

important objects for which this Association has striven during the last thirty years. The energies that have been so long occupied in this matter are now free to be used in other directions. The existing state of the Lunacy Law offers many opportunities for their employment, and no doubt some of these will soon be absorbing the activities of that most valuable body, our Parliamentary Committee.

A report of the Commemorative Dinner, which took place on December 20th, 1909, appears in this number of the Journal.

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*The Section of Psychological Medicine at the British Medical Association at Belfast.*

This Section, held under the Presidency of Dr. Outterson Wood, appears to have been one of the most successful meetings in recent years.

The President, in opening the Section, took for his text the desirability of promoting a much closer connection between psychiatry and neurology, and the Section, after discussion, passed a resolution recommending to the Council the desirability of having a combined Section at future meetings, to be called "The Section of Psychological Medicine and Neurology."

This resolution, we believe, has been adopted by the Council, and it will be interesting to observe the results of this new departure. The President's view that it will be of advantage to both these departments of medicine will probably be amply verified.

Dr. Mercier contributed a valuable and interesting paper on somatic delusions and local lesions. Dr. Shuttleworth's paper on Mongolian imbecility was also of great interest both for its subject-matter and its illustrations. Dr. MacCormac contributed a paper on the superficial and deep reflexes in relation to various forms of mental disease, which possessed the merit of much originality of observation. Dr. Crothers' paper on heredity in the causation of inebriety was a useful addition to this aspect of the subject. The report of the Royal Commission on the Care and Control of the Feeble-minded was very ably brought under consideration by Dr. Dawson.

Abstracts of these papers were published in the *British*

*Medical Journal* of September 11th, and are evidence of the valuable work of the Section.

The Section also passed a resolution commending the Superannuation Bill, and another drawing the attention of the National University and of the Queen's University to the desirability of establishing lectureships in mental diseases.

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*Sir James M. Moody.*

The honour of knighthood conferred on Sir James M. Moody will be appreciated by every member of the specialty as a recognition of its claims to a share in the distinctions so liberally awarded in several of the public services and so parsimoniously allotted to others.

Every member of the Association will concur on personal grounds in congratulating Sir James on his hardly earned and well-deserved distinction, and join in wishing him a long enjoyment of his honour.

The marvel, however, is not that one member of the specialty has received such distinction, but that it has not been extended to many more. The management of great institutions of two thousand patients and upwards certainly demands a degree of ability and capacity for protracted service such as is required of few officials of Government departments in which honours are obtained almost as a matter of course.

In each of the three kingdoms are to be found men who, in the midst of their arduous and successful administrative work, have found energy for literary and scientific activity, not infrequently associated with teaching in universities and medical schools. It is to be wished that some of the honours, often won by mere routine departmental drudgery, might find their way to the encouragement of these splendid workers.

The honour conferred on Sir James Moody may be considered as an omen of a wider recognition of public merit, which has been hitherto too largely limited to those servants of the Crown more directly in touch with the national exchequer.

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