

through altogether had it not been that the President proved equal to the occasion, and stepped into the imminent deadly breach. We doubt if it is entirely respectful, it certainly is unfair, to a President to require him to act as stop-gap. However, Dr. Campbell proved capable and ready to meet the difficulty, and his extempore speech needed no apology. His Presidential Address was full of interest. Instead of attempting to survey man from China to Peru, he wisely limited the scope of his remarks to the district where he has done such admirable work for the insane.

Private Care.

The section of psychology rarely lets an opportunity slip of crystallising opinion in the form of a resolution. This year Dr. Rayner moved for what would be a distinct improvement in the Lunacy Law of England. We commend the resolution in that it promotes the medical treatment of a class of cases at present productive of considerable difficulties. The provision for the temporary care of incipient and non-confirmed insanity which has proved so valuable in Scotland, should be pressed upon the attention of the Government at the proper time. Meanwhile the matter has been referred to the Parliamentary Bills Committee of the British Medical Association.

The Woodilee Asylum.

We regret to have inserted an inaccurate paragraph referring to an action, brought by the Barony Parish of Glasgow, against the General Board of Commissioners in Lunacy regarding the position of this Asylum, in the last number of the Journal (page 684). The Barony Parish Council contended that the asylum was a Public Asylum, or if not a Public Asylum that it was a Parochial Asylum, and that in either case it did not require a license from the General Board. The Parish Council further maintained that if such a license was required, the General Board were not entitled as a condition of granting the license to enforce Rules, prescribing among other things the number of the Managing Committee, and insisting that the Committee shall act independently of the instructions of the Council. This action was decided by Lord Low on the 11th January, 1896,

and on every point he decided against the Parish Council. In the course of the debate the question arose whether the Rules which had, in accordance with their powers, been framed by the General Board and had received the approval of the Secretary of State, had been laid before Parliament as the statute required. This question not having been formally raised in the "summons," Lord Low did not then deal with it; but on the General Board and the Parish Council agreeing to the "summons" being amended so as to bring the matter formally before him he appointed 7th March last for the resumed consideration. The result of the resumed consideration (not the "appeal" as it was erroneously called in our paragraph) was that Lord Low decided that the Rules had not been submitted to both Houses of Parliament as required by statute. In this contention, therefore, the Parish Council were successful. We understand that the omission to submit the Rules to Parliament has now been repaired. They were revised by the General Board, who made some amendments upon them, among others one requiring the Managing Committee to submit their minutes for approval to the Parish Council. They then received the sanction of the Secretary for Scotland, and were duly submitted to both Houses of Parliament before the end of last Session.

PART II.—PSYCHOLOGICAL RETROSPECT.

AMERICAN.

By Fletcher Beach, M.B., F.R.C.P.

American Journal of Insanity, April and July, 1895; *Alienist and Neurologist*, July, 1895; *The Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*, June, 1895.

Dr. Clara Barrus writes in the *American Journal of Insanity* an article on "Gynæcological Disorders and their relation to Insanity." She tabulates one hundred cases in which examinations were made whether the patient presented symptoms calling for uterine examination or not, and is of opinion that a thorough physical examination is necessary in all female cases, since the manifestations which would lead to examination were only noted in three patients. Very often the pain and discomfort felt by insane patients is misconstrued, and so, while we get no expression of pain itself, we may find the patient suffering from delusions that she is pregnant, that she has been violated during the night,