

Savage there was none. I am sorry that I have not access to Sir W. Gull's works on the subject. Nor as far as I can find is there any case recorded with a syphilitic history. It is further interesting to note that there is nothing of this type of feature apparent in a photograph taken some time after marriage. There is the destruction in the throat, hoarse voice, and apparent absence of glands. The history of typhus, with its sequelæ, may or may not be of interest.

The mentalization in the non-aggressive phase is well expressed by herself in a specimen of her handwriting before me. Her husband and children she addresses with much affection, but she is never facile, and has no hallucinations. The grandeur is referred to by Dr. Clouston and others. The pitting, so invariably absent in the experience of other observers, is certainly present here, but how much of it may be due to the cardiac condition I am not prepared to say. In the anæmia, it is of interest to note, not only the increase of white cells, but the reduction of hæmoglobin out of all proportion to the reduction of red cells. The bleeding at the nose is already noticed. In the photograph the right pupil seems, if anything, the larger, but as a rule the left is so. She is increasing in weight, but progression and locomotion generally are getting slower and more feeble.

The slowness in response is, I think, not due to delay, or slowness, in sensory conduction, but to the mental hebetude. For, when asked to say when she is touched, she does so at first, but unless roused up again, the interval between stimulation and response is becoming longer, and after a few times acknowledgment ceases altogether, but a pin prick or tickling the sole elicits an instant response, as seen by the change of feature, showing that the fault is not in the conducting mechanism, but in the constant tendency to doze off. The temperature is subnormal; the memory is good, but like all brain function, is slow.

My thanks are due to Dr. McDowall for much kindness and help in putting the case together.

OCCASIONAL NOTES OF THE QUARTER.

Pensions.

Now that the Local Government Act is in operation and County Councils established, it may be useful to consider the probable effect of the new state of affairs upon the position of asylum officials.

In the House of Commons Mr. E. S. Norris has this session introduced a Bill "To enable County Councils to provide a

fund, by deductions from salaries and wages of officers and servants in their employment, and to grant superannuation allowances therefrom."

Mr. Norris said that his Bill in no way affects the position of asylum officials, but with all due deference to his opinion, his Bill, in our humble judgment, unless modified and clearly defined, might and probably would be interpreted to apply to them so as to affect their position.

Section 4 proposes to meet superannuation allowances by a deduction of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. from the salary or wages of each one of their officers and servants "for whom provision shall not otherwise have been made by Act of Parliament."

This is the only reference in the Bill that can be construed as applying to asylum officials, but surely it cannot with justice be said that any absolute, adequate, or certain provision has been made by Act of Parliament for asylum officials, considering that the superannuation clauses of the Lunacy Acts are merely optional, containing permissive, not compulsory powers, and that these permissive powers, hitherto exercised by the magistrates, are now transferred to County Councils. The inconsistency is still further apparent by Mr. Norris's admission, in a communication on the subject, that asylum officials are not absolutely provided for under the present Lunacy Acts, for he says "it appears that although you are not absolutely provided for under the present Act, it is most unusual that a fit and proper amount of pension is denied."

The following is the opinion of an able and experienced lawyer whom we have consulted respecting Mr. Norris's Bill: "I should say that it *does* apply to asylum officials, but that Section 4 could not be acted upon retrospectively—only in regard to such officers as may be engaged after the passing of the Bill."

This shows the absolute necessity of keeping the two classes of asylum officials distinct, namely, "existing officers" at the passing of the Local Government Act, and future entrants on office, the former class requiring some definite and special provision.

According to Section 8, the prescribed age for superannuation shall in all ordinary cases be 65 years.

This age is certainly too high for asylum service, and is even higher than the age of voluntary retirement from the Civil Service, which is 60, as recommended in the Second Report of the Royal Commission on Civil Establishments,

1888, first Report recommending 65 as the age for compulsory retirement.

It is very advisable, if possible, to retain the age of 50 for asylum service, in accordance with the Lunacy Acts; but if it should be necessary to make a compromise to satisfy public opinion, the age might be raised, but should not be higher than 55 for voluntary retirement from asylum service.

Section 9, prescribing the scale of superannuation, takes no account of the allowances of asylum officials, a very important item in calculating the amount of pension, but fixes the scale at "one-sixtieth part of the amount of his salary or wages for every year fully ended during which he shall have been in the service of the Council."

According to Section 10, the Council may at their option grant, to any officer or servant whose service has been less than 10 years, a superannuation allowance according to the prescribed scale, or a gratuity equal to two weeks' salary or wages for every year of service fully ended.

Section 13 provides for a revision of superannuation allowances from time to time, "but any such alteration must be such as to make the fund solvent."

For our part we do not see any probability of such fund being made solvent, at least for some considerable time, if at all, by a mere deduction of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. from salaries and wages, and we fear that asylum officials will be trusting to a broken reed if they depend upon the solvency of such fund for their retiring allowances. Even if County Councils were to contribute another $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to a superannuation fund, we very much question whether the fund would be long able to meet all the claims likely to be made.

Asylum officials will be very neglectful of their own interests if they do not keep a close watch over Mr. Norris's Bill, which is open to various objections, and which is a matter requiring the careful consideration of the Medico-Psychological Association.

The Bill should either be opposed, or an attempt made to prevent it passing without some clear definition of the position of asylum officials with regard to pension. It is all very well for the promoters of the Bill or County Councils to say that it is not intended to apply to asylums, but until the Bill contains something clear and definite respecting asylum officials, it might quite easily be interpreted as applicable to them. In its present shape the Bill is attended with danger.

The Parliamentary Committee of the London County Council, in reporting upon the Superannuation of Officers (County Councils) Bill, say, "Your Committee have no objections to offer to the Bill so far as it is permissive, but they think that exception should be taken to its compulsory provisions."

The question of superannuation has been carefully discussed by the Sussex County Council, who have referred it to a special committee of nine members, Dr. Hayes Newington, the able and esteemed President-Elect of the Medico-Psychological Association, being a member of this committee. It is within our knowledge that Dr. Hayes Newington is taking a deep interest in this question, which he has carefully studied, and of which he has a thorough mastery. He has spoken upon the subject before the Sussex County Council, and is fully prepared to safeguard our interests before the Special Pension Committee, should the necessity arise.

Asylum officials owe, in our opinion, a debt of gratitude to Dr. Murray Lindsay for the great trouble he has taken in regard to the all-important question of superannuation.

The objection to pensions on the part of the public is very apparent and already taking practical shape, for two County Councils (London and Surrey), in advertising appointments, state that "the person appointed will not be entitled to a pension."

Boards of Guardians are also following suit, for we have seen at least one similar condition in an advertisement for a poor law appointment, that of chief clerk to the vestry, parish of Kensington, the advertisement stating "the appointment not to carry a pension."

We throw out a suggestion that each County Council should appoint a Superannuation Committee, and that a representative or representatives from each committee should meet in conference to discuss this question with a view to draw up a special and uniform pension scheme, to be approved by the Local Government Board, applicable to the county asylum service throughout England and Wales.

In the House of Commons on 3rd of May, Sir W. Barttelot asked the Home Secretary with reference to police superannuation whether it would not be possible to send to each of the County Councils some tentative scheme of police superannuation which the Government might more or less approve, so that the House might be enabled to legislate on a basis more or less uniform throughout the country.

To this question the Home Secretary replied that "the suggestion appeared to be worthy of serious consideration. At present they were having actuarial calculations, intricate and difficult, but which might be of assistance in forming an ultimate decision on the subject."

The present would, therefore, appear to be a favourable opportunity to get the question of asylum-pensions considered by County Councils and the Government in connection with police superannuation.

Those County Councils wishing carefully to consider the pension question as affecting asylum officials may obtain valuable hints and useful information from the Army, Navy, and Civil Service Regulations.

In the "British Medical Journal" of 4th May will be seen the regulations for the entry of surgeons for temporary service in the medical department of the navy, which contain liberal provisions respecting pensions for wounds and to widows, etc.

The uncertain and undefined position of asylum officers and of County Councils with regard to asylums is very evident from what is passing in Parliament. On 20th May Mr. Wharton asked the Attorney-General whether the powers possessed by Quarter Sessions Committees of Visitors of Lunatic Asylums of choosing and fixing the salaries of the officers of the asylums and spending a certain sum annually for repairs and other necessary expenses, applied to the Asylum Visiting Committee of the County Councils.

The Attorney-General replied, "The question of the hon. and learned member raises a point of considerable difficulty, but in my opinion, the Visiting Committee appointed by the County Council under the Local Government Act have had transferred to them the powers of the old Visiting Committee under the Lunatic Asylums Act, 1853.

"I understand that the Local Government Board are carefully considering the point in connection with other questions which have arisen under the Local Government Act."

In Section 67 of the Lunacy Acts Amendment Bill, the principle of transferred service as reckoning towards pension is so far adopted as to apply only to "any officer transferred from one asylum to another asylum, wholly or in part belonging to the same local authority." We hold that this principle of transferred service should be extended so as to be applicable to service in any county under any local authority whatever, and not necessarily confined to the same county. The Lord

Chancellor, however, has not seen fit to adopt the suggestion. Perhaps one of the medical members of Parliament, Dr. Farquharson or Sir W. Foster, may be willing to propose this extension when the Bill is passing through committee in the House of Commons.

At the Quarterly Meeting held at Bethlem Hospital in June, the subject of pensions was discussed, and to the report of this meeting we refer our readers. (See Part IV.).

Lunacy Acts Amendment Bill.

This Bill has now (June 3rd) been read a second time in the House of Commons and referred to the Standing Committee on Law. Thus it draws its weary length along, with, however, rather a better prospect of passing than has been the case for years past. It is far from perfect, and some of its worst defects are clearly set forth by the Parliamentary Committee of our Association, and in the Report of the Lunacy Bill Committee of the Royal College of Physicians, which held an extraordinary comitia on 7th May for the purpose of discussing the Report. It was adopted on the motion of Sir Edward Sieveking, and was printed in the "British Medical Journal" of 11th May. The Report is well worthy of support by the Medico-Psychological Association. The main features of this Report are embodied in the following petition by the College to the House of Commons, and presented by the First Lord of the Treasury:—

To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.

THE HUMBLE PETITION OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.

Showeth as follows (that is to say):—

The College having carefully examined the Lunacy Law Amendment Bill, 1889, recognizes the consideration which the framers of the Bill have shown for the public interest, while they have not been unmindful of the medical profession in regard to the protection afforded to persons signing certificates in lunacy, or otherwise concerned in the needful detention of lunatics, as well as in regard to the provisions of Section 59 relating to pensions. With the view to co-operate in the present effort of the Government to amend the laws regulating the custody and treatment of the insane, the College desires respectfully but earnestly to make the following