

disposed of by a motion that the report be received and the committee thanked for its services, on the understanding that it be not adopted by the Association.

The general sense of the profession was against the recognition of hypnotism as a means of treatment. Dr. Kingsbury complains that a handful of men, who had not engaged in close observation of the phenomena in question, should thus have disposed of the report. In fact, he holds their verdict to be incompetent. But hypnotism must win its place in the armoury of medicine by general acceptance. Unless it commands the confidence of the profession it will continue, as heretofore, sporadic, limited, uncertain of favour. While it must be acknowledged that it is potent for good in certain directions, the most enthusiastic must admit that it entails very grave disadvantages. Just as some men of tender conscience and decided opinions decline to prescribe alcohol, others will avoid the employment of hypnotism. No doubt it may be urged that medicine must not be restricted to the use of innocuous drugs, but in our special department, at least, the evils consequent on hypnotic influences are so grave, and the scope of the remedy is so limited, that we doubt if it will ever be other than an infrequent means of treatment. We recall a visit to the Zurich Asylum, where Professor Forel has long studied the phenomena of hypnotism, and where many of his "subjects" could be seen among the members of the staff. Only one patient, an habitual drunkard, was then sensitive to the hypnotic influence exerted by Professor Forel. And, in our own experience, the few cases in which it seemed prudent and desirable to induce hypnotic sleep were, in the end, apparently deteriorated in mental condition. The conservation of mental power, so urgently indicated, was in fact endangered.

In our opinion the British Medical Association acted discreetly in refusing to endorse the finding of the Committee with its approval and recommendation.

The Darenth Scandal.

The special committee appointed to consider whether any measures should be taken on behalf of this Association, in support of the sufferer in this matter, by his desire has taken no action.

That the victim of such apparent ill-treatment and unpleasant publicity should desire to avoid the continuance of

the annoyance and suffering entailed by a prolonged struggle in getting "the truth" made manifest, is almost to be expected, although a more combative attitude might be of advantage to others.

The sympathy shown by this Association has been fully appreciated by the person principally affected, and has probably not been without influence on some of those who were associated in the infliction of what appeared to be a gross injustice.

The Handbook for Attendants.

The *Handbook* has now been thoroughly revised, and is in process of printing. The publishers will probably be enabled to have it ready for distribution soon after this number of the JOURNAL is in the hands of our readers. As their stock has been exhausted for some time, and the demand continues urgent, we make special acknowledgment of the energy and labour bestowed upon the production of the fourth edition by the Committee, and we trust that the improvements made will still further secure that confidence of teachers and nurses which has been so freely bestowed in the past.

PART II.—REVIEWS.

The Eighth Annual Report of the State Commission in Lunacy of the State of New York, U.S.A., October 1st, 1895, to September 30th, 1896. Pp. 1335.

THIS report, like its predecessors, affords much interesting reading to all who are eager to study the treatment of the insane from all points of view. The statistical parts of the bulky volume show that insane people group themselves in incidence of particular forms of disease, in recovery, in death, very much on the same lines in New York as they do here. The chief point of interest, however, lies in noting where general administration differs in the two countries. It may be said at once that the whole volume testifies to care and study of the patient, and to his interests being carried out in the most praiseworthy method. This particular report brings with it the record of a completed scheme, begun