

be brought before the medical profession, and to some extent before the general public, that the bones of the insane are in a more fragile condition than the bones of an ordinary person of the same age.

Dr. R. H. STEEN briefly related a case under his observation in which fracture of the femur occurred in a woman aged seventy-eight after she had been placed in bed.

Occasional Notes.

The Annual Meeting at Cork.

THE sixtieth annual meeting of the Medico-Psychological Association was held in Cork at the end of July under the presidency of Dr. Oscar Woods. About forty members assembled to take part in the proceedings, and to share in the true Irish hospitality so generously extended to them. The President had taken every pains to make the meeting a success, and we feel assured that his kindly efforts were highly appreciated by all those who had the good fortune to attend.

The admirable buildings of Queen's College were placed at the disposal of the Association, and the various meetings were therefore accommodated with every comfort and facility. The Royal Yacht Club and the Cork Club honoured the Association by freely opening their doors to our members, and our appreciation of these courtesies was duly recorded in the minutes.

We need not again sing the praises of the pleasant banks of the river Lee and the beauties of the town of Passage, although the bells of Shandon still reverberate in recollection. We need only record that the Cork meeting of 1901 will endure as a very happy memory, from the time of our first excursion to Queenstown till the final parting at Killarney. By a happy inspiration—a lady's, of course—Dr. Woods was completely taken by surprise when Dr. Clouston conveyed to him a silver bowl as a friendly souvenir of the occasion. The usual report of the proceedings is presented in this number of the JOURNAL, and it will be seen that the scientific, business, and social engagements will compare favourably with those of previous years. In fact, the excursion through Bantry to Killarney, lasting for three days, has had no parallel in the

history of our Association, and it showed Dr. Woods' powers of organisation and his untiring energy in other fields than those with which we were already familiar.

The President delivered an address dealing with the administration of lunacy affairs in Ireland during the past century, and we have no doubt that it will be read with the attention and appreciation which it deserves. It touched many subjects of deep and vital interest, not only in illuminating the facts of the past, but also in discussing the principles which should guide the government in the immediate future.

Recent legislation has altered the administration of asylums in many directions, and it is evident that our colleagues in Ireland view with apprehension possibilities of retrogression, which they are determined to avert with all the Celtic vigour at their command. Besides the questions dealt with by the President, Dr. O'Neill and Dr. Graham brought forward very strenuous arguments for watchfulness in regard to recent developments affecting the insane. We have been so accustomed to regard Irish asylum officials as secure in retirement, provided for by adequate pensions after the end of their working days, that it was with no little concern the Association heard of the revolution accomplished by the Local Government Act in this matter. Ireland has been reduced to the position of England, and pensions now are no longer secure. The staff of a district asylum in Ireland may find themselves practically in the same position as their neighbours in Scotland. When the long day closes they may be cast off as useless, not even to be regarded as encumbrances. Here is another injustice to Ireland and to the insane, for whatever tends to ameliorate the condition of officials, rendering them more efficient and more contented, must in proportion benefit those whose care and treatment demands the best that can be done. We have no doubt that the Parliamentary Committee will be careful not to lose sight of the principles on which they have so long acted, and that they will keep in touch with our colleagues in Ireland in actually dealing with the difficulties now apparent.

Dr. Graham's paper dealt with another important administrative aspect of asylum organisation. The result of his exordium and Dr. Nolan's advocacy was that the Association once more stands committed to the fundamental truth that insanity is an affair of medicine. However we may disagree with

Dr. Graham's rhetorical method, we must admit that to relegate the care of the insane to inferior guardians, "neither squeamish nor over-refined," without the controlling, informing supervision of the medical profession, would be a retrograde step, a policy which would stultify the Association after sixty years of effort in the opposite direction.

Dr. Carswell's experience in regard to the working of the Inebriates Act induced active interest in what has been accomplished in Glasgow, and it is to be hoped that the Association will lead public opinion in a more systematic manner than has yet been attempted. Fresh from the country of Father Matthew, we cannot forget what has been done to stem the tide of drunkenness by men of other professions and other interests, yet the world must recognise that the medical faculty have advanced the scientific knowledge of the accursed thing and have led opinion in legislation and in social life. We trust that a committee will be appointed to formulate our convictions and to press for further development of the laws dealing with drunkards of every class.

The more strictly scientific work of the meeting was well supported by such papers and addresses as those of Dr. Edridge-Green, Dr. Bolton, and Dr. Leeper; while Dr. Dawson's interesting study on suprarenal extract awoke a practical discussion on treatment.

It will be seen by the report of the Council that the Association continues to grow in numbers and in influence. Every year finds it stronger and more active, not only in its central organisation, but in the remoter parts of the kingdom.

Dr. Clouston, in his unaccustomed *rôle* of Jeremiah, is only convincing until the Treasurer's report is adopted. No sooner are the accounts passed, with a warning to be more careful, than up comes a proposition to spend more money on the JOURNAL. We would gladly recompense our trusted workers in some measure commensurate with their toils; but after the Treasurer's declaration of confidence in our economical, not to say penurious dealings with those who labour to render the JOURNAL worthy of its founders and proprietors, we can only continue on the lines so long followed, assured that these are generally approved by the Association.