

Before the conclusion of the meeting the CHAIRMAN proposed that the best wishes of the meeting be sent to Dr. Mills for his speedy recovery.

MIDLAND MENTAL PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

THE third meeting of the Midland Mental Pathological Society was held at the Birmingham University on Thursday, October 24, 1935. W. E. Le Gros Clark, D.Sc., F.R.C.S., F.Z.S., Professor of Anatomy in the University of Oxford, gave a lecture on "Functional Localization in the Thalamus and Hypothalamus", profusely illustrated by some excellent lantern-slides, showing the localization of thalamic and hypothalamic nuclei and their relations to the cerebral cortex, cerebellum, pituitary and retina. He also replied to several questions put by members. A vote of thanks was proposed by Sir GILBERT BARLING and seconded by Prof. LOCKHART, and the keen interest in, and appreciation of, the lecture was shown by the enthusiasm with which the vote of thanks was carried. Thirty-eight members and 49 visitors were present. [It is proposed to publish this paper in our next issue.—Eds.]

OBITUARY.

LAWRENCE GAVIN.

Dr. Lawrence Gavin died at the Mental Hospital, Mullingar, on October 15, 1935. He was born in 1875 at West House, Rochfortbridge, co. Westmeath. He received his early education at the local school and at Castleknock College, and graduated in medicine at Edinburgh University. His whole professional life was spent in the mental service. He was Senior Assistant at Inverness Mental Hospital, and afterwards worked at Horton L.C.C. Mental Hospital. In 1912 he returned to Ireland as Medical Superintendent of Mullingar Mental Hospital.

All who had the privilege of knowing Dr. Gavin mourn the loss of a singularly striking and lovable personality. His high sense of honour, his breadth of vision, his wide culture, his real kindness of heart, his unostentatious simplicity of manner, his fine abilities and his great love of his native land mark Dr. Gavin as outstanding among his fellow men. In truth we may quote Thomas Moore, and say that there was in him "a union of all the affections and powers by which life is exalted, embellished and refined". He had a keen appreciation of nature in all its aspects, and he revelled in every phase of country life. His love of nature and his absorbing interest in life enabled him to derive singular pleasure and profit from his holidays spent in walking expeditions. He knew and loved his native county, and it was a pleasure to hear him unfold its charms. He travelled extensively; Scotland—which he loved since his student days in Edinburgh—Switzerland and Brittany were his favourite resorts, and he was rich in the lore of the countrysides through which he walked.

Since he entered the Irish Mental Service he had been one of the most prominent and energetic members of the Irish Division, and he took a most lively interest in all its activities, particularly those connected with the reform and improvement of public mental hospitals. He was Chairman of the Irish Division from 1933 to 1935, and served for several years on the Education Committee. He was the first Examination Area Secretary for the area comprising the Irish Division, and his tact and consideration enabled him to ensure the smooth working of the new regulations from the beginning.

As a medical superintendent he was an outstanding success, possessing in marked degree all the attributes necessary for his responsible position. He had the complete confidence of his Committee and of the Ministry, and the respect and love of all his subordinates, whom he inspired with his own enthusiasm. He devoted all his skill to the welfare of his patients, and kept himself abreast of the therapeutic methods of the day. He realized thoroughly the paramount importance of a highly trained, efficient nursing staff, and he always worked to secure the highest possible standard in this department of the hospital.

Although his work in Mullingar was carried out under difficulties, as the hospital is very much overcrowded, he succeeded in making it one of the foremost in Ireland.

It is only two years ago that a scheme of alterations and extensions was adopted. This includes a detached admission hospital, fully equipped for the most up-to-date treatments, a nurses' home and a modern kitchen and laundry.

It is universally regretted that he did not live to see the full fruition of the scheme he so enthusiastically sponsored.

A severe attack of enteric fever, against which he battled bravely for several weeks, finally overcame his resistance.

The medical profession and the country is the poorer by the death of one of its most notable personalities.

P. M. and K. D.

NOTICES BY THE HONORARY LIBRARIAN.

The Library is open to members between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Books are issued to borrowers between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., and between 2.30 and 4.30 p.m.; Saturdays, between 10 a.m. and 12 noon.

The Hon. Librarian will endeavour to obtain, as far as possible, any books on psychiatry and allied subjects required by members.

Library Lending Department Regulations.

1. Books shall be lent only to members within the United Kingdom and the Irish Free State who are not in arrears with their subscriptions.

2. No member may borrow from the Library more than three volumes at one time.

3. Books and journals are sent carriage paid from the Library, but members are responsible for the books from the time they leave the Library until they are received back.

4. Books damaged or lost while in possession of a member will be repaired at his expense or must be replaced by him.

5. A member borrowing a book or periodical from the Library shall be required to sign and return to the Librarian a form of receipt for the same, which will be regarded as an acceptance of these Regulations.

6. A member shall be entitled to retain a book or periodical borrowed from the Library for a period of twenty-eight days, unless the book is required by another member, in which case it can be recalled by the Librarian at the expiration of fourteen days.

7. In the event of a member failing to return any book or periodical within seven days after receiving notice from the Librarian (on the expiration of the period referred to in Rule 6), the Library Committee shall be at liberty to purchase another copy, the cost to be charged to such member, who shall not be allowed to borrow another book until the sum thus expended shall have been paid.

8. All communications should be addressed to "The Librarian, Royal Medico-Psychological Association, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W. 1".