

times for hospital patients. The Secretary (Mr. Thornhill Rexby) then read the annual report, from which it appeared that, during 1899, 222 cases had been before the council, the largest annual number ever dealt with. Cases had been assisted, as in the past, by being boarded out in cottages in the country, by grants of money, and by finding occupation. The investigations involved had been of an onerous character. The failures had been comparatively few. Boards of guardians had availed themselves largely of the help of the Association, and in some few cases they had subscribed to its funds. The total amount of subscriptions, donations, and contributions for maintenance was £549 8s. 1d., a falling-off from the previous year, when they amounted to £652. In moving the adoption of the report, Dr. G. H. Savage remarked on the difference between hospital and asylum patients, and the usefulness of such a society to bridge the gulf (too often exaggerated by popular prejudice) between "alienism" and the ordinary conditions of social life. The Association had done valuable work in two directions—in confirming health, and in preventing relapse. The resolution was seconded by the Rev. Dr. Springett (Vicar of Brixton), who bore personal testimony to the admirable character of the agencies employed by the Association, and having been supported by the Rev. W. St. Hill Bourne and by Dr. Shuttleworth, was carried unanimously. Dr. Percy Smith moved, and Mr. Deputy White seconded, the reappointment of the council and officers of the Association, and the meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chairman, moved by the Rev. Henry Hawkins, and seconded by Dr. Rayner. The offices of the Association are at Church House, Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W.

HABITUAL DRUNKENNESS.

The Inebriates Act of 1899 was passed just before the close of the session to remedy a defect of the Act of the previous year. But, although it has been remedied in regard to the expenses of prosecution, complaints are made by magistrates that it is practically a dead letter, and the Home Secretary has admitted that the accommodation provided is insufficient.

NEW SOUTH WALES BILL.

The New South Wales Bill, introduced by the Hon. Dr. J. M. Creed, passed the Legislature Council, and has been presented to the Legislature Assembly. The main provisions show an advance upon what has been done in this country. Under this Bill it is lawful for a judge or magistrate or the master in lunacy, and after the evidence of a medical practitioner and on inspection, to make an order as to the control of an inebriate.

On the application of—

(a) An inebriate or any person authorised in writing on that behalf by an inebriate while sober;

(b) The husband, or wife, or a parent, or a brother, sister, son, or daughter of full age, or a partner in business of an inebriate; or

(c) a member of the police force of or above the rank of sub-inspector acting on the request of a duly qualified medical practitioner in professional attendance on the inebriate, or on the request of a relative of the inebriate, or at the instance of a justice of the peace—

to order that the inebriate be placed under private or public treatment for a period not exceeding twenty-eight days; or be placed in a licensed institution for such period not exceeding twelve months, as may be mentioned in the order; or that the inebriate be placed for any period not exceeding twelve months, to be mentioned in the order, under the care and charge of an attendant or attendants to be named in the order, and who shall be under the control of the judge, master in lunacy, or magistrate making the order. . . .

Where an inebriate has thrice within the preceding twelve months been convicted for an offence of which drunkenness is a necessary ingredient, it shall be lawful for any Court of Petty Sessions to order that the inebriate be placed for such period of not less than six or more than twelve months, as may be mentioned in the order, in any institution which may be established by the Government for