

OCCASIONAL NOTES OF THE QUARTER.

Proposed Provincial Meetings of the Association.

At the last Council of the Association, the propriety of holding an occasional quarterly meeting in the provinces was discussed, and a strong feeling in favour of making the experiment at an early date was manifested. It was proposed that such a meeting should be held in the spring, and in Yorkshire, probably in the city of York. We believe that the expression of sentiment which has been elicited from members of the Association since the meeting of the Council has distinctly favoured this proposal. The capital of Yorkshire is readily accessible to members residing in the north of England and Scotland, and it is the nucleus of a large number of institutions for the insane, one of which possesses some claim, perhaps, from having been, in the words of a high authority, "the cradle of the humane treatment of the insane in this country."

Another reason which may be advanced in favour of this locality is the certainty that among the Medical Officers of its asylums, there will be no difficulty in obtaining the services of an efficient man to make all the necessary arrangements and to assist the General Secretary during the proceedings of the meeting.

It should be borne in mind that when the Association was founded, it was hoped and expected that the annual meetings would be held in different places, one of the original resolutions being, "That to effect the great objects of the Association, visits be made annually to some one or more of the hospitals for the insane in the United Kingdom." So strong a hold, however, had the custom of meeting in London taken on the minds of the members, that when the proposal was brought forward at the annual meeting in 1886, that the meeting of the following year should be held in the Provinces, a majority decided against the proposition. It may not be uninteresting or uninteresting to cite the report of the discussion which took place on the question on that occasion.

The PRESIDENT said that Dr. Urquhart was taking it for granted that the meeting would be held in London.

Dr. HACK TUKE suggested that the views of the President elect as to the time and place of meeting next year should be solicited.

Dr. NEEDHAM said that, as far as he was concerned, the matter was entirely in the hands of the members of the Association.

Dr. TUKE said that in that case, and subject entirely to Dr. Needham's feeling in the matter, he would propose that the next annual meeting should be held at Gloucester. It would be very interesting to meet where Dr. Needham carried on his asylum work, and it might also be remembered that the proposal to form this Association originally sprang from Gloucester in 1840, when Dr. Hitch was Superintendent of the County Asylum.

Dr. WHITCOMBE said that he was sure provincial members would be much pleased if the annual meeting were held in some other city or town than London. He should be very glad if Birmingham were selected.

Dr. DEAS thought the Association would gain by meeting, as on the present occasion, on the day before the meeting of the British Medical Association, and at the same place.

Dr. RAYNER referred to the 4th Section of the Rules, and said that of course any proposition in regard to the day of meeting would be taken into consideration by the Council.

Dr. CLOUSTON said it seemed to him that every practical consideration went in the direction of meeting in London or Edinburgh. He, for one, would be most happy to go to Gloucester; but they ought to carefully consider before going to a provincial centre. Old members years ago used to say that in provincial centres the meetings became slower, and the vitality of the Association suffered.

Dr. DEAS said that, on the contrary, one of the very best annual meetings was held at York, and a most successful one was held at Glasgow.

Dr. NICHOLSON remarked that the meeting at York was in connection with that of the British Medical Association at Leeds. It would be well to select some place which would attract members who had not previously been present, otherwise their object in going to a provincial town failed.

Dr. DEAS said he was ready to propose that if, as was probable, the meeting of the British Medical Association were next year held at Leeds, the Medico-Psychological Association should meet there too. They would probably thus gain the attendance of many members who could not come to the metropolis. If the British Medical Association should not meet at Leeds, then it might be left to the discretion of the Council.

Dr. NEEDHAM said that although he had no definite choice between Gloucester and London, he should have a distinct objection to another provincial town being substituted for Gloucester.

Dr. HAYES NEWINGTON urged that the convenience of the President elect (Dr. Needham) ought to be consulted.

Dr. Hack Tuke's proposal that the next annual meeting should be held at Gloucester having been duly seconded,

Dr. JEPSON moved an amendment, which was seconded, "That the next annual meeting be held in London."

The amendment having been put to the vote, there appeared: For the amendment, 11; against the amendment, 8. The original motion was then put to the vote and rejected, there being 8 votes in its favour and 11 against it. It was therefore agreed that the next annual meeting should be held in London.

If the desire to visit the Metropolis and other reasons induce members to prefer the annual meeting being held in London, a legitimate argument may be used in favour of an occasional quarterly meeting being appointed in the Provinces, thus recognizing and fulfilling the intention of the founders of the Association, that it should be a peripatetic body visiting the principal asylums of the insane in the various counties of Great Britain and Ireland.

We are glad to observe that, at the Irish Meeting of the Association, held in Dublin, November 29th, 1888, the propriety of holding one of the quarterly meetings in the course of a year in one of the district asylums was discussed, and it was resolved:—

“That at least one in every year of the ordinary Quarterly Meetings of the Irish branch of the Medico-Psychological Association be held at some asylum in Ireland, the name of which shall be decided at the previous Quarterly Meeting.”

We have no doubt of the wisdom of this decision, and believe that it will greatly tend to increase the vitality and utility of the Association in Ireland.

The Washington Congress.

We congratulate Dr. John B. Hamilton, the editor of the “Transactions of the Congress held at Washington in the Autumn of 1887,” upon the completion of this laborious work. It bears evidence of great care, and, when we consider the illegible writing which some authors regard as a mark of genius to indulge in, and the impossibility in many instances of submitting “proofs for corrections to authors, scattered as they were throughout the world,” it would be surprising if no errors had been made. For these it is probable that the writers have only themselves to thank.