

CHARGES AGAINST ASYLUMS.

The Minister of Health has appointed a Committee consisting of Sir Cyril Cobb, K.B.E., M.V.O. (Chairman), R. P. Smith, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.P., Bedford Pierce, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.P., with Mr. P. Barter, of the Ministry of Health, as secretary, "to investigate and report on the charges made by Dr. Lomax in his book, *The Experiences of an Asylum Doctor*, and to make recommendations as to any medical or administrative improvements which may be necessary and practicable in respect of the matters referred to by Dr. Lomax without amendment of the existing Lunacy Laws."

The Committee will ordinarily hear evidence in public, and the time and place of meetings for this purpose will be announced in the Press. The Committee will, however, reserve the right to hear evidence in private in any case where they consider such a course desirable.

The Committee will hear such evidence as is necessary for the investigation specified in the terms of reference, and cannot undertake to hear evidence in regard to the amendment of the existing Lunacy Laws.—*Vide The Times*, January 9th, 1922.

THE GEDDES REPORT.

BOARD OF CONTROL, ENGLAND AND WALES.

1913-14, audited expenditure, £21,464; 1921-22, net estimate, £511,364; 1922-23, provisional net estimate, £535,968.

Since the provisional estimate was submitted a revised estimate has been put forward, showing a reduction of £5,528.

The number of places provided at present in the institutions to which the State contributes is 15,000 and there are now 9,000 patients in those institutions. We were told that there was a large number of mentally defective persons outside the institutions. If this were not an activity which we regard as essential to the physical and moral health of the nation, we would have recommended a substantial reduction in the vote in order to enforce economy. In the circumstances we refrain from any reduction, pointing out, however, that a larger number of these afflicted persons could in our opinion be taken into these institutions within the limits of the estimates. There are at the present time 6,000 places unoccupied.

We recommend that the necessary steps be taken to change this grant from a "percentage" basis to a "*per capita*" basis coupled with provisions to ensure adequate treatment and economical management.

SCOTLAND.

1913-14, audited expenditure, £6,139; 1921-22, net estimate, £71,733; 1922-23, net estimate, £76,333.

Since this estimate was prepared it has been intimated that the amount to be provided for 1922-23 will be increased by £28,325.

The average cost per head is lower than in England. We recommend no reduction in the sums asked for, but, as recommended for England and Wales, the grant should be on a "*per capita*" basis, and all necessary steps should be taken to ensure economy.—*Vide The Times*, February 11th, 1922.

BOARD OF CONTROL COMMITTEES OF INQUIRY.

The Board of Control have, with the approval of the Minister of Health, appointed the following committees:

Dietary.—Dr. R. W. Branthwaite, C.B. (Chairman), Commissioner of the Board of Control; Dr. M. Greenwood, Medical Officer (Medical Statistics), Ministry of Health; Dr. R. Worth, O.B.E., Medical Superintendent, Springfield Mental Hospital; Dr. L. O. Fuller, Medical Superintendent, Three Counties Mental Hospital, Arlesey, Beds.

Clinical Records, etc.—Dr. A. Rotherham (Chairman), Commissioner of the