

On the suggestion of Dr. Yellowlees, the CHAIRMAN asked Dr. Carlyle Johnstone to add to his motion for adjournment that Dr. Turnbull should place on the agenda paper all the different points for discussion at the Glasgow meeting on the second Thursday in March.

Dr. CARLYLE JOHNSTONE said he would be very glad to do so, but they had been memorialised by the Convener of the Handbook Committee with regard to the Handbook; and if they did not take any action now it would be too late, because that committee met in a few days, and he thought something ought to be said about it.

The CHAIRMAN thought that they could hardly take up that matter without notice of motion.

Dr. CARLYLE JOHNSTONE said that they had got a notice of motion. They were invited to come there and give their views about the Handbook. Besides, as it occurred in the regulations, he thought it came up for discussion that day, and therefore they ought to have a special meeting on an early date.

The CHAIRMAN said that it had been moved by Dr. Carlyle Johnstone that they should have a special meeting for the consideration of the regulations for the examination for nursing certificates, including the Handbook. This was agreed to *nem. con.*, and the matter was remitted to Dr. Turnbull.

By the kindness of Dr. Clouston tea was then served, and the Laboratory was inspected by the members present and these visitors: Dr. Batty Tuke, Senior (President of the Royal College of Physicians), Prof. Cruikshank Brown, Prof. Simpson, Prof. Greenfield, Dr. Sibbald (Commissioner in Lunacy), Dr. Wyllie, Dr. Affleck, Dr. Berry Hart, Dr. Russell, Dr. Gibson, Dr. Philip, and Dr. Boddie. An apology for absence was received from Sir Thomas Grainger Stewart.

The CHAIRMAN then moved a vote of thanks to the Committee of the Laboratory of the Scottish Asylums for their kindness in giving them the use of the rooms, and to Dr. Clouston for his hospitality, and the meeting then terminated. The members afterwards dined in the Palace Hotel.

ADJOURNED MEETING OF SCOTTISH DIVISION.

The adjourned meeting of the Scottish Division was held in the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, on 27 November, 1897. Dr. Urquhart was in the chair, and there were also present Drs. Campbell Clark, Carlyle Johnstone, Macpherson, Middlemass, G. M. Robertson, Rutherford, Watson, Watt, Yellowlees, and Turnbull (Secretary). In accordance with the remit from the Annual Meeting of the Association, the Division took into consideration the report of the Educational Committee giving the proposed amended regulations for the nursing certificate. Considerable discussion took place, and it was agreed to submit the following suggestions to the Educational Committee: 1. That the minimum period of training should be fixed at two years. 2. That Rule 3 should (consequent on the preceding suggestion) be deleted. 3. That section *a.* of Rule 5 should read—"Systematic lectures, in addition to the practical demonstrations provided for below, by the medical staff," etc. 4. That sections *b.* and *c.* of Rule 5 should be combined, and should read—"Clinical demonstrations of mental and bodily disease, and practical instruction in sick nursing and in first aid, to be given by the medical staff. At least twelve demonstrations, each of one hour's duration, must be given in each year of training, and no attendant will be admitted to examination who has not attended at least nine demonstrations in each year." 5. That the last clause of section *c.*, Rule 9, should read—"The written questions being confined to subjects included in the Handbook." 6. That in the written examination the maximum of questions to

be answered shall be six, and the minimum time allowed for answering three hours.

As time did not allow of the other proposed changes in the regulations being considered, it was agreed to adjourn the discussion to the next meeting of the Division.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association, held in Montreal, proved an unqualified success as regards the scientific work and the hospitality shown to the guests. The Psychological Section was fairly well attended. Amongst those present from various parts of Canada were Drs. Bucke, Clark, C. K. Clarke, Burgess, Hobbs, Russell, Vallè, Wilkins, Anglin, Villeneuve; the United States were represented by Drs. Cowles, Dewey, Brush, Stearns, Crothers, Rohè, Spitzka, Van Giesen; and Drs. Alexander, J. A. Campbell, J. G. B. Blandford, Hazlitt, Blair, and Urquhart represented British psychologists.

MENTAL EVOLUTION.

The sectional meetings were opened by the PRESIDENT, Dr. R. M. Bucke, of the London Asylum, Ontario, who gave an address upon "Mental Evolution in Man." He claimed that there are two processes in the evolution of mind—the perfection of faculties already in existence, and the springing into existence of faculties which had previously no existence. Dr. Bucke traced mental growth from mere excitability, through discrimination to sensation with the capacity of pleasure and of pain; later still memory, recognition of offspring; and successively thereafter reason, recognition of individuals and communication of ideas. He placed the mental plane of the higher animals as equal to a human being at two years of age. Thereafter, for about a year, that mental expansion occurred which separates man from the higher mammals. This represents to Dr. Bucke the age of the *Atalus homo*, a period of perhaps 100,000 years, during which our ancestors walked erect; but not having self-consciousness, had no true language. At the age of three, individual self-consciousness is born, and from the point of view of psychology the child becomes a human being. Thereafter Dr. Bucke considers that the colour sense, the sense of fragrance, the human moral nature, and the musical sense appear; and to these and self-consciousness he specially addressed himself. He looks upon the last-named as the basic and master human faculty, which appeared in the race several hundred thousand years ago. He takes it as proved that the colour sense was acquired not more than 30,000 years ago. Similarly, he places the era of individual colour sense at five or six, and the moral nature at fifteen, while the musical sense is delayed until adolescence, and cannot be more than 5,000 years old in the race. Dr. Bucke finds in the idea of evolution the mystery of the past, the explanation of the present, and the sure prescience of the future. His corollaries are, first, that all insane and idiots are cases of atavism; and, second, that the human mind is still in process of construction. Dr. Bucke sees new faculties springing up, and in these he includes telepathy, clairvoyance, and spiritualism. Finally, he has observed several men and women who have possessed a new faculty, a higher form of consciousness than self-consciousness, which will be the common property of a higher race of men in the course of a few more milleniums. This new race will occupy the same relation to us as we do to *Atalus homo*, and thereby justify the long agony of birth throughout the countless ages of our past.

It will be observed that Dr. Bucke's argument bristles with difficulties, and that he leaves off at the point where critical interest becomes keenest. We know Dr. Bucke as the friend and biographer of Walt Whitman, and,