

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

which the work has been carried out is gratifying, not only to Dr. Outterson Wood and Dr. Urquhart, with whom he was associated, but also to the members of the Association generally. Much interest was displayed in the album at the Society's rooms and also in the ante-room before the annual dinner. The finely-bound album in purple morocco, displaying the stamp of the Association, was the work of Mr. John Macgregor, of Perth, who was deservedly complimented upon his share of the undertaking.

One cannot turn over the leaves of this album without awakening a host of kindly and interesting memories. We have still a link of personal association with Dr. de Vitre, of Lancaster (1842), in Dr. Clouston, who met him during his service in the Cumberland Asylum. Dr. Thurnam, whose work in statistics and craniology is still important, is dated 1844 and 1855, having been Chairman and President. By an odd chance, favoured by the veteran Dr. Brushfield, the silhouette of Dr. Wintle, of Oxford (1847), was obtained for representation. His son, the Rev. F. F. W. Wintle, of Bere Ferrers, Devon, unfortunately felt unable to be present at the annual meeting, but he wrote an interesting letter of reminiscences, stating that Dr. Wintle died at his post; after which bereavement he himself was appointed secretary to the Warneford, proceeded to medical studies, and eventually became a clergyman in 1859. Dr. Wintle died in 1853, leaving five sons and a daughter. In the Commissioner's Report of 1847 may be found Dr. Wintle's remarks on the value of opium in mental disorders, and on his opposition to blood-letting. He also advocated the use of creasote. His long service of twenty-six years in the Warneford was the subject of an appreciation by the Committee, in which they testified to his devotion, benevolence, and careful supervision.

We might pursue these biographical details at great length—indeed, they form part of the history of psychiatry in all their relations; and it is to be hoped that an adequate account of the men who founded and built up the Association will yet be forthcoming. Conolly's name is prominent in our records. Forbes Winslow, Sir Charles Hastings and Sir John Bucknill's development of medical organisations is a tempting subject, but the mere mention of them gives us pause. The materials for a biography of Sir John Bucknill are in existence and must be

full of interest—we recall him as the first editor of this journal, as physician to the Devon Asylum, as Lord Chancellor's visitor, but his circle of influence was far wider than the specialty, and tardy honours were paid to him who conceived the idea of the Volunteers and gave impetus to his conception by starting the 1st Battalion of the Devon regiment in 1852.

A glance at the list of Presidents warns us to desist from these brief notes. The honourable roll is complete, and we have now a presentation of them as they lived. We would welcome personal and literary reminiscences of them from those who know.

Scientific Research Work in Asylums.

The Commissioners in Lunacy, in the supplement to their report for 1908, have added an account of the clinical and pathological investigations carried on in asylums and asylum laboratories.

During the year under review the summary of work thus recorded proves that an important amount of original investigation of a very high character has been produced from these sources, and is an evidence of the considerable proportion of scientific workers in the specialty.

This new departure will act as a much-needed stimulus to the progress of scientific work in asylums, the results of which will, without doubt, appear in the summaries of succeeding years. The Commissioners in Lunacy are to be congratulated on having adopted a procedure which will certainly produce very beneficial results.

The benefit, however, will not only consist in an added impetus to scientific investigation, but will strengthen the standing of the Lunacy Commission both in professional and popular estimation. Recent Royal Commissions have demonstrated how much valuable information can be obtained on any given subject in a comparatively short period, and the public will expect that a permanent Commission should yield still more important results.

The Lunacy Commission in the past, mainly by reason of its numerical inadequacy to the work thrown upon it, has been too much limited in its inquiries to the mere care and custody,