scottish Division was held at the Murray Royal Asylum, Perth, on Friday, November 15, 1929.

There were sixteen members present.

Dr. R. B. Campbell, Divisional Chairman, presided.

The minutes of the last Meeting were read, approved, and signed by the Chairman.

Apologies for absence were intimated from the President, Sir Arthur Rose, Prof. G. M. Robertson, and Drs. Keay, Carre, Leggatt, Skeen, Henderson, Ivy Mackenzie, McMillan, Hotchkis, Steele, Chislett, O'Flaherty, Connell, Fairbairn, McLaren, Yellowlees, Dods Brown, McRae and Sturrock.

Dr. Douglas McRae was nominated for appointment as Divisional Chairman, but Dr. Easterbrook explained that Dr. McRae was not desirous at present of holding office in the Division. Dr. Neil T. Kerr was thereupon nominated for the position of Divisional Chairman for 1930-31.

Drs. Neil T. Kerr and C. J. Shaw were nominated Representative Members of Council, and Dr. W. M. Buchanan Divisional Secretary for 1930-31.

The Divisional Standing Committee of Management was appointed as follows : The Chairman of the Division, the Representative Members of Council, the Nominated Member of Council, the Divisional Secretary and Dr. Aidan G. W. Thomson.

The following candidates were unanimously elected by ballot ordinary members of the Association :

THOMAS ARTHUR HOWARD MUNRO, M.B., Ch.B.Edin., Dip. Psych., Assistant Physician (temporary), Royal Edinburgh Hospital for Mental and Nervous Disorders, Craig House, Edinburgh.

Proposed by Prof. G. M. Robertson, Drs. W. M. McAlister and D. S. Spence.

DUNCAN MACMILLAN, B.Sc., M.D., Ch.B.Edin., Assistant Physician, Crichton Royal Institution, Dumfries.

Proposed by Drs. C. C. Easterbrook, J. McDougall and W. J. Raitt.

ANDREW McNAE WYLLIE, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B.Glasg., Clinical Pathologist, Crichton Royal Institution, Dumfries.

Proposed by Drs. C. C. Easterbrook, J. McDougall, and W. J. Raitt.

ARTHUR SPENCER PATERSON, B.A.Oxon., M.B., Ch.B.Edin., Assistant Medical Officer, Glasgow Royal Mental Hospital, Gartnavel, Glasgow.

Proposed by Drs. D. K. Henderson, A. G. W. Thomson and W. M. Buchanan.

Following upon a short discussion of the changes likely to follow the operation of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1929, the reference made to the Divisional Committee of Management at the last meeting was continued.

The SECRETARY having explained that Dr. D. K. Henderson, on the invitation of Dr. G. H. Kirby, the Director, was sailing the following day to attend the opening ceremony of the New York Psychiatric Institute and Hospital, it was unanimously resolved to appoint Dr. Henderson official representative of the Scottish Division at the ceremony, and to ask him to convey to Dr. Kirby and his colleagues the congratulations and good wishes of the members.

On the motion of Dr. Donald Ross, it was resolved that, in future, the Chairman and Secretary be authorized to give any member attending Foreign Congresses, etc., sanction to represent the Division.

Members were kindly entertained to lunch, after which Lord Scote welcomed the members on behalf of the Directors to the Murray Royal Asylum. The Chairman cordially thanked the Directors and Dr. W. D. Chambers and his staff for their kind hospitality and for the arrangements made in connection with the meeting.

Thereafter members had an opportunity of inspecting the hospital, under the guidance of Dr. Chambers and his assistants.

On the meeting reassembling Dr. Thornton read a short paper on "Three Cases of Death from Rupture of the Heart," and an interesting discussion was taken part in by Drs. H. Ferguson Watson, D. Ross, A. G. W. Thomson and W. M. Buchanan.

Dr. CHAMBERS presented (1) a case of katatonic dementia praecox in a patient suffering from Hirschsprung's disease, specially interesting from the point of view of prognosis, and (2) a case exhibiting an unusual series of neurological signs.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the business of the meeting and thereafter members were kindly entertained to tea at Murray House.

IRISH DIVISION.

THE AUTUMN QUARTERLY AND CLINICAL MEETING of the Irish Division of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association was held in the Royal College of Physicians, Kildare Street, Dublin (by kind permission of the President and Fellows), on Thursday, November 7, 1929.

There were seventeen members present.

Dr. R. R. Leeper, Chairman of the Division, presided.

Apologies for unavoidable absence were received from Dr. Martin, Dr. Owen Felix McCarthy, Lt.-Col. W. R. Dawson, Dr. S. J. Graham and Dr. Norman Graham.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the meeting, referred to the loss the Division had sustained in the deaths of Dr. Bagenal Harvey, of Clonmel, and Dr. Patrick O'Doherty, of Sligo. A vote of sympathy was passed in silence, the members standing.

The minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed by the Chairman.

The meeting then considered the question of the establishment of "Study Groups" in Ireland. A discussion ensued, in which it was the consensus of opinion that such groups might augment the clinical activity of the Division, and on the proposal of Dr. Moran, Dr. Honan, of Downpatrick, and Dr. Fitzgerald of Grangegorman Mental Hospital, agreed to take up the matter and, if possible, to organize groups in their respective areas.