

## SCOTTISH MEETING.

A Special Meeting of the Medico-Psychological Association was held in the Edinburgh Hotel, Edinburgh, on the 1st April, 1887.

Dr. Clouston was called to the chair, the other members present being Dr. Aitken (Inverness), Dr. Blair (Lenzie), Dr. R. W. K. Cameron (Midlothian), Dr. C. M. Campbell (Murthly), Dr. Keay (Mavisbank), Dr. Watson (Govan), and Dr. Urquhart, Secretary.

The SECRETARY stated that he had called the meeting in consequence of the general agreement amongst the Scottish members that a Pension Clause should be inserted in the Bill dealing with lunacy districts in Scotland, shortly to be introduced by Government. He then read letters from the members of the Association who had made suggestions in reference to this matter; and, after discussion, the meeting adjourned to the Chambers of the General Board of Lunacy, where Dr. Clouston briefly indicated the views of the Association. Dr. Arthur Mitchell, C.B., on behalf of the Commissioners, assured the Association of the sympathy of the Board, and stated that the Board had already recommended the introduction of such a clause.

Dr. CLOUSTON having thanked the Board for their courtesy, and having expressed, on behalf of the meeting, their satisfaction with the action of the Board, the members of the Association returned to the Edinburgh Hotel and drafted the following memorial:—

“UNTO THE MOST NOBLE THE MARQUIS OF LOTHIAN, K.T., HER MAJESTY'S SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SCOTLAND.

*“The Memorial of the Chief Medical Officers of the Scottish Royal, District, and Parochial Asylums for the Insane, as representing all the Officials of the Institutions under their care,*

“HUMBLY SHOWETH,

“I. That provision has been made by the Legislature for granting Superannuation Allowances to the Officers and Servants of the County and Borough Asylums in England and of the District Asylums in Ireland.

“II. That by the Act 29<sup>o</sup> and 30<sup>o</sup> Vict. Cap. 51, Sect. XXV., the Directors of the Chartered Asylums in Scotland were also empowered to grant similar Superannuation Allowances.

“III. That there is no such provision for the same classes of Officials in the District and Parochial Asylums of Scotland, however long or meritorious their services may have been, or however much they may be incapacitated by injury, accident, or otherwise.

“IV. That this is a manifest injustice to Scotland and to such Scottish Officials. It is directly calculated to impair the efficient working of these Asylums, and has been found to draw away their staff to more favoured Institutions.

“V. That the cure and welfare of the Insane being, as in your Lordship's opinion, the main point at issue, it is necessary to attract efficient and energetic Officials in the prime of life to a service which is in many ways repellent and arduous; and it is equally necessary that due facilities should be given for their retirement from active service when their full power of work has become exhausted.

“VI. That those principles have been found in practice so necessary for the efficiency of Asylums, and the injustice of the present want of statutory provisions for carrying them out so glaring, that, in many of these Institutions, District and Parochial Boards have hitherto, without objection on the part of the ratepayers, continued the emoluments of those Officers on retirement after long periods of service, or in consequence of ill health.

“VII.—That the promised introduction by her Majesty's Government of a Bill relating to Lunacy Districts in Scotland seems to afford a favourable op-

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portunity for the rectifying of this injustice to Scottish District and Parochial Asylum Officers and Servants, as compared with the Officers and Servants of English and Irish Asylums, and of Scottish Royal Asylums.

"Your Memorialists therefore humbly pray your Lordship to introduce into the promised Bill such a clause as will remedy the omission of which they complain."

The Secretary was instructed to have the Memorial printed and signed by the chief medical officers of the Scottish Asylums. The following signatures were appended in due course:—

- THOMAS AITKEN, M.D.,  
Medical Superintendent, Inverness District Asylum.
- R. BLAIR, M.D.,  
Medical Superintendent, Barony Parochial Asylum.
- JOHN CAMERON, M.D.,  
Medical Superintendent, Argyll and Bute District Asylum.
- E. W. D. CAMERON, M.D.,  
Medical Superintendent, Midlothian and Peebles District Asylum.
- C. M. CAMPBELL, M.D.,  
Medical Superintendent, Perth District Asylum.
- A. CAMPBELL CLARK, M.B.,  
Medical Superintendent, Glasgow District Asylum.
- T. S. CLOWSTON, M.D.,  
Physician-Superintendent, Royal Edinburgh Asylum.
- D. FRASER, M.D.,  
Medical Officer, Riccartbar Parochial Asylum, Paisley.
- THOMAS GRAHAM, M.D.,  
Medical Superintendent, Abbey Parochial Asylum, Paisley.
- S. GRIEBSON, M.R.C.S.,  
Consulting Physician, Roxburgh District Asylum.
- J. C. HOWDEN, M.D.,  
Physician-Superintendent, Montrose Royal Asylum.
- ROBERT JAMIESON, M.D.,  
Consulting Physician, Aberdeen Royal Asylum.
- J. CARLYLE JOHNSTONE, M.B.,  
Medical Superintendent, Roxburgh, Berwick, and Selkirk District Asylum.
- W. C. M'INTOSH, M.D.,  
Consulting Physician, Perth District Asylum.
- J. MACLAREN, F.R.C.S.,  
Medical Superintendent, Stirling District Asylum.
- A. J. MANSON, M.D.,  
Physician to the Banff District Asylum.
- W. REID, M.D.,  
Physician-Superintendent, Aberdeen Royal Asylum.
- ALEXANDER ROBERTSON, M.D.,  
Physician to the City of Glasgow Parochial Asylum.
- JAMES ROBBIE, M.D.,  
Physician-Superintendent, Dundee Royal Asylum.
- JAMES RUTHERFORD, M.D.,  
Physician-Superintendent, Crichton Royal Institution, Dumfries.
- J. B. RONALDSON, M.D.,  
Medical Officer, Haddington District Asylum.
- JAMES ROSS, M.D.,  
Medical Officer, Elgin District Asylum.
- CHARLES HOLLAND SKAE, M.D.,  
Medical Superintendent, Ayr District Asylum.
- A. R. TURNBULL, M.B.,  
Medical Superintendent, Fife and Kinross District Asylum.

A. E. URQUHART, M.D.,  
Physician-Superintendent, James Murray's Royal Asylum, Perth.  
JAMES WALLACE, M.D.,  
Physician to the Greenock Parochial Asylum.  
W. R. WATSON, L.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,  
Medical Superintendent, Govan Parochial Asylum.  
DAVID YELLOWLEES, M.D.,  
Physician-Superintendent, Glasgow Royal Asylum.

The memorial was sent to the Marquis of Lothian, and copies to the Lord Advocate and the Solicitor-General.

The following is the reply of the Marquis of Lothian :—

“Dover House, Whitehall, S.W.,

“3rd May, 1887.

“DEAR SIR,—I am desired by Lord Lothian to acknowledge receipt of the Memorial of the Chief Medical Officers of the Scottish Royal, Parochial, and District Asylums for the Insane on the subject of Superannuation Allowances.

“His Lordship, while feeling that there is probably much justice in the demand for Superannuation Allowances put forward by the Officers of Scottish Asylums, cannot hold out any hope of the subject being dealt with in the Bill dealing with Lunacy Districts now before Parliament.

“I am,

“Yours faithfully,

“JOHN BLACKBURN.

“A. R. Urquhart, Esq., M.D.”

It was thereafter agreed, in addition to what might be done by private efforts, that Drs. Clouston, Aitken, and Watson should be empowered to act on behalf of the memorialists as might seem expedient to them.

#### MRS. LOWE'S APPEAL TO THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

The case of Lowe (the appellant)\* and Fox (the respondent) is one of too much importance in its legal aspect to be allowed to pass without placing on record the grounds on which final judgment was given by the Lord Chancellor, and Lords Watson, FitzGerald, Herschell, and Macnaughten.

The Lord Chancellor (Halsbury), after complimenting Mrs. Lowe on the great ability and propriety with which she had argued her appeal, and stating her to be in full possession of her faculties—thus exercising that power of diagnosis in insanity which the present Lord Chancellor believes to be as satisfactorily performed by a legal as by a medical man—proceeded to give it as his opinion that it was impossible to deal with the order upon a patient received into an asylum without taking all its parts and its contents together, and judging of them as a whole. He held that Mrs. Lowe had dissociated the various parts of which it was composed, and dissected it as if one such part had no relation to or dependence upon another. Much turned upon the answer to the question “Whether the first attack?” The answer was “For the last 20 years has been subject to what is termed hysteria.” The Lord Chancellor admitted that, taken by itself, the question had “reference to that which alone the keeper of the house has to consider, namely, the state of her mind.” But an answer, “Yes” or “No,” would be inadequate and misleading. Hence the above reply merely gave the important information that she had suffered from hysteria for 20 years, but by no means alleged that she had been insane during this period. Again, in reply to the question, “Age on first attack?” the answer was given “30.” The

\* We are indebted to the shorthand notes of Messrs. Cherer, Bennett, and Davis, 38, Lincoln's Inn Fields, for the summary of this appeal to the House of Lords, which took place January 31st, 1887.