

*Diploma in Psychiatry.*

Dr. Clouston's paper on the success that has crowned the efforts of the Association with the University of Edinburgh leads to the hope that similar successes may be recorded at an early date in connection with other universities.

The advantage that such a development will confer on the specialty is beyond all question, and is to be hailed with all the enthusiasm so admirably expressed by Dr. Clouston. There is, however, a converse side in a feeling of anxiety that these special examinations might become too special. Already, in the earlier phases of medical examination, a student is examined, in physiology, for example, as if he were about to specialise in physiology rather than in medicine, and so on of other subjects.

The result is, that instead of a medical qualification being obtained in five years the average period is six and a half; and if the student has obtained a degree in arts prior to this, the result is that even before his specialisation he has reached an age which is late for taking up the actual business of life.

Examiners, acting according to their wont, might easily render it impossible for a student to acquire the requisite knowledge for a pass in the complex subjects of a medico-psychological degree in double the nine months estimated as necessary by Dr. Clouston.

The establishment of a degree in psychiatry is the fulfilment of one of the ends at which the Association has long aimed, but this has only been rendered possible by the action of those of our members alluded to by Dr. Clouston, to whom the sincerest thanks of the Association are most justly due.

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*Superannuation Act.*

The legal difficulties in the working of this Act are by no means settled, we regret. The attention of the Home Secretary has been called in no uncertain way for some time past to the obvious injustice of the position caused by the advice given him by the Law Officers of the Crown, to the effect that the right to appeal to him only arises in any case when a pension is payable. If this is right, then officers of an asylum are at