

Inspector there, he had now to propose—"That Dr. Norton Manning and the Medical Staff of the New South Wales Lunacy Department be invited to join us in forming a Medico-Psychological Association, the meetings to be held in each colony alternately, and that the first meeting be held in Melbourne, Victoria, in October of next year," and that as Hon. Secretary I be asked to communicate with the Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain in order to ascertain how far, in the event of New South Wales joining us, it would be possible for us to be affiliated or become a branch of that Association; and I would ask your kind interest in this matter on behalf of alienists at the antipodes in time for me to prepare a statement for our next conference.

I would like to mention that in the event of New South Wales joining us we would then approach South Australia, Queensland, Tasmania, Western Australia, and New Zealand, the other colonies of Australasia, and that at the annual meetings each colony would have its representatives from superintendents and medical officers—a system we adopted from the first,—and that nothing of individual asylum administrative work would arise unless of general interest, this being the more to be desired since each colony has its own governmental methods.

The details, however, are still to be worked out when we hear from you.

At the moment I am sorry I have not material at hand to tabulate for you the extent of lunacy work in Australasia, but in New South Wales there are six large asylums with a staff of thirteen medical men; in Victoria there are six asylums with a staff of fourteen medical men; in South Australia there are two asylums with a staff of two medical men; in Tasmania one asylum with two men; in New Zealand at least three large asylums with two men each; in Queensland two asylums with three men, and of Western Australia I am not sure.

In putting these facts before you I may only be anticipating an inquiry which might strike your Council, and would finally state that without doubt many general practitioners would join our Society, and in this I speak confidently of Victoria.

You are at liberty to make journalistic use of this letter, and I trust you will understand my difficulty in making an article of it myself, though no such hindrance stands in the way of letter form to you professionally.

I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

Percy Smith, Esq., M.D.

W. BEATTIE SMITH,
Medical Superintendent.

COMPLIMENTARY.

DR. NORTON MANNING'S RETIREMENT.

We report, with much regret, that Dr. Frederick Norton Manning has resigned the office of Inspector-General of the Insane for the Colony of New South Wales, which he had held for many years with so much credit to himself, and so much benefit to the colony and its insane.

The resignation of a public official of the type of Dr. Manning cannot fail to be a great public loss, for although it is not difficult to find officials who will be certain to discharge complex duties with adequate efficiency, it is not so easy to ensure that the man and the office shall be in absolute and acknowledged harmony, and this is what, by a somewhat rare combination of qualities, Dr. Manning was able to secure in his own case.

Commencing his medical career at St. George's Hospital, receiving his first appointment at the York Dispensary, and subsequently entering the navy, in which he remained for several years, he left everywhere pleasant impressions behind him.

While serving in the navy he lost no opportunity of visiting the various public medical institutions which were to be found in the ports at which he

stopped, and he ultimately became so impressed with the glaring defects of the asylum system, or want of system, of the colony of New South Wales, that it scarcely needed the urging of a friend that he should represent to its Government the defects and abuses which his inspections had disclosed. His representations were fortunately taken in good part, and the seriousness of his facts admitted.

He was invited to enter the temporary service of the colony as a special commissioner, and authorised to visit the asylums of other countries in that capacity, with a view to suggestions as to the improvement of its own asylum organisation. The result appeared in an excellent report upon lunatic asylums, which was printed by the Government in 1868, and in Dr. Manning's appointment as superintendent of the Tarban Creek or Gladesville Asylum, and Inspector of the Insane for the colony.

He entered upon this new sphere of work with the ability, good judgment, and infective enthusiasm which have marked his whole career, and by the aid of which he has secured results of the highest importance in the interests of the insane of the colony.

At a complimentary dinner recently given to him by members of the medical profession of the colony, and numerous attended, he summed up the changes which have been brought about during his administration in the following words:—"When I took charge of Gladesville the place itself was a prison; and Paramatta, all the buildings at which had been used as prisons in the very early days of this colony, was much worse. There were no gardens, no flowers, no amusements, none of the amenities of life, and the officers and staff were almost as badly housed as the patients. Few took any interest in the condition of the insane, and if hospitals are in some sort the measure of the civilisation of a people, then at that time New South Wales was not altogether a civilised community. At the same time the overcrowding was alarming, and on my first night in office, when I picked my way, armed with a big bunch of some twenty heavy keys and a lantern, among the patients spread out upon the floor of every room without bedsteads, and as thick as they could lie, I confess that my heart sank within me. I had, however, put my hand to the plough, and was not going to turn back. It was ten years, however, before even the medical superintendent of Gladesville had a house to live in at the hospital. It was sixteen or seventeen years before the awful old cells occupied by women at Paramatta were swept away. We commenced with 1000 patients in two hospitals. At this moment we have 4000 in five large institutions, the youngest and most beautiful of which, at Kenmore, near Goulburn, will have accommodation for 500 patients. The old buildings have been remodelled, demolished, and rebuilt. I hope we can now show in each and all of the hospitals for the insane in this colony pleasant grounds, airy and cleanly wards, many comforts, and wise and kindly supervision. Work in connection with the insane is admittedly trying and anxious. I think I may now with fairness, and even with advantage to the public service, step on one side and leave the continuance of a great work to younger, to more efficient, but not more willing hands."

Dr. Manning was then presented with a handsomely illuminated and bound menu of the dinner, containing the names of all the gentlemen present.

THE LATE DR. WALLIS.

The following letter from the General Secretary elicited from Dr. Merson, on behalf of Dr. Wallis' relatives, a reply expressing their deep appreciation of the sympathy expressed by the members of the Association:

11, CHANDOS STREET,
CAVENDISH SQUARE;

March 2nd.

DEAR SIR,—At the General Meeting of the Medico-Psychological Association, held on February 16th at the West Riding Asylum, Wadsley, near Sheffield, Dr.