

sponsible, and often tyrannously autocratic trades union committee. The Report of the last meeting of the Irish Division in "Notes and News" forms a permanent record (if any were needed) of the right method of dealing with such attempts at insubordination.

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*Pensions and Gratuities.*

The present time would seem to be most opportune to press the claims of those engaged in the treatment of the insane for assured pensions and for gratuities under special or exceptional circumstances.

The discussion of the pension question some years back revealed very opposing views among Asylum Medical Superintendents. The last few years, however, have brought a considerable amount of experience on this question, and it would be desirable again to discuss it, since there is a possibility that greater unanimity may now be found to prevail.

The gratuities question is one on which there has been an unanimous expression of opinion, and there is probably a good opportunity of making the granting of these legal in the Lunacy Amendment Bill of the present Session if the members of this Association individually and collectively bring their influence into play in the proper quarters.

The grievous injury of a gardener attendant at the West Green Asylum recently reported is at once an illustration of the dangers of the occupation and of the necessity for power to grant gratuities or allowances to the widows and children of those who lose their lives in the performance of their duty.

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*Increase of Lunacy.*

The increase of lunacy has again been made the subject of question in the House of Commons by a Member who has interested himself on the point, and has expressed very strong opinions thereon. He proposes an International Commission on the subject. Such a Commission might collect interesting and valuable information, but we doubt if it would bring us any nearer a definite conclusion from existing statistics than has been reached by the Commissioners for the three divisions of the country in their more recent reports.