

affected by disease could be in the least affected by punishment or restrained by fear of punishment, it would alter the case very much. He was certainly not prepared to go along with the statement of Lord Bramwell.

The discussion then closed.

SPECIAL MEETING ON PARLIAMENTARY BILLS.

This meeting was held at the close of the Quarterly Meeting, and a notice of it will be found under "Occasional Notes of the Quarter." We append a letter from Dr. White, addressed to the Hon. Secretary, referring to the resolution passed at this meeting:—

City of London Lunatic Asylum,

Stone, near Dartford, Kent,

June 10th, 1888.

DEAR DR. RAYNER,—At the last general meeting the proposition of mine, which was seconded by Dr. Cassidy, was as follows:—

"That the *minimum* pension given be that of the modified Civil Service scale, suggested by the Pensions Committee of the Medico-Psychological Association, and that all officers and servants of County and Borough Asylums be entitled to claim this minimum."

Upon learning the action already taken by the Parliamentary Committee, we decided to withdraw this in favour of (1) the appeal to the Treasury; and (2) the joint standing Committee petitioned for by the Parliamentary Committee.

Yours, very faithfully,

ERNEST W. WHITE.

Dr. Rayner, Hon. Secretary, Hanwell.

IRISH MEETING.

The Quarterly Meeting of the Medico-Psychological Association was held in Dublin, May 17, 1888. Present: Dr. Patton (in the chair), Dr. Ashe, Dr. Cope, Dr. Courtenay, Dr. Drapes, Dr. Eustace, Dr. Moore, Mr. Conolly Norman, and Dr. Patton.

In connection with the minutes, Dr. DRAPES inquired what steps had been taken with reference to the Superannuation Bill.

Dr. COURTENAY stated that little had been done, as the Bill was read a second time before anything was heard of it. All the action taken was through the kindness of Mr. Madden, who had got the Government to introduce a clause allowing Irish officials to claim if they so wish to be superannuated under the Civil Servants' Act as at present. He was sorry to say the officials of Irish asylums had acquiesced in and supported a measure which, though it would have the effect of increasing their pensions, would at the same time result in leaving the power of granting or refusing them entirely at the will of the local Boards of Asylums. Exactly the opposite course had been adopted in England, where steps were being taken to introduce a clause in the Local Government Board Bill fixing the superannuation of the lunacy service at a lower rate than under the scale at present in force, but making it compulsory as in the Civil Service.

The following memorial was forwarded from the Assistant Medical Officers of Irish District Asylums, with a request that it should receive the support of the Medico-Psychological Association:—

To His Excellency the Marquess of Londonderry.

May it please your Excellency,—

A vacancy having recently occurred among the medical superintendents of the Irish District Asylums through the lamented demise of Dr. Barry Delaney, of Kilkenny, we, the undersigned, being the assistant medical officers in the various Irish asylums, venture to beg your Excellency's favourable consideration of our case, hoping that your Excellency may think fit, as on a former occasion, to confer the vacant office on one of our number.

The post of Resident Medical Superintendent is, as your Excellency is well aware, one of great responsibility, and eminently requires special experience. The necessity for this special experience has been universally recognized in all other countries.

The position of Assistant Resident Medical Superintendent is an arduous one and not highly paid. The duties are monotonous, harassing, and responsible, and are of such a special nature that to fill this office for a few years greatly unfits a man for the adoption of any other line of practice.

For these reasons we confidently trust that your Excellency may graciously continue to look favourably upon our claims, and to afford us that hope of promotion within our department which animates other members of the public services.

We have the honour to be,

Your Excellency's most obedient servants.

It was proposed by Dr. COURTENAY and seconded by Mr. C. NORMAN, "That the Associations are in accord with the subject of the memorial that the Assistant Medical Officers are pre-eminently qualified to be promoted to the vacancies which occur in district asylums, and trust that his Excellency will consider their services where possible, and with this view that a Committee be appointed to draw up a memorial to that effect."

The following Committee was appointed:—Dr. Patton, Dr. Myles, Mr. Conolly Norman, Dr. E. Maziere Courtenay.

Dr. COPE then read his paper on "A Case of Chorea with Insanity."

Dr. EUSTACE stated that he had met with one case in his practice of a similar nature. In his case, however, the symptoms were much more severe, and terminated in death. A young officer, stationed at the Curragh, married, of strong and healthy build, was sent into his asylum suffering from mania, with extreme choreic movements of both sides almost resembling epileptic convulsions, so much so that the only means found for preserving his limbs from injury was by carrying him into the field and laying him on the new-mown hay. The patient proved to be the son of a very eminent psychologist, who came over to assist in his treatment, but he at once pronounced the case as hopeless. All forms of sedatives were used, but without any effect, and death resulted in a short time from exhaustion.

Dr. COURTENAY stated that the thanks of the meeting were due to Dr. Cope for his very interesting paper. That more cases of a similar nature did not oftener occur in asylum practice always appeared to him to be a matter of wonder, considering how very close the connection was between the motor and intellectual area of the brain.

Dr. DRAPES said he had never seen a case of choreic insanity, and that he believed such cases were merely the result of accident, in accordance with the opinion of the latest researches on the brain as to the connection between the motor and intellectual centres.

Dr. MOORE described a case of constant choreic movements terminating in death.

Mr. NORMAN did not believe that the connection of chorea with insanity was accidental. In Dr. Moore's case he thought the symptoms were produced by a tumour of the brain.

Dr. EUSTACE said he wished to make a few observations on the proposed Private Lunatic Asylum Bill. The Lunacy Bill of the Lord Chancellor for England, passed by the Lords, fully recognizes the *vested* rights of the licensed lunatic asylums, and also provides for the continuance of the present licensed private asylums. Mr. Corbet's Bill does neither. Mr. Corbet's Bill may be properly met by the Government thus, should it meet the view of the Lord Chancellor for Ireland to undertake to bring in a Bill for Ireland: To embody in it such portion of the Bill for England as in his lordship's judgment would be applicable and desirable for Ireland, and otherwise to amend the Irish Lunacy Laws as may seem to him best. If not the Lord Chancellor, any influential member can bring in a Bill for Ireland. One of the intentions of the Bill for England is "to remove the difficulty felt in securing the speedy treatment of mental disease." The requiring the presentation of a petition to a magistrate will add to the difficulty (see "A Legal View of the Lunacy

Bill"). An objectionable portion of the Bill is, that, in place of encouraging voluntary patients and visitors to reside in the licensed asylums, it places an obstacle in their way, and interferes with a just right that even a supposed lunatic or a visitor has to select the place for treatment of a disease, which is in most, if not all cases, only partial, not complete. It is manifest the residence of such voluntary inmates must be a great protection and social advantage to the involuntary inmates. The effort of legislation should be to afford all prudent liberty, and encourage all asylum proprietors to make their establishments comfortable homes and hospitals for the treatment of disease, and not merely prisons for detention. None but medical practitioners of standing and substantial means should be licensed, and such licensed asylums should not be limited to the number of patients at present licensed for (which would effectually prevent improvement of the establishments), but it should, as now, be left to the discretion of the licensing power. One of the most important provisions of any Act is that of judicial inspection, which is so well performed in the case of Chancery lunatic patients. What might be best may be to extend that system, and let the Lunacy Office of the Court of Chancery appoint all the inspectors or special inspectors, subject to the Lord Chancellor, to visit, report upon, and control all matters relating to private lunatic asylums, and the licensing power of the few such asylums should rest with the Lord Chancellor. Considering the increasing number of Chancery lunatics in such asylums this would seem most reasonable and natural. The Lord Chancellor should represent the Government as head of the Lunacy Department in all respects. This would increase the confidence of the public. Perhaps as the pauper lunatic asylums are so closely allied to workhouses the details of such might in a good degree be left to the Boards of Guardians, with an annual inspection of responsible Chancery visitors to report upon their general condition to the Lunacy Office of the Court of Chancery. If Mr. Corbet's Bill was passed the result would be that nearly all the patients in the present private licensed asylums in Ireland would be transferred to the private licensed asylums in England, and their vested rights would profit in the same proportion as the confiscated Irish asylums would lose—a result overlooked by the framers of the Irish Bill.

Dr. COURTENAY moved that the thanks of the Association are due to Dr. Eustace for his views on the proposed legislation with regard to the private asylums of Ireland, the result of his long and varied experience.

LUNACY ACTS IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

It is so seldom that lawyers find anything good to say of Lunacy Acts that we think the following, for which we are indebted to Dr. Norton Manning, the Inspector General of the Lunacy Department, N. S. W., may be interesting to our readers. The Act in New South Wales allows of admission at the request of friends, but provides that the signature of the person signing shall be witnessed by a justice or a clergyman licensed to celebrate marriages. The magistrate does not see the patient or act in any way medically, but merely as a witness to the signature.

*Extracts from the Law Reports, Chancery Division. Part 12.
December 1st, 1887.*

T.P. 287, *et seq.*

In *re* Barlow's will.

"A lady detained in a lunatic asylum in New South Wales was entitled for life to the income (about £30 a year) of one-third of testator's residuary income, and was absolutely entitled to a fund of about £2,000, which had arisen from accumulations. She had for years been maintained by the Colonial Government at a total expense of £803. By the New South Wales Lunacy Act extensive powers of management of property of lunatic patients