

The SECRETARY submitted a letter from the Secretary of the Parliamentary Committee of the Association, intimating that that Committee had endorsed all the Amendments suggested by the Scottish Division to the Asylums Officers' Superannuation Act (1909), but expressing the opinion that there was no chance of an amending Bill for another year. The Secretary was instructed, in acknowledging the letter, to request that the amendments of the Scottish Division may be kept before the Parliamentary Committee, so that their inclusion may be pressed for in any amending Bill that may be introduced.

Drs. C. J. Shaw and J. H. MacDonald were unanimously elected Representative Members of Council for the ensuing year, and Dr. W. M. Buchanan was elected Divisional Secretary.

Dr. Donald Ross was recommended to the Educational Committee of the Council as an examiner for the Certificate in Psychological Medicine.

The following candidates, after ballot, were admitted to membership of the Association:

CONNELL, ERNEST HENRY, M.B., Ch.B.Edin., Clinical Assistant, Royal Asylum, Edinburgh.

Proposed by Drs. G. M. Robertson, W. McAlister, and H. Yellowlees.

DICK, ALEXANDER, M.C., M.B., Ch.B.Glas., Assistant Medical Officer, Glasgow District Mental Hospital, Woodilee, Lenzie.

Proposed by Drs. Carre, Dryden, and Buchanan.

DUNLOP, GEORGE WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM, M.B., Ch.B.Edin., Senior Assistant Medical Officer, District Asylum, Inverness.

Proposed by Drs. T. C. Mackenzie, Hotchkis and Buchanan.

JARDINE, MAURICE KIRKPATRICK, M.B., Ch.B.Edin., Assistant Medical Officer, Fife and Kinross District Asylum, Cupar.

Proposed by Drs. J. H. Skeen, Hotchkis, and Buchanan.

THOMSON, AIDAN GORDON WEMYSS, M.B., Ch.B.Glas., Assistant Medical Officer, Glasgow Royal Asylum, Gartnavel.

Proposed by Drs. D. K. Henderson, Oswald, and Buchanan.

WHITELAW, WILLIAM, M.B., Ch.B.Glas., Director, Western Asylums Research Institute, 10, Claythorn Road, Glasgow, W.

Proposed by Drs. D. K. Henderson, Oswald, and Buchanan.

Dr. WILLIAM WHITELAW read an interesting and instructive paper on "The Colloidal Gold Reaction in the Cerebro-spinal Fluid," which was discussed by Drs. J. H. MACDONALD, ROSS, FERGUSON WATSON, D. K. HENDERSON and BUCHANAN.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman for presiding concluded the business of the Meeting.

PARLIAMENTARY NEWS.

December 21st 1920: Ex-service men in asylums.—Mr. LEONARD LYLE asked the Minister of Pensions if his Department made any payments in connection with ex-service men who were in any asylums whatever in the country for the treatment of mental disease; why, if this was the case, both his Department and the Ministry of Health abstained from giving figures; whether the number of such men had been stated officially to be inconsiderable; and whether it was possible, in view of payments made by his Department, to give the public reliable information on the matter.—Mr. IAN MACPHERSON replied: I would draw my honourable friend's attention to the replies given to the honourable Member for Frome on June 28th and to the honourable and gallant Member for Gateshead on July 30th last. From these it will be seen that ex-service men confined in asylums and suffering from certifiable insanity due to war service, are, by special arrangements treated as service patients with all the privileges of private patients. Their number, on December 9th was, I regret to say, 5,634. The entire cost of their maintenance and treatment is borne by my Department, and, in addition, treatment allowances are made on substantially the same basis as in other cases of in-patient treatment.

December 23rd: Section 79 of the Lunacy Act, 1890.—Mr. FREDERICK ROBERTS asked the Minister of Health whether he intended to have Section 79 of the Lunacy

Act, 1890, posted up in the waiting-rooms of pauper asylums, since this step had been now for some time under the consideration of the Lunacy Board; and if so, when would this commence.—Dr. ADDISON replied: I am advised that this proposal is by no means free from difficulties, and that there is much difference of opinion among experts as to its advisability. But the Board of Control have now completed their inquiries and I hope to receive their considered recommendation early in January.

February 21st, 1921: Maintenance of patients in mental hospitals.—Mr. FINNEY asked the Minister of Health whether his attention had been drawn to a resolution of a meeting of Poor-Law Guardians of the Wolstanton and Burslem Union, Staffordshire, calling attention to the increasing charges on the rates and with special reference to the recent increase for the charge in the maintenance of patients in the mental hospital from 28s. to 35s. per week, and to the fact that the Exchequer contributions, as fixed under the Local Government Act, 1888, remained the same, and the grant, notwithstanding the enhanced cost of maintenance, for patients in mental hospitals still remained at 4s. per week per patient, which grant of 4s. was fixed originally when the average cost of maintenance would be from 8s. to 9s., whereas it was now four times the amount, and in addition the establishment and other charges included in the precepts received by guardians from county councils increased considerably the amount of 35s. weekly, and protesting most strongly against these increasing burdens without some adequate or comparative increase in the amount of the grants allowed, and pressing that some definite action be taken by the Government to make some recompense and appease the indignation caused by such increasing charges on the rates; and whether he could indicate the intentions of the Government respecting the same.—Dr. ADDISON replied: I have received a copy of this resolution. As I stated in reply to numerous questions asked last session on this subject it would not be practicable, in view of the contemplated reform of the Poor Law, to deal with this particular matter at the present time.

March 10th: Amendment of Lunacy Laws.—Mr. ALFRED DAVIS asked the Minister of Health if his attention had been drawn to a resolution passed by the Committee of Visitors for the Isle of Ely and Borough of Cambridge Mental Hospital; that in the opinion of the visitors the use of the terms "pauper lunatic" and "pauper lunatic asylum" should be discontinued, and that the Ministry of Health be asked to procure an amendment of the Lunacy Acts, substituting the terms "patient" and "mental hospital"; and whether, in view of this essential reform, he would give this matter his careful consideration.—Dr. ADDISON replied: I am in sympathy with the spirit of the resolution, but it would require considerable amendment of the Lunacy Acts to eliminate these terms altogether, and I am afraid that any substituted terms would tend to acquire the same associations.

EDUCATIONAL NOTES.

Henderson Research Scholarship in Mental Diseases.—This Scholarship has been founded in the interests of persons affected by nervous or mental diseases.

The generous donor's desire to encourage research into the causation and prevention of these diseases is worthy of the widest publicity.

The fund is to be administered by a Board of Trustees, with James Johnston, Esq., C.A., 190, West George Street, Glasgow, as Secretary.

The value of the Scholarship is £250 per annum, tenable for one year or less, and annually renewable for a maximum period of three years.

The field of research is of the widest possible scope—clinical, pathological, psychological, neurological and sociological, as touching the subject.

The candidate must be a graduate in medicine of a British University, college or school, or intimately engaged in the study of mental defect as a social problem. Aptitude for original research is necessary, and the scholar should devote his whole time to the investigation. Failing this, grants may be given to part-time workers.

Applications for the Scholarship to be made to the Secretary, stating name, age, address, birth-place, qualifications, honours or distinctions, present and past