

is generally great depression of sentiment, but no case of actual mental disease is known to me," and in addition says that he is not aware that the condition has ever been reported in connection with insanity. As Dr. MacPhail points out, the occurrence of maniacal excitement with the disease in question is most probably coincidental, and as far as we know neither is related, but the rarity of the coincidence makes it worthy of note.

For permission to record this case, and his kind help, I am indebted to Dr. McDowall.

OCCASIONAL NOTES OF THE QUARTER.

Meeting at Bristol.

This, the third Quarterly Meeting held in the provinces, proved another success, and fully justified the course taken several years ago, when it was determined to hold the spring meeting of the Association at some distance from the Metropolis. On many grounds it was the right thing to meet in the West of England. One of the reasons which rendered it a fitting place of meeting was the opportunity which it gave to assemble at and to inspect so well-known an institution as Brislington House. That a cordial welcome and true hospitality would be extended to the Association was fully anticipated, and those who met at Brislington did not fail to find that this anticipation was justified to the greatest possible extent. The President paid an eloquent tribute to the manner in which the Fox family had always conducted this large private establishment. It was a great satisfaction to the meeting that the son of Doctor Prichard, the Nestor of the medical profession in Bristol, was able to be present when the Paper on the life and career of his distinguished father was read.

It was from the very first inception of the Medico-Psychological Association the intention of its founders to hold its meetings in different parts of England, and to inspect the asylums of the locality. The ever-increasing tendency to centralization has, unfortunately, entirely thwarted this excellent and practical idea. The meeting at York inaugurated the return to the original practice, and we can only hope that the peripatetic action now taken with so much advantage to

the vitality and extension of the work of the Association will be fostered. The principle applies to the Annual Meeting whenever the President of the year is in a position to invite the Association to the scene of his asylum work. Happily, this will be the case when the next meeting assembles in Birmingham, and if the nomination of the Council as regards the presidency in the following year be confirmed on that occasion, the Association will meet at York.

Kent County Asylum v. The Mayor and Corporation of Maidstone.

An important action was brought some time since by the Clerk (Howlett) of this asylum against the Borough of Maidstone for the recovery of a sum of money for the maintenance during the year succeeding the coming into force of the Local Government Act, 1888, of certain pauper lunatics sent from Maidstone to the asylum.

Mr. Justice Denman gave judgment in favour of the plaintiff.

The defendants appealed. The case was heard on March 20th, 1891. Appeal allowed. The judgment of the Court was delivered on May 15th before the Lord Chancellor, the Master of the Rolls, and Lord Justice Fry, as follows :—

That something is due to the plaintiff is not in dispute ; the only question is as to the mode of ascertaining that amount. The question primarily turns on the true meaning of the Local Government Act, 1888, section 86, subsection 4. That enacts that when at the passing of that Act a borough of the kind there described contracts with the Quarter Sessions of the county in which the borough is situate for the reception of the lunatics of the borough in the county asylum, such borough shall, on the determination of the contract, cease to have power to build a lunatic asylum, and shall be liable to contribute to the county rate in respect of the county lunatic asylum in like manner as the rest of the county. So far the matter is clear. But the enactment further provides that the liability to contribute to the county rate shall be subject to the enactments providing for an additional charge for the maintenance of lunatics in cases where no contribution has been made towards the cost of building and furnishing an asylum. The object of this provision is clear. If the borough were allowed to join the county after the county had built the asylum without contributing toward the expense of the building it would gain an unfair advantage over the rest of the county, and this is to be