

the abnormal coliforms, but he did maintain that wherever there was a patient who had insufficient acidophilus, or none at all, it was a sound line of treatment to try to re-establish the bacillus; it was only going back to Nature. The newly-born infant had nothing but the pure acidophilus in its intestine, and if it was not there it ought to be.

There was, however, another way of eliminating the coliforms, which he had learned only that afternoon from Dr. D. Embleton, bacteriologist to University College Hospital. That was by giving anti-virus by the mouth. An autogenous anti-virus was made from the bacillus—it was a ten-day culture in broth, a particular bacillus filtered through a bacterial filter—he believed Dr. Embleton used a Seitz filter. Increasing doses of this anti-virus were given by the mouth, and the results were said to be excellent.

With regard to tyrosine, the fact that it caused, in experimental work, arterio-sclerosis was very interesting; for when one met with a large amount of chronic nephritis and arterio-sclerosis *post-mortem* in mental hospitals, one wondered where it came from. Possibly this had some bearing on that point.

As to histamine, he did not know whether Dr. Stewart noticed the letter in the *British Medical Journal* by Mr. Voge, of Edinburgh, as to the testing of urine for histamine in cases of suspected pregnancy. The speaker had tried a dozen specimens, and the test seemed to work well. That might indicate a line for the detection of the absorption of these abnormal products.

The cases were not classified in any way; the tables showed that the cases were taken at random, as they came in.

Sufficient progress had not yet been made to enable a classification of flora to be made according to the patient's mental state.

With regard to sour milk, all milk which was sour was not necessarily acidophilus milk; it might indeed be staphylococcus milk! It was necessary to have an absolutely sterile milk, and to carry out the work under strict antiseptic precautions. He had the bottles and the milk boiled, and tests were made with sub-cultures from time to time, to make sure that there were no accidental contaminations. Much harm could be done if the material given to the patients was not properly prepared.

DIVISIONAL MEETINGS.

SOUTH-EASTERN DIVISION.

THE AUTUMN MEETING of the Division was held, by kind invitation of Col. W. H. F. à Beckett and Mrs. à Beckett, with whom was associated Dr. W. F. Umney, the Medical Superintendent, at The Flower House, Beckenham Lane, Catford, London, S.E. 6, on Monday, October 14, 1929.

There were present twenty-three members and several visitors, including Dr. G. R. F. Stilwell, a former Medical Superintendent of Flower House.

Prior to an excellent luncheon members were conducted by Col. à Beckett and Dr. Umney round the house and gardens, and were delighted with the elegance and comfort of the former and the lay-out of the latter. A stream which runs through the gardens divides to surround a plateau, which presented a vision of flowers probably not to be seen anywhere outside Holland. Near by are the remains of an old chapel, dating from Tudor times, at which the hounds of the local hunt meets were blessed.

At the meeting which followed, Dr. J. R. Lord, Past President of the Association, took the chair.

Minutes.

The minutes of last meeting, having been published *in extenso* in the Journal, were allowed to be taken as read and were then approved and signed by the Chairman.

Obituary.

The Chairman then referred to the loss to the Association and particularly to the South-Eastern Division by the decease of Drs. David Bower and Fletcher Beach.

In regard to the former he remarked that at that gathering he could add but little to what they already knew of him. His kind and helpful personality had been a source of strength and encouragement to many an earnest junior member, among

whom he, the speaker, had found himself. On Dr. Bower's work on the Council and the Parliamentary Committee he need not dilate. The respect and affection in which he was held by the Division were shown when it did him the highest honour within its power by electing him its first Chairman.

His, the speaker's, description of Dr. Bower's life and doings, a task which had fallen to his lot at the last annual meeting, would appear in due course in the Journal, together with an obituary notice by Col. Ernest White.

Of Dr. Fletcher Beach's services to psychiatry and to the Association he could, had time permitted, have spoken at length, but here again an extended obituary notice in the Journal would supplement any description of the deceased gentleman he could give now. Dr. Fletcher Beach's greatest work had been in regard to the mental defective. To him and to the late Dr. Shuttleworth, more than to anyone else, were due the humane provisions of the Mental Deficiency Act. He had also done fine work in the scientific study of the mental and physical welfare of children. Among his published writings were contributions to Tuke's *Dictionary of Psychological Medicine* and Allbutt's *System of Medicine*. He joined the Association in 1874 and for many years did good work on the Council and Parliamentary Committee. He was President of the Association for the year 1900-1. What Shuttleworth did for the Royal Albert Institution at Lancaster Fletcher Beach did for Darenth schools, which he organized on much the same lines. He remained there for some twenty years, but psychiatry had seen less and less of him since he took up neurological work, chiefly as a consultant. As everyone present knew, Fletcher Beach was Consulting Physician at the West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases at the time of his death on August 18.

As an editor of the Journal he, the speaker, had to keep himself up to date as to the seniority of members. Sir James Crichton-Browne, who joined in 1863, was by many years the oldest living member of the Association, and only one other was living who joined in the 60's. The hand of death had been very heavy of late in regard to the 70's members, among whom were Bowers and Fletcher Beach. Only three more, as far as his, the speaker's, recollection went, remained alive.

[Inquiry subsequently confirmed this: T. W. McDowall, 1870; J. Merson, 1877; W. J. Dodds, 1879.]

Finally it was moved from the Chair, and agreed to by the meeting, that the deaths referred to should be recorded in the minutes, with an expression of the regret the Division felt at the loss the Association had thereby sustained, and that suitable letters of sympathy be sent to the relatives in each case.

Members rose and stood in silence as a mark of respect for the deceased members.

Vote of Thanks for Hospitality.

The Chairman said there had not been the usual opportunity at the luncheon for members to express their appreciation of the generous hospitality they had received at the hands of their host and hostess. He therefore took this, the earliest opportunity, at the suggestion of the Honorary Secretary, of repairing that omission. He felt sure that all present would support him in saying that they had enjoyed a thoroughly good lunch, and that their visit to the house and gardens had given them all the greatest pleasure. They would all agree, having seen that vista of flowers of all hues, that the place was most appropriately named. The house gave them the impression of homely care and kindly treatment, upon which he congratulated the management and the Medical Superintendent. The speaker said his visit had become sacred because the house had once been the home for many years of one who had the respect, admiration and affection of many. He referred to the late Dr. Charles Mercier. A great figure in psychiatry of an earlier date had also resided there, namely, Dr. Forbes Winslow, the elder, and his strikingly beautiful wife. But he would not anticipate Col. à Beckett's paper by saying any more.

A resolution of cordial thanks to Col. and Mrs. à Beckett for their kindness was agreed to unanimously, to which Col. à Beckett replied.

Date and Place of the Spring Meeting, 1930.

The invitation of Dr. David Rice (who was present) to hold the Spring Meeting at the City Mental Hospital, Hellesdon, Norwich, was, on the recommendation of

the Divisional Committee of Management, accepted with great pleasure, subject to its being arranged to take place some time before May 9, the date of the next quarterly meeting. It was left to the Honorary Secretary and Dr. Rice to decide this.

Divisional Vacancy on the Council.

The Divisional Committee of Management recommended that the vacancy on the Council caused by the death of Dr. David Bower should be temporarily filled, in accordance with the Bye-laws, at the next meeting and a new chairman of the Division elected. This was agreed to, and a circular asking for nominations for this and for the officers (1930-31) would be issued at an early date.

Election of New Members.

The Chairman, having appointed Drs. Cedric Bower and Macfarlane scrutineers, announced that the following candidates had by ballot been unanimously elected ordinary members of the Association :

EDWIN LANCELOT HOPKINS, M.R.C.S.Eng., L.R.C.P.Lond., D.P.H., D.P.M., Deputy Medical Superintendent, West Park Mental Hospital; Bymoor, West Park, Epsom.

Proposed by Drs. N. Roberts, P. K. McCowan and L. H. Wootton.

ANNIE MARGARET MCGRATH, B.A.Lond., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Pathologist, Herts County Mental Hospital, Hill End, St. Albans, Herts.

Proposed by Drs. W. J. T. Kimber, A. Shepherd and Noel Sergeant.

WILLIAM FRANCIS UMNEY, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.Lond., Medical Superintendent, The Flower House, Beckenham Lane, London, S.E. 6.

Proposed by Drs. Noel Sergeant, Percy Smith and Edward Mapother.

ARCHIBALD MONTGOMERY MACCALLUM, M.B., Ch.B.Glasg., Assistant Medical Officer, Ipswich Mental Hospital.

Proposed by Drs. W. M. Ogilvie, Brooks Keith and Noel Sergeant.

Correspondence.

The Honorary Secretary then read letters of thanks from Mrs. Mackenzie Wallis and Sir Hubert Bond for letters he had sent them at the direction of the last meeting of the Division.

PAPER.

“The History of the Flower House,” by Col. W. H. F. à BECKETT.

[*Abstract.*]

“It might be of interest to state that the earliest record that can be found concerning this property centres around the period of Henry VIII, when an early historian of Kent mentioned that King Henry set out from Southend Palace to Carshalton to meet his Queen. Those of you who have been to the latter place will remember a stone outside the Parish Church dedicated to Anne Boleyn, as the place where she and King Henry first met. Certainly the house in its initial state existed in the Elizabethan period. It has been added to at various periods, and I am told that from the air its shape resembles an F. Perhaps by additions some day we may complete our other initial. And now, I am afraid I am going to disappoint you. Those of you who did us the honour this morning of visiting our garden and seeing the flowers, of which we are rather proud, no doubt will say that the name chosen for the house is a most appropriate one; perhaps you will consider that we have kept up the reputation of The Flower House. Here comes the disappointment.

The house was called after two old maiden ladies, who by repute were anything but romantic, and I believe rather martinets in the hamlet, called the Misses Flower. Hence, in one fell swoop, our romance is dashed to the ground!

The room in which you are at present assembled is a part of the very old house, of Georgian antiquity, and the ceiling in the patients' dining-room has been admired as a very good example of early Georgian architecture. Perhaps you have noticed the marble mantel-piece in the patients' drawing-room, which is a genuine Adam mantel-piece, being hand-carved out of the solid marble.

As regards the home itself, it was taken by my grandfather, the late Dr. Forbes Winslow, from the present Lord Forster (who, by the way, was born here) some sixty years ago, and it is on record that it was his wish and intention to start the

Home as one for gentlemen only—we are still the only one in England)—to furnish it as much as possible like a country house, to inculcate the spirit of club life, and make it as little like an institution as possible, but with the necessary precautions that have to be taken for the safety of the patients.

When Dr. Winslow died, Dr. Charles Mercier took his place. He was then a young man just released from his studies, but for nearly forty years he was a faithful and true friend of my family and carried on the traditions of the place, always remembering my grandfather's wish. His enforced retirement on account of ill-health came at a most inopportune time, because both my brother and I, who, at the death of my father, were the acting proprietors, were on service with our regiments abroad. Nevertheless, I was able to get leave from my regiment in the West Indies, to instal Dr. Bullmore, on the recommendation of the Board of Control, to whom I can never be sufficiently grateful for the kind assistance and advice they have always given in selecting the medical staff.

The war broke out shortly afterwards, and again we, as proprietors, were unable to watch the fortunes of the house. When it was over a change in the medical superintendence presented itself once more at short notice, and my old friend and cousin, Dr. George Stilwell, took over the medical superintendence of the house. Under his guidance the house maintained its former reputation, and we were very sorry when his practice in Beckenham compelled him to resign.

I might here mention that when the war ended, my brother and I—who were both Old Contemptible gunners—thought that we might find the Flower House useful for some poor shell-shocked officers who were mentally disabled by the war. We decided to build a special wing, the rooms of which were to be as much as possible like officers' quarters; and we were persuaded that in certain types of cases an environment of this kind would certainly make them happier and thus help them.

The plan worked extremely well, and cases came and left very much improved in health. I may mention that where an officer's people were not able to afford our lowest fees—they were always charged our lowest—we took a patient for just the meagre sum (if I may say so) that the Government always pays for service from outside its own ranks.

The opening of the new wing was performed by Sir Henry Dickens, the Common Serjeant of the City of London; and in this connection it might be of interest to state that the late Charles Dickens, his father, was a great personal friend of my grandfather, Gilbert Abbott à Beckett, who wrote *The Comic History of England*; while Sir Henry was a great personal friend of my father. His family were at school with my brother and myself; while my little girl a year or two ago walked in the Lord Mayor's Procession at the Mansion House hand in hand with the fourth generation of Dickenses. It might be amusing to state that when we asked Sir Henry to open the new wing, my brother (who, like myself, is no scholar) spelt the Common *Sergeant* on the invitation card he issued as if he were a military gentleman and not the Serjeant of the legal profession, which of course is spelt differently. Sir Harry rang up in the morning to ask in what garb he should come down, and Pat suggested that a morning coat and a top hat would lend dignity to the occasion. Sir Harry said, "If I am only a 'common serjeant' I think it would be better if I did not come down so overdressed!" So you see he got his own back.

At the end of the War, when I retired from the Services, my wife and I determined that we should give up our lives to the old place, and consequently we came in residence.

The house, on our arrival, required renovation, and I feel that it is fitting to allude to my wife's part as matron since we arrived here. She reorganized the whole place as far as the internal administration was concerned; turned the early Victorian atmosphere into what obtains to-day. Electric light was installed; and it was entirely re-decorated and furnished. The colour schemes of the rooms are wholly her idea.

We have always tried really to create a homely atmosphere. Sports of all kinds are encouraged and we are proud of both our cricket and football elevens. The spiritual welfare of the patients is specially studied, and a service is held weekly in the house for those unable to go outside."

A generous reference to the work of Dr. Umney and the nursing staff and an appreciation of the Association's visit concluded a very interesting document.

DISCUSSION.

The CHAIRMAN then expressed the thanks of the meeting for the charming paper they had just heard. He thought the notion that a liking for club surroundings was limited to men no longer held good. Ladies' clubs in London presented to him no features not present in men's clubs, and he felt sure the house and its surroundings were well suited to the needs of both men and women. The place breathed homeliness and restfulness, and was satisfying to one's artistic sense. The discussion was then continued by Drs. STILWELL, UMNEY, SERGEANT, RICE and NORMAN.

Afterwards members and other guests were entertained to tea.

SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

THE AUTUMN MEETING of the Division was held by kind invitation of the Committee of Visitors and Dr. J. McGarvey at the County Mental Hospital, Wells, Somerset, on Thursday, October 24, 1929.

Fourteen members were present and three visitors (Alderman R. A. Hobhouse, Chairman of the Visiting Committee, and Drs. Coleman and Simpson).

Sir John Macpherson was voted to the Chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed and signed.

Apologies for absence were received from the President, Ex-President, Dr. Soutar, Divisional Chairman, and other members.

Dr. W. Starkey was nominated as Hon. Divisional Secretary, and Drs. Barton White and J. McGarvey as Representative Members of Council for the year 1930-31.

The following was unanimously elected an ordinary member of the Association:

DAVID SHERIDAN SPENCE, B.A., M.B., B.Ch.Dubl., Assistant Medical Officer, City and County Mental Hospital, Burghill, Hereford.

Proposed by Drs. J. G. Smith, D. M. Cox and W. Starkey.

An invitation from Dr. S. Edgar Martin to hold the Spring Meeting on Thursday, April 24, 1930, at Hume Towers, Bournemouth, was gratefully accepted.

The remainder of the meeting was of a purely clinical character, and several interesting and instructive cases were shown and discussed by the medical staff of the Hospital.

Dr. MCGARVEY showed two female idiots, members of a family of mental defectives, in which there was a history of chronic lead poisoning in the mother—the source of the poison being traced to the water supply derived from a well on the site of an ancient lead mine dating from Roman times.

Dr. A. DARLINGTON showed a woman with signs pointing to a lesion in the pons, and discussed the differential diagnosis between tumour and a vascular lesion.

Dr. D. MENZIES showed a male case of cerebral syphilis with unusual symptoms, and dealt with the distinction between meningo-vascular syphilis and general paresis. A discussion ensued, in which the Chairman and Drs. J. M. Rutherford, E. Barton White, G. W. T. H. Fleming and others took part.

During the morning members visited the Hospital and inspected the various departments. They were most hospitably entertained to lunch, and after the meeting Dr. and Mrs. McGarvey kindly provided tea.

The extremely unfavourable weather conditions prevented several members who had intended to be present from reaching the Hospital.

NORTHERN AND MIDLAND DIVISION.

THE AUTUMN MEETING of the Division was held, by the courtesy of Dr. A. T. W. Forrester, at Warwick County Mental Hospital, Hatton, near Warwick, on Thursday, October 24, 1929.

There were twenty-four members present.

During the forenoon members were shown over the hospital, and were afterwards entertained to lunch.