

Those physicians who have the patience and determination to convince the reason of their patients and to establish utter confidence, find their treatment more completely successful than are the unreasoned beliefs established by mysterious quackeries, by religious or other emotionalism, or by the more or less illusional states of suggestion from induced stupor.

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*Quackery.*

The rampant quackery branded by whole-page advertisements on many of our leading newspapers constitutes a most sinister comment on the mental capacity of the community and on the morality of the Press at the present time.

The owners of these newspapers, many of which pose as leaders of morality, not only aid in the propagation of falsities calculated to produce wholesale injury to the health of the public, but also through those advertisements share largely in the profits of the swindles to which they are accessory.

These quack advertisements yield a revenue calculable in tens of thousands of pounds to the newspapers, and it is not to be wondered at that such a bribe should be accepted for services which, however wrong and injurious to the country, are yet quite legal.

The Medico-Psychological Association probably learns more of the evils of drug habits and other quackeries than any other branch of the medical profession, and should be prominent in the movement to urge on the Legislature the desirability of checking these scandals on the legal lines that have been found so effective in Germany.

An additional suggestion might be made that, in addition to a censor of plays, a censor of advertisements should be appointed, whose duty should consist in prosecuting both quacks and publications that uttered statements, obviously false and misleading, calculated to injure the public health.

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*Asylum Officers' Superannuation Bill.*

Sir William Collins has added to the very considerable debt of gratitude which is due to him from all concerned in

advancing the treatment of insanity in this country by the Superannuation Bill for Asylum Employés, which he has introduced in the House of Commons.

Whether this Bill will become an Act in the present stormy aspect of parliamentary affairs is still doubtful. The hope of a Session freed from the more extreme forms of party preoccupation is gone, and with it much of the opportunity for minor legislation.

Whatever the fate of the Bill the main fact will remain that the members of the Medico-Psychological Association, after very many years of discussion, have at length arrived at the almost unanimous agreement that the provisions embodied in the present Bill would be acceptable, with some modifications, not only in England, but in Ireland and Scotland.

That this has come to pass is a tribute to the long-continued exertions of our Parliamentary Committee, to which, as well as to Sir William Collins, the Association owes a sincere expression of thanks.

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*The Library of the Association.*

The Library still demands the assistance of the members of the Association to make it of real use. The means and space at the service of the Library do not admit of any endeavour at a complete, or even an extensive, collection of works relating to psychiatric medicine. The number of books dealing with the subject in a more or less systematic manner is very great, but only a very few of them are of lasting value, due to any originality of observation, classification, or other characteristics constituting a real advance in knowledge.

The means of the Library would fully admit the acquisition of the chosen few, but periodical literature and that relating to original observation is of far more importance to those who are engaged in practical work or in scientific investigation. This would seem to be the field which is especially open to the Library. Members of the Association probably take or receive copies of the literature of every piece of scientific research or of every journal relating to psychiatry, and very many might contribute these to the Library.

This is the literature of which members in institutions