

as compared with £42 3s. 1d. and £43 1s. 8d., the average costs of all mental hospitals in these two years.

The report from the Commission on the relief of the sick and destitute poor, including the insane poor, published 1927, also urges that the staffs of auxiliary mental hospitals should be organized on an altogether more modest scale than obtains in district mental hospitals. The subordinate staff might consist largely of female nurses and there would be no need for a resident medical officer, but a visiting physician should attend daily.

In my opinion, when the only existing auxiliary as such—Youghal—is enlarged, it will be impossible to run it on these lines, because we will not have sufficient of the harmless type above indicated to fill it.

Many members took part in the discussion, and all agreed in condemning such institutions for the chronic insane, except Dr. DUNNE, who strongly advocated the extension of this system as a means of relieving overcrowding, and allowing medical staffs more opportunity for concentrating on the more acute types of cases.

Dr. GREENE closed the discussion by giving a history of the attitude taken by the Irish Division in this matter. He said that the establishment of such auxiliaries was constantly opposed and condemned by the Irish Division. He failed to see how any member could advocate a system which provided for no trained nursing staff, and no constant medical supervision and direction. It would be a most retrograde step, and should be rigorously opposed. He quoted the dictum of a prominent member of the Division, who led the fight against the "auxiliary" idea in the old days, and who said that over doors of all such places should be written "Abandon hope all ye who enter here".

Dr. HONAN replied to questions asked and gave details of the type of patient sent to Youghal and to the system of administration there.

Dr. HONAN then read a note on "**Prontosil Therapy in Cork Mental Hospital**" and Drs. CAREY and KENNEFICK gave details of cases in which the drug had been used.

Many members gave details of their experience with this drug, and Drs. CAREY and KENNEFICK replied to queries made.

The members were then entertained to tea.

On June 24 members visited and inspected the Auxiliary Mental Hospital at Youghal. They were accompanied by Dr. Honan and Dr. O'Carroll, and were shown over the hospital by the Sisters in charge. They had an opportunity of inspecting every department and studying all the details of administration.

The visitors were very hospitably entertained to lunch by the Community of Sisters in charge of the hospital.

OBITUARIES

CHARLTON ROBERT FREDERICK HALL,

Medical Superintendent, Hellesdon Hospital, Norwich.

Norwich City Mental Hospital suffered a most grievous loss in the untimely death of its Medical Superintendent, Dr. Charlton Hall, on Tuesday, June 7, 1938. A Lancashire man, Dr. Hall was educated at Birkenhead School and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took the degrees of M.A. and B.Sc., afterwards proceeding to the London Hospital, where he qualified M.B., B.Ch., and M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. In 1909 Dr. Hall married Miss Jean Taylor, and was some time in private practice at Shrewton, Wiltshire. A serious operation prevented him from taking part in the

Great War, and during those years he was Assistant Medical Officer at the Shropshire Mental Hospital. He was appointed to Hellesdon Mental Hospital in 1918, and promoted to Medical Superintendent in 1935. Dr. Hall was a good shot and a keen fisherman; he excelled at all games, obtaining a tennis blue while at Cambridge. He played in the hospital cricket and football matches, passing on his knowledge to patients and staff, but perhaps golf was his favourite game, for which he won several prizes. During the twenty years he was at Hellesdon he was extremely popular with patients and staff; he won their affection as well as respect. Many great changes have been brought about largely due to his interest and keenness to get away from the asylum atmosphere. He was a great supporter of the voluntary patient system, and believed in as much liberty as was possible for his patients. Dr. Hall was a pioneer in his administration of the Admission Hospital in refusing to allow unsuitable patients to mix with the early and voluntary cases, and the excellent results have fully justified his foresight. He was an eager supporter of all reforms, and the Hospital has indeed lost a true and fine friend. It is difficult to believe he is no longer with us; his charming voice and kindly smile will be greatly missed by those who knew him.

L. G. MILLAR PAGE.

ANDREW DAVIDSON.

DR. ANDREW DAVIDSON was born at Forres in 1869 and proceeded to the M.D. of the University of Aberdeen in 1899. He studied under Bevan Lewis, became Assistant Physician at the Aberdeen Royal Asylum, and later at the Crichton Royal under the late Dr. James Rutherford. He worked also at the Birmingham City Asylum and at the Dorset County Asylum.

In 1901 he was appointed Port Health Officer at Singapore. Finding the climate trying, he sought the more temperate shores of Australia, and in 1903 took a position as assistant at the Callan Park Mental Hospital, Sydney, and was appointed Medical Superintendent the following year. He proved an admirable administrator and entered fully into all the activities of the hospital, whether professional or recreational.

In 1912 he entered into private practice as a psychiatrist.

In 1916 he was elected to the Council of the New South Wales Branch of the British Medical Association and held office as President in 1924. For some years he was Lecturer in Psychiatry at the University of Sydney, until the establishment of the Chair, to which Sir John McPherson was appointed in 1923.

Dr. Davidson gave much attention to the provision of facilities for the treatment of mental disorders in their early stages, and was instrumental in persuading various general hospitals to open psychiatric out-patient departments. Dr. Davidson himself was Psychiatrist to the Children's Court for some years. He was also greatly interested in the Psychiatry Pavilion at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, the opening of which, however, he did not live to see.

He was thus in no small way responsible for developments which are well abreast of the times, and may be justly remembered as one of the leaders of psychiatry in Australia. He retained an active interest in the scientific aspects of his speciality, and his advice was much sought not only as a consultant, but also as one experienced in administrative and academic aspects of his speciality.

In later life he gave up active recreation but found a substitute in collecting etchings.

He joined the Medico-Psychological Association in 1896 and took the Certificate a year or two later.

He died after a brief illness on February 7, 1938.

W. S. DAWSON.