

## OCCASIONAL NOTES OF THE QUARTER.

*The Annual Meeting.*

Each Annual Meeting possesses its distinctive features of circumstance or place, or of both, as in the case of that of 1882.

It was the first occasion on which the President was not selected from the ranks of those who are termed mental physicians, and the Association met for the first time in Glasgow.

Fresh in circumstance and place, the meeting passed off successfully, the one cause of regret being that it was not more largely attended, not only by the English, but by the Scotch members. The absence of the professors of the Glasgow University as visitors at the meeting or guests at the dinner was, doubtless, owing to the Session having closed.

Dr. Scott Orr was present at the afternoon meeting, and represented the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, of which he is the President.

Professor Gairdner's Presidential Address will be read with interest by those who had not, and with renewed profit by those who had the privilege of listening to it. His standpoint permitted him to take a philosophical survey of the subject of his discourse, which would not have been so easy or so unprejudiced from one more directly or exclusively interested in the special work in which the members of the Association are engaged.

Looking at the proceedings of the Glasgow meeting, it is a satisfaction that the Statistical Tables, the further consideration of which was postponed from the meeting last year, were adopted with the modifications introduced in the interval by the English and Scotch Committees.

It may be said that a general sentiment prevailed loyally to adopt and carry them out, and if found defective after a year's trial, to amend them still further.

The meeting, the trip on the Clyde, and the dinner, have, we are sure, left behind them nothing but pleasant memories. As was remarked by a speaker at the dinner, Scotland will not be associated in the minds of those who visited it with the badge of the repellant thistle, but rather with the hospitable forget-me-not. The members were all in the mood to enjoy themselves, to get through the business of the meeting

harmoniously and with despatch, and to regard "all play and no work" as a less serious psychological error than its converse. There was, taking our cue from the President's address, a dead set at "specialism," and had any one ventured to speak of himself as a "specialist," or to characterize a psychological physician as an "alienist," he would have been regarded with suspicion.

The Association received a hearty welcome from their Scotch brethren—their houses were thrown open—and the greatest credit is due to them for the effective arrangements made for the satisfactory holding of the meeting, the general convenience of members, and the afternoon excursion, which, in spite of a high wind and threatening rain, and suggestions as to the possible loss psychological medicine might sustain, proved a success, and the beauties of the Clyde and Loch Long were fully appreciated. From Arochar the members, leaving the steamer, proceeded across to TARBET, where Ben Lomond was seen to perfection, and the Loch, calm and blue, recalled Goldsmith's description of the mirror, that it reflects every object upon its surface without being sullied by any. One thing only was wanting to complete the pleasure of the trip—the presence of ladies. But even here our Scotch friends had a profound reason for not allowing this privilege; they knew that John Bull is never quite happy unless he has something to grumble about.

It must not be supposed that the day of the meeting was the only one upon which the members psychologized. They did not forget that it was the original design of the Association to visit the asylums in the neighbourhood of the town where the meeting was held. Hence visits were paid to the Gartnavel Asylum and the Lenzie Asylum, both of which institutions gave the visitors very great pleasure. Dr. Yellowlees and Dr. Rutherford spared no pains to show and explain all the arrangements adopted to bring up their management to as nearly perfect a point as is possible.

Some members proceeded to the Royal Edinburgh Asylum, the Murray Institution at Perth, the Inverness Asylum, and that at Dumfries, and were, we have good reason to know, gratified with the reception accorded them, and the efficient management of the asylums which they witnessed.

The members of the Association will, in truth, always remember with pleasure the Annual Meeting of the Medico-Psychological Association held at Glasgow on the 2nd of August, 1882.