

Until some examining body has undertaken to confer a degree in mental diseases, it would seem to be advisable to make the Medico-Psychological examination more valuable by conferring it only on medical men who, subsequent to their qualification, had resided and worked in an asylum for a definite period. If, in addition to this, definite instruction by lectures on the pathology of mental diseases could be arranged as a part of the curriculum for the examination, a certificate could be given which would entitle the bearer to special consideration in applying for asylum appointments, or for any post demanding knowledge of mental disease.

Lectureships on the pathology of insanity in connection with universities and the pathological laboratories of asylums are already under consideration, and would thus at once find a definite reason for attracting students. The certificate of the Association would probably pave the way to the granting of a diploma in mental science by one or more of the universities, similar to that granted in public health. The need for such a diploma has been frequently discussed, and attention was drawn to the subject in a recent article in this journal. Any action of the Medico-Psychological Association in promoting these ends will certainly tend to enhance the standing and reputation of the specialty.

Female Suffrage.

The female suffrage question would not appear at first sight to be of interest to the medico-psychologist, but it involves such a far-reaching change in the habits of the larger half of the community that it demands consideration from all who are concerned with the nervous and mental health of the nation.

Excitement from politics, or rather from party feeling, is not frequently recorded in the statistics of the causation of insanity. Like religious excitement, however, it plays a part in some cases of mental breakdown, and although it may be an additional interest in life to many, it is an extra stress to individuals of an emotional type. Women, as a rule, are more emotional than men, especially so during the reproductive period, and at the times (during pregnancy, etc.) when this function is in greatest activity. It is certain that emotional

stress should be avoided under such conditions, as being injurious both to the mother and her offspring.

The example of the suffragettes is not to be taken as a criterion of the probable result of participation in politics by women in England. The outrageous conduct of the suffragettes is due in the main to the necessity of parties to yield to the fads of any persons who will make sufficient noise. The suffragettes act on a reasoned principle, and although their feminine emotionality carries them to greater lengths of misconduct than men would arrive at, it is not a proof that the general body of women would be so uncontrolled in their political action.

The trend of party politics, as a recent writer in the *Nineteenth Century* has ably demonstrated, is to engineer excitement in the constituencies so as to reduce them to the level of an emotional crowd. This tendency is likely to increase rather than to diminish, and the emotional stress of party politics will become greater to those taking part in it.

The medico-psychologists as such need not consider the right or wrong of giving votes to women, but it would seem that they should consider whether it is not advisable to direct public attention to the possible ill-results, and to raise the question whether young marriageable women and married women should not be shielded from this possible danger to the national health.

The Asylum Workers' Association.

The Annual Meeting of the above-named Association is principally noteworthy from the announcement of the retirement of Dr. Shuttleworth from the editorship of *Asylum News*. The services which Dr. Shuttleworth has rendered to the Association from its very incipiency are very great indeed ; his aid not only conduced greatly to the success of the Association, but principally helped to guide its activities into the admirable channels in which they now run. The Association thus avoided taking the form of spurious unionism, which the chairman (Sir W. J. Collins) described as seeking to organise all employees against the authorities that employ them. This was the great danger in the infancy of the Association, and that it