

*The Statistical Tables.*

The new statistical tables adopted at the meeting of the Association in July last are the outcome of three years of strenuous work on the part of a most energetic committee, of the deliberations of every section of the Association, of lengthy consultations with governing bodies, and of the opinions of statistical specialists, together with a vast amount of individual consideration and suggestion.

The Association probably has never before given such general and protracted consideration to any of its new departures.

The tables finally adopted, with a few minor alterations, have long been in the hands of the members of the Association, and may therefore be regarded as having received deliberate acceptance, and as representing their views on practical statistical possibilities at the present time.

Statistics of the facts relating to insanity are so complex and intricate that complete unanimity in regard to any special method is absolutely hopeless, particularly in the members of this Association, who, as the reports of our meetings show, are characterised by a very striking amount of individuality of view.

It is not surprising, therefore, that while the body of the members, by their abstention from the final debates, indicated their acceptance of the tables, a few upheld their opposition on certain points to the very last.

These irreconcilable differences of opinion have been so fully discussed that it is unnecessary to do more than allude to their existence, and to express the hope that with its usual loyalty the Association will unite to make the best possible use of the tables as they now stand.

One general criticism of the tables may be alluded to, *viz.*, that they will involve a great amount of additional work. Those, however, who have had experience of the compilation of tables on a somewhat similar system maintain that the increase will not be so very large. It is well to remember that since the old tables were introduced there has been a great increase in the strength of medical staffs of asylums, which should render the performance of such work more easy. Moreover, the importance of the work is so great that it should still be undertaken even if it necessitated an appeal to the governing bodies for temporary help, a very remote contingency in most asylums.

The statistical work performed by some American and continental institutions is far in excess of that which is demanded by these tables, and this argument alone should suffice to stimulate our members to the acceptance of any additional labour.

The Statistical Committee is to be congratulated on the completion of its task. No committee, probably, in the history of the Association, has devoted more time, energy, and personal expenditure to the discharge of its functions or has manifested more unwearied zeal and patience. The thanks of the Association should be as unstinted as the services rendered, and it is to be regretted that there is not some more tangible and enduring method of testifying this gratitude than by mere verbal expressions. The prompt and universal adoption of the tables is the one method by which the Association can permanently attest its appreciation of the value and success of the labours of this committee.

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*The Library.*

The Library of the Association, which was originated by the bequest of the books of the late Dr. Hack Tuke, and to which the interest of the Hack Tuke Memorial Fund is devoted, is now so organised that it should be a valuable help to those members of the Association who require to consult books of reference.

Books can now be sent to members of the Association living at a distance for the cost of the postage, and it is to be hoped that in the future a large amount of use will thus be made of the Library.

Current literature, which has not been added to the Library, can be obtained through Lewis's Lending Library.

The permanent Library is still defective in many important books on medico-psychological subjects, and it is very desirable that the members of the Association should study the Library Catalogue with a view to contributing such works.

The Library Committee would also be indebted for suggestions in regard to books that should be acquired.

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