

privileges of carrying on the work of the Association within their borders, and the fact had become so familiar that it was in danger of neglect. Just as the British Medical Association has been vitalised and reinforced by the formation of branches throughout the Empire, so will it be with the Association which has even stronger claims on our support. It is a healthy growth from the parent stem, a natural development in accordance with the best traditions of former days. Meanwhile the Council have appointed a small committee to settle the boundaries of the new divisions, and their report for the current year will, no doubt, place the matter before the Association in detail.

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*Asylum Water Supply.*

We direct the attention of our readers to an important note by Dr. Carlyle Johnstone on another page of this issue. There is no question more intimately affecting asylum administration than that raised by the Roxburgh Asylum Board. Apart from the principle established from the legal point of view—the admission that a District Lunacy Board is entitled to promote a Parliamentary Bill, the committee is to be congratulated on having at last obtained a sufficient supply of potable water.

The first difficulty to be disposed of in proceeding to the erection of an important institution is relative to water supply, and it would appear from the careful statement of Dr. Carlyle Johnstone that opinion as to the quantity hitherto generally thought sufficient must be revised. He has come to the conclusion, after the investigation detailed, that the absolute minimum should be fixed at fifty gallons daily for each person resident. This seems, at first sight, a high estimate, for the English Commissioners, as lately as 1892, stated the quantity at forty gallons, while Burdett, in 1891, put it as low as thirty. The point is certainly one which commands serious consideration at present, while so many asylums are being built or enlarged.

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