

One hears sometimes that a person in authority announces that he would rather follow the dictates of his own common-sense than the opinion of the most expert of mental experts. That man forgets that the expert also exercises his common-sense, but with the difference that in his case instructed and experienced common-sense is used.

H. HAYES NEWINGTON.

The Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting held at Gloucester has again demonstrated how popular with our Association is a visit to a provincial centre in July. Of the many agreeable features of a highly successful meeting we would like to refer especially to the well-informed and sympathetic interest, in the aims of the Association, evinced by the distinguished county and city officials who honoured us by their presence. We regard their attitude as a striking testimony to the value of the work which has been done by Dr. Soutar and by his predecessor at Barnwood House.

The record of the transactions which appears in this number of the Journal shows how numerous are the Association's activities, and how zealously the various officials and committees have worked during the past year.

Dr. Soutar's presidential address contains an admirable statement of his appreciation of the services rendered by British alienists in the domain of psychiatry, and of his estimate of the qualities which make for success in the endeavour to accomplish the highest aims of our specialty. When he deals with the attitude of the State towards scientific research we are reminded of a prominent feature in the history of the progress of the British race, namely, the part played by the individual pioneer unsupported by official recognition. Already we are under deep obligations to such pioneers in our branch of medicine, and we are confident that they and their successors will continue to add to our indebtedness, and will eventually meet with a full measure of official encouragement.

The long-hoped-for legislation to deal with the care and control of the feeble-minded has at last been introduced, and our Parliamentary Committee, with commendable promptitude, appointed a Select Committee, which has worked indefatigably,

and we trust that their efforts will meet with gratifying success. The thanks of the Association, and, indeed, of all who are interested in the welfare of the feeble-minded, are due to this sub-committee, and especially to its Chairman, who opened the discussion on the Mental Deficiency Bill at the Annual Meeting.

As we anticipated, the Committee on the Medical Inspection of School Children has produced a valuable report, which has been welcomed as meeting a much-felt need. Only those who have been associated with the Chairman of this committee know the extent of his devoted labours in this branch of his work.

The subject of mental deficiency and the proposed legislation thereon are so ably dealt with, in various contributions which we publish in this number, that it would be superfluous to comment on these matters in this note.

The Committee dealing with the status of Assistant Medical Officers and the Position of Psychiatry continue to prosecute their inquiries, and hope to present a report to the next general meeting. We publish a paper by Dr. Rows on this subject in the present number.

We have much pleasure in drawing attention to the fact that several assistant medical officers have recently taken the diploma in psychiatry. We propose to publish lists of successful candidates, and to print the special regulations of the various universities which grant this diploma.

We have already expressed the opinion that much good would result from a dissemination of the knowledge we have acquired regarding the prevention and treatment of mental deficiency, and we are glad to announce that the Association has published, in pamphlet form, selected papers and the proceedings of various committees dealing with this subject.

Part II.—Reviews.

An Answer to the Rev. John Baillie, M.A. By CHARLES MERCIER, M.D., F.R.C.P.

It is satisfactory to have drawn at last one professional logician out into the open, and to have elicited at length a defence of traditional logic. Hitherto, logicians have severely boycotted the New Logic, and have met it with a conspiracy of silence. I happen to know that, by