

Occasional Notes.

The Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting has again demonstrated the steady increase in the work and organisation of the Medico-Psychological Association. To the members who can recall the meetings of thirty years ago the contrast is indeed striking, although even at that period the output of energy was great in comparison with the small numbers of the Association and the greater difficulties in attending the meetings.

The connection between the present and the past of the Association was pleasantly and vividly brought to remembrance by the presentation to the meeting of an album containing the portraits and autographs of all the past Presidents and Chairmen of the Association, to which special allusion is made on another page.

The address by Dr. Mercier is worthy of the reputation of the President, and no higher praise or expression of admiration is necessary. The reputation of the Association is distinctly enhanced by such a brilliant contribution to its literature.

The work of the meeting extended over three days. The various Committees dealt with a large number of matters of great interest, not only to the insane and the Association, but also to the public. The examination and registration of nurses and the education of medical men in mental diseases are the more prominent of these.

In the papers read at the meeting a question of great practical interest, "The Boarding Out of the Insane," was raised by Dr. R. C. Brown. The discussion, however, was postponed until a later meeting, and the desirability of any action on the part of the Association will then have to be decided.

The case against dementia præcox, stated by Dr. Robert Jones, was a very bright challenge to the supporters of this debated form of insanity, and met with a very ready response.

The battle was, however, not fought out, but also adjourned. The further discussion, whether at a meeting or in the pages of the Journal, should be productive of valuable criticism and of all possible evidence in favour of this alleged form of disease.

Owing to the delay in the issue of the Royal Commission on

the Care and Control of the Feeble-minded, Dr. Donkin's account of this work could not be communicated.

Lady Henry Somerset's address on the treatment of inebriates constituted one of the most striking and valuable communications of the meeting. Her practical, common-sense views, evidencing extensive experience, were stated in a clear, systematic method that excited general approbation and admiration.

The Annual Dinner was also characteristic of the progressive tendency of alienists, and will stand on record as the first at which ladies who were neither members of the profession nor of the Association were invited to attend.

The Album of Presidents.

The presentation of an album, containing the portraits of all the Presidents of the Association, by Dr. Outterson Wood was a memorable feature of the annual meeting. Following on Dr. Hack Tuke's sketch of the history of the Association, Dr. Outterson Wood rescued from oblivion the names and dates of our official members, and the list has been carefully published every year in the journal. It therefore seemed fitting that this work should be supplemented by preserving the portraits of those who have passed the presidential chair. The collection and arrangement of these has occupied two years; and, contrary to the most sanguine expectation, the Association has now in keeping a complete pictorial record from 1841 till 1908 inclusive. This is contained in a handsome book, the preface of which is reproduced from Conolly's writings in retirement, a beautiful and touching account of his later experience of life, near to Hanwell, full of interest in that great hospital, and, indeed, in all the asylums of the country. "When my thoughts are transferred to nearly forty public institutions for the insane I find a reward for any share I have had in promoting these things beyond my deserving."

Following on the preface is the portrait of Dr. Blake, of Nottingham, chairman in 1841. The others follow in regular succession. In a panel below each portrait the name and designation and date of each are clearly given, together with an extract from his presidential address characteristic of the address, and an autograph signature. The completeness with