

ELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP.

Dr. BOND (Secretary) mentioned that in respect of one of the candidates, Cecil Johnson, the proposers were Dr. Shuttleworth, Dr. Crookshank, and himself. But on looking at the register he was reminded that Dr. Crookshank had recently resigned, and therefore his name should not appear there. Dr. Hayes Newington was willing to fill the gap, and, with the permission of the meeting, he took it that the election might go forward.

Agreed.

The PRESIDENT nominated Dr. Thomson and Dr. Steen as scrutineers.

The following candidates were duly elected ordinary members:

George Henry Adam, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.Lond. (Manager and Medical Superintendent), West Malling Place, Kent. Proposed by T. Claye Shaw, Henry Rayner, and Hayes Newington.

Gilbert Kennedy Aubrey, L.M. & S., S.A., Assistant Medical Officer, Darenth Asylum, near Dartford. Proposed by A. Rotherham, H. Hallet, and R. H. Steen.

Percival Charles Coombes, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.Lond., Assistant Medical Officer, Surrey County Asylum, Netherne. Proposed by F. C. Gayton, J. E. Barton, and H. N. Cappe.

Frederick Douglas Crosthwaite, M.B., Ch.B.Edin., Assistant Medical Officer, London County Asylum, Horton, Epsom. Proposed by John R. Lord, David Ogilvy, and Samuel Elgee.

Rae Gibson, M.B., Ch.B.Edin., M.R.C.P., Assistant Physician, Royal Asylum, Morningside, Edinburgh. Proposed by Geo. M. Robertson, R. Dods Brown, and W. Ford Robertson.

Cecil Johnson, M.B., Ch.B.Vict., 6, Palewell Park, East Sheen. Proposed by G. E. Shuttleworth, H. Hayes Newington, and C. Hubert Bond.

Roger Aiken Rankine, M.B., B.S.Lond., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Assistant Medical Officer, Earlswood Asylum, Redhill. Proposed by Charles Caldecott, H. Hayes Newington, C. Hubert Bond.

Dr. SIDNEY COUPLAND, F.R.C.P., then read a paper entitled "The Causes of Insanity, with special Reference to the Correlation of Assigned Factors: A Study of the Returns for 1907" (see p. 1).

The paper was well illustrated by admirably clear statistical diagrams. It was followed by a lengthy discussion, in which the PRESIDENT, and Drs. MERCIER, HAYES NEWINGTON, and BOND took part. Dr. COUPLAND replied.

Drs. DAVID ORR and R. G. ROWS then read a paper (supplemented by a lantern demonstration) upon "The Histological Evidence that Toxins reach the Spinal Cord *via* the Spinal Roots, with Special Reference to Plasma Cells" (see page 86).

The PRESIDENT and Dr. SCOTT WILLIAMSON discussed the paper, and their remarks were replied to by Dr. ORR.

Owing to the lateness of the hour, Dr. Harvey Baird's paper, "Alterations in the Ependyma in General Paralysis"; "A Case of Mania relapsing into Unconsciousness, lasting Seven Months," communicated by Dr. Nathan Raw; and Dr. Scott Williamson's paper, entitled "Typhoid Carrier Infection," were adjourned.

About thirty of the members afterwards dined together at the Café Monico.

 COMMEMORATIVE DINNER.

IN celebration of the passing of the Asylums Officers' Superannuation Act, members of the Association and guests dined at the Gaiety Restaurant, Strand, on Monday evening, December 20th, 1909, the President of the Association, Prof. W. Bevan-Lewis, M.Sc. in the Chair.

The guests included: The Right Hon. Lord Monk Bretton; Sir William Collins, M.P.; Dr. Shuttleworth; Mr. J. M. Henderson, M.P., Chairman of the Select Committee of the House of Commons to which the Bill was referred; Mr. R. Charlton Palmer, Lord Chancellor's Visitor in Lunacy; Dr. F. Needham,

Dr. E. Marriott Cooke, Mr. A. H. Trevor, Mr. Fraser Macleod, K.C., Commissioners in Lunacy; Sir George O'Farrell, Inspector in Lunacy for Ireland; Mr. J. B. W. Wilson, Mr. W. Morgans, The Rev. H. Whittaker, M.D., of the Asylum Workers' Association; Mr. H. F. Keene (Clerk of Asylums Committee), Mr. R. H. Curtis, Mr. W. C. Clifford Smith, Mr. Valentine Browne, of the staff of the London County Council; Mr. M. L. Waller, from the Home Office; Dr. Dawson Williams, Editor, *British Medical Journal*.

Expressions of regret were received from the following: His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Earl of Halsbury, Viscount Cross, Viscount Hardinge, Lord Ashbourne, Lord Donoughmore, Sir John Jardine, M.P., Sir James Crichton-Browne, Mr. Charles Roberts, M.P., Mr. Helme, M.P., the Scottish Commissioners in Lunacy, Dr. Clouston, and several others.

Toasts.

After the customary loyal toasts had been duly honoured, the PRESIDENT proposed: "The Passing of the Superannuation Act and Those who contrived it." He said: My lord, lady, and gentlemen, there can be no more pleasant task than that which has been assigned me to-night, of placing upon record the united testimony of grateful hearts for the great boon conferred upon asylum workers throughout the kingdom when the Asylum Officers' Superannuation Act became inscribed upon the Statute Book. Our minds to-night are wholly centred upon those champions of our cause (hear, hear) who have with such rapid intuition realised the inadequate rewards meted out to a large section of the nursing community throughout the country. I do not know that there is anything which approaches nearer to real genius than this same intuitive realisation of the disabilities of our fellow men, more especially when such realisation is immediately translated into action for the total removal, or amelioration, at all events, of the conditions existing. (Hear, hear.) But when this native genius is coupled with those noble moral sentiments of disinterestedness, an unselfish devotion to the best interests of a worthy cause, a keen sense of justice, and unflinching tenacity of purpose, we not only admire, but we begin to revere—nay, to worship—the lofty altruism of our fellow man. I do not think that there is, among the sad visitations entailed by natural forces, any more touching sight than that of a once gallant barque, rudderless, with splintered masts and creaking timbers, driven by the gale helplessly and relentlessly to its certain doom. And surely, gentlemen, in the realms of consciousness and of conscious activity, there is no more pathetic sight than that of the rudderless mind, tossed hither and thither by the storms of conflicting passions and emotions, bereft of the one and only light—that of reason—which Nature has bequeathed it whereby to pierce the gloom of this only too sad life of ours, drifting helplessly to be engulfed in the vast inane, or to be left like the shipwrecked barque, or like the whitened skeleton on the sands of time. Yet this is insanity; such is the chosen sphere of our activities, and all asylum workers, from the topmost to the bottom rung of the ladder, are banded together with one fixed and determined purpose—that of the cure or the amelioration of one of the saddest, one of the most terrible scourges that fall to the lot of man to endure. I know no nobler vocation than that of ministering to the mind diseased, than that which aims at the cultivation of those noblest moral qualities which are so absolutely essential to the making of every good nurse, as of every good physician, tact, self-control, gentleness, self-abnegation, and, far above all these, that wide-reaching sympathy with mental suffering which seems almost to "Spring from the depths of some Divine despair,"—moral qualities of the very highest kind, which themselves have been touched and tried by fire, and which no gold can purchase, and to which no adequate value can be assigned. To you, Dr. Shuttleworth, I turn first (applause) to offer you the heartfelt thanks of every member of this Association. You, sir, with happy genius, were among the very first to recognise the crying needs of the asylum worker; were among the very first to conceive the legislative machinery adequate to their removal. With unshrinking courage and the confidence which the merits of every good cause inspire, your ceaseless efforts were exerted upon their behalf, always keeping in view with clear prophetic vision the happy future you had mapped out for so many of your fellow men. (Hear, hear.) I know, sir, that no words of mine can adequately express to you the sentiments we

would utter; we feel that those pleasures which arise from the gratitude of one's fellows for services rendered such as yours, so nobly and so unselfishly, can in no way compare with those which issue from the *accomplishment* of a noble act, and we would therefore turn to you with our very sincere congratulations at the attainment of your lofty ideal, and at your inward realisation of that eternal law that every good act is its own and its best reward. (Applause.) To you, sir, it must be a source of infinite satisfaction that you have lightened the burden of so many hearts; that you have raised the cloud which obscured their future; and that you have gladdened the eventide of their life with the rays of setting suns. Whilst acknowledging the great services we, as a profession, owe to Sir William Collins in the past (applause) for his ever lively interest in the asylum worker and his environment, for his establishment of that great pathological department at Claybury, from which has emanated such great and brilliant work under the directorship of Dr. Mott (applause), we wish more particularly to-night to emphasise his latest and his greatest services to asylum workers throughout the Kingdom. (Applause.) It is useless building a stately craft unless you have an able crew wherewith to man it, or unless you have a skilful pilot to take it through the narrow waterways or hidden shoals, or unless the wayward winds and currents can be met by clever seamanship. But far more than this has been done for the Superannuation Bill by Sir William Collins, in concert with Lord Monk Bretton (applause), in safely conveying this measure through its perilous career in Parliament. No one who has followed the course and progress of this Bill through both Houses of Parliament, or who is at all familiar with the intricacies of Parliamentary procedure, or who can realise in any way the glare of those great searchlights of publicity which are at once turned on such a measure as this, can for a moment doubt the infinite tact and address, the ceaseless watchfulness, the great resourcefulness, which must be in request by him who takes such a measure to its final and successful issue. But one fact in the history of this Bill, gentlemen, which has given us all extreme gratification, is that of the instantaneous recognition by great statesmen in both Houses of Parliament of the intrinsic merits of the Bill (hear, hear); of the very keen, the intense, the enlightened interest shown by almost all in the welfare of the asylum worker and his surroundings. How very different all this, gentlemen, from what occurred in the early days of the third and fourth decades of the past century, when the eloquent and pathetic appeal on behalf of the hapless lunatic by such statesmen as Lord Shaftesbury and Lord Ashley met with such cool comfort. Is it that the cloud of ignorance and prejudice which so long has brooded over the domain of the insane and their guardians is about to take its final flight before the rising sun of sympathy and enlightenment? Let us at least hope that this is the case. Just as those two Bills which Lord Ashley introduced into the House, and which were made law in 1845, have been called the Magna Charta of the liberties of the insane, so this Act, whose passage we celebrate to-night, might well be cited as the Magna Charta of the liberties of the asylum worker throughout the Kingdom. And just as a great statesman, Lord Shaftesbury, and an eminent physician, Dr. Conolly, were mainly instrumental in emancipating the insane from his centuries of cruel treatment, nay, torture, so now two great physicians, Dr. Shuttleworth and Sir William Collins, in concert with a noble Peer, have been mainly instrumental in emancipating the asylum worker from his dubious position, and establishing the true dignity of his labour, and the recognition of his manhood. (Applause.) It may appear very strange to some that we have departed from the usual course of giving the time-honoured toast of "The Church and The Houses of Parliament," but, on this particular occasion, we felt that the Church and the Legislature have been so happily and so intimately blended with the subject that we celebrate to-night, that we ventured to embrace in one toast one and all who have been instrumental in furthering the good cause. (Applause.) I do not know if his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury has the slightest realisation of the warmth which he kindled in the breasts of those whose defence he so stoutly maintained. (Applause.) His noble sentiments on behalf of the hapless lunatic and the asylum worker, uttered in the House of Lords when he gave his final benediction to this Bill, still ring in our ears, and are the surest pledge to us of the sanctity and the sweet reasonableness of our claims. To Lord Waldegrave, Lord Hardinge, Lord Ashbourne, and other noble Peers and Commoners, our very hearty acknowledg-

ments are due, for they really stood out as burning and shining lights upon the advancing line of a progressive cause, and they did not fail to link themselves with our cause by the golden and silvern threads of a practical and outspoken sympathy. I must not fail to recognise the strenuous efforts of his Majesty's Commissioners in Lunacy (applause), who have at all times, during the last twenty years certainly, publicly avowed their hearty sympathy with the main principles which are now embraced by this Act. Especially do we admire the sturdy support they have always given us in advancing the comfort, the status, and the future welfare and prospects of the asylum worker. Nor, gentlemen, must we fail to acknowledge the efforts of that gallant crew who so very ably manned the legislative barque, the executives of the Asylum Workers' and the Medico-Psychological Associations conjointly. They have stood the heat and burden of the day with remarkable fortitude and in a quiet and unostentatious manner, but at the same time with most wonderful harmony and singleness of purpose. It would be wrong of me not to mention such names as those of Mr. Morgans (hear, hear), Dr. Pasmore, Dr. Robert Jones, Dr. Greenlees, Dr. Harding, Dr. Nicholl, Dr. Carlyle Johnstone, Dr. Urquhart, Dr. Nolan, Dr. Bower, Dr. Wolseley Lewis, Dr. Hubert Bond. (Applause.) But, gentlemen, there is yet one name I fain would utter, for he is one who has associated himself with this question in the years of long ago and up to the present time; and if I could I would mention that name. But my lips are sealed, and by himself. I must leave it for your instincts to divulge to whom I refer. Suffice it to say that I know sufficient of him to be quite well aware that if I were to obtrude his personality here beside that of Dr. Shuttleworth's bright and particular star now in the ascendant my life would not be worth a moment's purchase. (Laughter.) For, gentlemen, the nameless one is muscular, the nameless one is strenuous, and unless any of you wish your President to be sacrificed, as Agag of old was, and hewn to pieces at your feet, you will not press me to name him whom I now refer to, especially on this auspicious occasion, when our happy Christmas bells are about to—

“Ring out the old, ring in the new;

Ring out the false, ring in the true.”

(Cheers.) Gentlemen, my very pleasant task is done, and it is your duty now to honour the toast which I have given you, that of “The Passing of the Superannuation Act and Those who contrived it,” coupled with the names of Sir William Collins, Lord Monk Bretton, and Dr. Shuttleworth. (Cheers.)

Sir WILLIAM COLLINS, M.P., in responding to the toast, said: Professor Bevan-Lewis, my Lord, lady, and gentlemen, it is with no ordinary feelings of mingled gratefulness and diffidence that I rise as the first of the trio who are, by your order, asked to respond to the toast that you, sir, have proposed with such eloquent expressiveness, and with such a delightful and poetic imagery. I feel that the hypercritical might find fault with the order in which that trio of response was arranged. (No, no.) I feel, at any rate, that I ought not to precede the noble Lord who so ably conducted this Bill in which we are all interested—now, happily, an Act—through the Upper House. But I perceive that the order is a historical one, at any rate in the first instance, and that the last, and naturally not the least important, to respond to the toast is the true inspirer of the whole movement, the urger-on of many a stage when the Bill might have been thought to flag, and the true Moltke-like organiser of victory, our friend, Dr. Shuttleworth. It has been my privilege, as you, sir, indicated, during my public life to be associated to some extent with the work which your Medico-Psychological Association has to deal with, both in regard to the science and the service of psychiatry. The small efforts to which you referred in connection with Claybury Asylum, as long ago as the early nineties, are, I think, at any rate an indication that a great democratic body like the London County Council was not anti-scientific, but quite prepared to do what was necessary so as to wipe out the reproach under which psychological medicine then laboured in London, in not having adequate means of pursuing pathological and scientific work in connection with diseases of the mind. And now, instead of being behind, it is in the very forefront of any such research in any part of the civilised world. In regard to the services of psychological medicine, of which this particular Act, whose passing you are so handsomely commemorating this evening, has to do, I recall the fact that the late Sir William Hamilton used to say that in the world there is nothing great but man, and in man there is nothing

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great but mind ; and, as you, sir, fitly quoted, you may well admire both the calling and the devotion of those who seek to minister to the mind diseased. And if that statement of Sir William Hamilton's be true, we can realise the greatness and the importance to the community of the sphere of work to which you have devoted your lives. It requires qualities of both heart and head, and we have only to look back, as you have indicated, to recognise the great work of Tuke, and Conolly, and Pinel in France, to recognise the enormous strides in the humane and scientific treatment of the insane, in which this country has, happily, played such a distinguished part. I had early imprinted upon my mind that picture which Hogarth painted somewhere about 1750, I suppose, showing the condition of the insane in Bethlem in his day, where he exhibits, with the truth of a great artist, the condition of the melancholiac, the general paralytic, and the maniac. I allude to that picture called "The Rake's Progress," that picture in Bethlem which serves to show the horrors, and the neglect and apathy, and indifference, even contempt, with which the insane were treated 150 years ago. I was early led to take some little interest in the work of asylums, and I was deeply impressed by the fact that there was a devotion and a service in connection with the asylums of this country, not only those which are rate-supported, but others, like Earlswood, services which no money can measure and no salary or superannuation can adequately requite. And I learned this, that the service was not only arduous but often repulsive, and not infrequently perilous ; and that if any class of public servants had such a claim upon public recognition as to deserve greater stability, greater honour, and greater ease in the declining years of their service, no others stood out more exceptionally qualified for such public recognition than the workers in our great public asylums. (Applause.) Indeed, as you, sir, in your most eloquent speech indicated, there are two features which are specially striking to anyone who looks in perspective, as it were, at the great work of a public asylum. The work is, on the one hand, most exacting, a strain alike upon body and mind. But besides being most exacting, it is capable of bringing out the most admirable qualities which are possible in humanity ; and I remember, in an address I gave at the Asylum Workers' Association, I recalled the old mediæval painting representing at one and the same time two events—the Transfiguration on the Mount, and the healing of the epileptic at the foot of the Mount, the epileptic gnashing his teeth and pining away in the manner so truly described by the Evangelist. And I cannot help thinking sometimes that this asylum work does bring together both the exacting work of attending to the epileptic and paralytic and those least able to help themselves ; and, by its disinterested service, calls out those higher ideals of human devotion which happily transfigure and transform our lives. (Cheers.) I have sometimes asked myself in public life, If one cannot be the friend of the most pitiable of mankind, can one not at least befriend those who do ? And when I had brought to my knowledge by Dr. Shuttleworth the condition of things in regard to the evening of the days of those who had laboured in asylums, I confess I felt that a real case had been made out for public recognition of the great service to which you gentlemen belong. The salary of such services was not by any means always commensurate with the importance and the disagreeableness of the service which was rendered ; and there was not provision made for old age. And it is good to know in this age, which has a tendency to materialism, that we nevertheless have this redeeming virtue, that we have a growing reverence and regard for old age. And it seems in harmony with the spirit of our statutes at the present time to see that, at any rate, no service such as this should be left unprovided for. These, I take it, were the moving forces which led to the introduction of this Bill. And, if I am not speaking at too great length (No), I should like to allude to one or two incidents which occurred during the passage of this Bill through the House of Commons in its later stages.

After recounting these incidents Sir William Collins added : It will always be a matter of satisfaction to me to have been permitted, at the request of the Asylum Workers' Association and the Medico-Psychological Association, to bear a humble part in the passage of this Asylums Officers' Superannuation Bill. (Cheers.) We may differ, and probably do, around this table upon political matters ; but it is pleasant to me to know that to-night, to the right and left of you, Professor Bevan-Lewis, are representatives of both Houses who have taken their fair share—I am not sure that the Lords have not taken the larger share—in passing this

Act. We may differ in political opinions—man's opinions must ever be liable to error; it is by the motives which sway his heart that he can alone be judged, and the motives of those who introduced this Bill and those who have humbly endeavoured to make it law and have succeeded, have not been low, mean, or sordid motives, but they have been motives animated by the highest desire to do the best, not only to the great service to which you belong, but to the larger number of those who belong to the most pitiable and most helpless class of the community. (Cheers.)

Lord MONK BRETTON: Professor Bevan-Lewis, lady, and gentlemen. I am very much obliged to you, as the Chairman, for the very kind and all too-flattering words which you chose to use about myself in regard to the passing of this Bill. I feel that, so far from being associated with this toast, I really hardly have any right to be here at all. (No, no.) I believe there are some of you here present who have laboured for the principles of this Bill for something like twenty years. I have not borne the burden and heat of the day; I did not come in at the eleventh hour even; I came in at about three minutes to twelve. (Laughter.) I think it was in September that Dr. Hayes Newington introduced me—and I am very much obliged for the introduction—to this Bill. And in the following month Dr. Shuttleworth asked me to chaperone it in their Lordships' House. I can only say I am very proud to have served, even indifferently, in so good a cause. Sometimes one finds oneself engaged in a cause about which one has misgivings; one is not so sure that what one's opponents say has not a great deal in it. That was not the case in reference to this Bill. (Applause.) The asylum worker is engaged in a very noble profession, in a very important profession, and in a very trying profession. And it is a profession with which the public are unacquainted. I suppose, in its lower ranks, it may be compared either with the prison service or with the police. Well, the prison warders are the *protégés* of the Government, and the Government has a large and inexhaustible purse, and can see that these employees have all their requirements. In the police, a service which may be compared with the asylum service in its lower hierarchy, they are under the local authority. But the police, after all, is a favourite of the ratepayer. When the most parsimonious ratepayer wakes up in the morning and sees the policeman outside his front door he does not grudge the rates which are paid to the police. And when, for instance, at this festive season, this policeman asks for a subscription to the Widows and Orphans Fund, that ratepayer gladly contributes. And the Government does something too; the Government contributes money to the police pensions, which, alas, it does not even now to the asylums pensions. I am glad to think that we have done away to a great extent with an injustice by the passage of this Bill; and I trust that by doing so we have conferred a benefit on the asylum service. (Applause.) But I cannot allow this opportunity to pass, with Sir William Collins here, with his great political influence and his great diplomatic ability, without suggesting that he should push these energies even further, and obtain from the Treasury some grant, comparable to that given under the Police Act, for the purposes of the asylums officer. And he might go even further, and on the analogy of the prison warder, allow the asylum service to be, as it has been lately borne in upon my mind it ought to be, a wholly Government institution. (Applause.) But I cannot help feeling that this may be somewhat of a historic occasion; that this may be, perhaps, if Sir William Collins has his way, the last private Bill that will ever pass through their Lordships' House. (Laughter.) It is an epoch in constitutional history, not because there may not be other private Bills, but because there may not be another Lordships' House. (Laughter.) And perhaps when the chronicler jots down the whole of these events he may compare their Lordships' House to a great criminal who has been engaged in a number of crimes, and upon whose death-bed there was just one little flicker of virtue, the consciousness that in his last moments he passed the Asylum Workers' Superannuation Bill. (Laughter.) I know that perhaps everybody is not quite pleased with their Lordships' House. I know that they made amendments, that they even made privileged amendments; they amended the age, they amended the scale of contributions. I might, in their defence, say that there is a very large army in this country, and in every country, of men, women, and children who do not get all they want in this world. I belong to that catholic army myself (laughter), but I will not take hat for my defence. I desire to say

that I think their Lordships' House did extremely well by this Bill. (Applause.) They received it in a very sympathetic spirit. I know that they made amendments with regard to these particular matters, but I must ask you to remember the circumstances. This was a private members' Bill; it was an extremely important measure to be a private members' Bill. It was a Bill in which any legislative assembly must be guided by the attitude of the Government. The Government was an exceedingly taciturn Government. It said absolutely nothing in the House of Commons; it began by being very reserved in the House of Lords, and it was only quite at the end that it began to be loquacious. We had to guess what it wanted; but it did tell us that if we did not do what it wanted the Bill would be wrecked. We did what we thought best; we accepted the amendments which we thought best, and we were told afterwards we had been very wise. There were further amendments, which I may designate the machinery clauses, made by their Lordships' House which will prove valuable in the working of this measure. And so I claim for the House of Lords that when some future Gibbon shall write on the causes of the decline and fall of their Lordships' House, he need not head one of the chapters "Asylum Officers' Superannuation Bill." (Laughter.) I have seen, during the time I had the privilege of being in charge of this Bill, some of the rocks around which the ship had to be steered. From that point of vantage I desire to say that nothing could exceed the diplomatic skill with which Sir William Collins piloted the Bill. (Applause.) But Sir William Collins not only navigated his barque through many rocks, but he also took it a very long journey. I believe this ship started somewhere near the offices of the London County Council, and before it concluded its voyage it had travelled all round England and Wales and Ireland and Scotland. And if you consider, as Sir William Collins has mentioned, that the position of the law in Scotland was very much more retrograde than in England, that there was not even the optional power of giving these pensions in Scotland, and yet if you came to London or Lancashire you found extremely progressive bodies which had already scales in existence, and if you realise that he brought all these different societies into line, you will appreciate the extent of his diplomatic ability and the success with which he applied it to this Bill. (Applause.) The ordeal is past, and the iron has come out of the furnace as moulded steel. And now I do most confidently hope that the effect of this Bill is going to be to raise the profession of the asylum workers all round. (Hear, hear.) I hope it will benefit them in all their classes; and if there be, on the part of any, disappointment as to this or that amendment, I hope when, next April, this Bill comes into force, it will be found that those amendments were not so important as some of us consider them; and that this law is going to be one of real benefit, a statute for the good of the asylum worker. (Cheers.)

Dr. SHUTTLEWORTH, in responding, said: Mr. President, my lord, lady, and gentlemen, I need hardly say that this evening's gathering in commemoration of the passing of the Asylum Officers' Superannuation Act has been most gratifying to me, and I have been much touched by the very kind reference which has been made to my humble share in the matter by our President and the several speakers who followed him. Let me, then, thank you at once for the grateful recognition of such share as it has been my privilege to take in the promotion of this Bill. At the same time I wish you to remember that I was only one out of many who really bore part in the work and heat of the day. It might be invidious, perhaps, where so many did good service, for me to mention names and particularise workers, but I think, acting as I was, at first chiefly in my capacity of Honorary Secretary of the Asylum Workers' Association, I ought not to take to myself all the credit that really belonged to the Committee of the Association, which spent many afternoons, I may say almost many days, in finding out, first of all, the sort of Bill which would be acceptable, and then drafting it into more or less parliamentary shape. There were so many helpers that I could not mention all their names; Scotland was worthily represented before the Select Committee by Drs. Urquhart and Carlyle Johnstone, and Ireland by Dr. Nolan; but I cannot help speaking of one who, not only in drafting the Bill, but in the subsequent career of that Bill through Parliament, and more especially before the Select Committee of the House of Commons, was supremely serviceable to our cause; I mean Mr. Morgans. (Applause.) Also we must not forget that as soon as the Medico-Psychological Association was

satisfied that we were on the right track, that our Bill was such as they would be justified in approving, we had the very cordial and valuable co-operation of this Association; and I may again, perhaps, venture to mention one name—I amount bound over to reticence by any threats of personal violence (laughter)—and that is the name of, shall I say our venerable? at any rate venerated, Treasurer, Dr. Hayes Newington. (Cheers.) He most kindly placed at my service the many investigations he had made in former years, and indeed up to a quite recent date, with regard to the pension privileges of certain public officers and others who were, in some sense or other, analogous to asylum workers in reference to position. And then again, I have had the cordial and ready assistance, and the valuable co-operation of the Secretary of this Association, and of the Chairman and Secretary of its Parliamentary Committee. In fact one may look upon the Bill as ultimately a joint product. There are many names that I should like to mention—some of them the President has already alluded to—but I must not weary you with repetition. I will only say that, having obtained the inestimable services of the President of the Asylum Workers' Association, Sir William Collins, to introduce our Bill into the House of Commons, we found many good friends in both Houses of Parliament. (Hear, hear.) First of all let me mention, in addition to Sir William Collins, our good friend Mr. Charles Roberts, M.P. He it was who first suggested the idea that, as we found after waiting year after year, that no progress had been made with any Government measure for the regulation of lunacy, it would be better for us to venture upon the experiment of getting a private member to introduce the Bill into the House of Commons. We were most happy in our choice, and we have been most happy in the result. And we owe, I think, a debt of gratitude to Mr. Roberts. We have had, also, the cordial help of his Majesty's Commissioners in Lunacy, and, let me say also, of the officers of the London County Council; and I may specially mention the name of Mr. Keene, who has been a very kind and able co-operator in the progress of the Bill. But to our Parliamentary leaders, of course, Lord Monk Bretton and Sir William Collins, we owe immense gratitude, a gratitude most sincerely felt, I am sure, by members of both the Associations—the Association which I more immediately represent, and by this senior body, the Medico-Psychological Association. And the words of appreciation which have fallen from our President will, I am sure, find an echo in thousands—nay, I may say tens of thousands—of grateful hearts in the various asylums scattered throughout the length and breadth of the three Kingdoms. Personally we owe what has been so aptly called the working part of the Bill to the consummate tact and great ability of Sir William Collins and Lord Monk Bretton's unwearying industry and diplomatic treatment of the numerous difficulties which arose in the Upper House. Perhaps his lordship will excuse me if I mention in passing that, if the handling of our Bill may be taken as a fair specimen of the legislative thoroughness of the Peers, there can be no doubt whatever of the effectiveness of even our unreformed Second Chamber (applause); for at every stage of the Bill, from the Second Reading onwards—the Committee stage, the Report stage, and the Third Reading—we had copious sheaves of amendments—I think six or seven pages even at the Third Reading—and these were duly discussed *pro* and *con* on either side; and the merits of the Bill were most thoroughly threshed out in their Lordships' House. Before passing from that subject I must not omit to mention the debt of gratitude we specially owe to, amongst others, the Archbishop of Canterbury in the Upper House. (Applause.) His Grace was good enough, though through the duties of his high office exceedingly occupied with other matters, to throw his heart and soul into our cause. Well, the Bill is through, and we rejoice therein. It is true we have not got all that we asked for, but we have got a very considerable amount towards it, and, above all, the principle of assured pensions on a definite scale has been secured for asylum workers, and the principle of aggregation of service is now an enactment on the Statute Book. At length, and after very long waiting, the State has recognised her duty towards this most useful, most patient, and oftentimes self-sacrificing class of public workers, who will now increasingly feel, I have no doubt, their corresponding duty towards the public in devoting their best years and their best energies to the service of the insane. (Cheers.)

Telegram to the Lord Chancellor.

Dr. PERCY SMITH: Mr. President my lord, lady, and gentlemen, our indefatigable Secretary, Dr. Bond, has laid upon me a duty which I think ought not to be neglected. Many important personages have been alluded to in connection with the passing of this Bill; but there is one most important person, so far as lunacy matters are concerned, who has not yet been referred to by name, and that is the Rt. Honourable the Lord Chancellor. All recognise, I think, that if it had not been for the sympathy of the Lord Chancellor in this matter this Bill might have been wrecked; and it is a matter of great satisfaction that his Lordship and the Upper House felt so disposed towards this very important measure. We have been looking, expecting, and hoping that His Lordship would at some time bring forward a very important measure of reform in connection with the lunacy laws. I think that for something like ten years we in England have been hoping that we should at least have the same privileges that exist in Scotland with regard to the treatment of early cases; but apparently this is not to be yet. It has been suggested that a telegram should be sent to the Lord Chancellor, thanking him for the cordial support which he gave to this Bill, and for his assistance in enabling it to become law. The telegram which has been proposed runs: "The Presidents, councils, and members of the Medico-Psychological and Asylum Workers' Associations, assembled at the Gaiety Restaurant to celebrate the passing of the Asylum Officers' Superannuation Act, respectfully convey their profound appreciation and warm thanks for the sympathy and support which your lordship gave to the Bill." (Applause.)

The Visitors.

Dr. SAVAGE, in proposing the toast, "The Visitors," said: I need scarcely say, Mr. President, my lord, lady, and gentlemen, that the submission to you of the toast of "The Visitors" affords me very great pleasure. I feel that we are highly honoured in having the support of so many distinguished guests, who have all taken a genuine and deep interest in our work. We have representatives, as you have already heard, of both Houses of the Legislature, and we have the official heads of our own branch of medicine. I would most heartily press upon you our good wishes towards those who have joined us this evening. I take the greatest possible pleasure in coupling with this toast the name of my very old friend, Dr. Needham. (Applause.) He represents not only the Commissioners in Lunacy, but one who has gone through the mill himself, one who has raised one of the registered hospitals to the highest possible pitch of perfection. (Applause.)

Dr. NEEDHAM, in responding to the toast, said: Mr. President, my lord, lady, and gentlemen, I am here to-night with very great pleasure because I consider that the fact which this great meeting celebrates marks an epoch in the history of asylum administration in this country. It is well known, I think, that the Commissioners have always had a very strong feeling that a scheme of assured pensions was the only way out of a very great difficulty in asylum administration. In 1900 we said that "we have no doubt that the asylum services generally can only be maintained at a high, and therefore economical, level by such an advance in salaries and wages as have been made in other branches of highly skilled and responsible work, or by the less costly and more satisfactory plan of deferred pay in the form of assured pensions. The salaries of the superior officers, and indeed of all the staff, are very moderate; their work is anxious and responsible, and frequently repulsive, and under it a not inconsiderable number of persons break down." Those are the views which have been held by the Commissioners for a great number of years; and I think I need not say that the desire of the Commissioners has been all along that an assured system of pensions should be provided. What one has to deprecate so very much, what superintendents of asylums have deprecated so much, have been the frequent changes in the subordinate staffs of asylums as influencing the patients in a very undesirable way, as diminishing very largely their comfort, and diminishing greatly the means of successful treatment of them. And we hope sincerely, and trust and believe, that the passing of this most important Act will give assurance to people who are in the asylum service, which will

enable them to retain their offices very much longer than they have been in the habit of doing. And I have no doubt whatever that this will result in a benefit to the asylum workers throughout the country—a very large class; that it will also result tremendously in the direction of advantage to the insane; because what benefits workers among the insane must enormously benefit the insane. (Applause.) I need hardly repeat that the sympathy of the Commissioners is very warm indeed towards this Act; and I think that I need not give a greater illustration of that than the fact that every Commissioner who is not having his winter holiday, having been in London during August and September, is present here to-night. I greatly appreciate the kind way in which this toast has been proposed and received, and on behalf of the visitors I beg to tender my very hearty thanks. (Applause.)

Dr. HUBERT BOND: At your request, Mr. President, I have to communicate to you, my lord, lady, and gentlemen, a number of regrets which have been received from those who are unable to be with us this evening. But at this late hour I take it that it is not your desire that I read all of them out. I have quite a number here from those who, except for Parliamentary and other duties and the proximity of Christmas, would have been with us to-night.

Letters were read from His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Earl of Halsbury, Sir James Crichton-Browne, and Dr. Clouston, and a telegram from the Irish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association and the Irish Asylum Officials' Superannuation Committee.

The Chairman.

Dr. ROBERT JONES: My lord, Dr. Alice Vance, and gentlemen, I have a toast placed in my hands this evening which, though the last, I am sure you will agree is not the least, that of our distinguished President, Professor Bevan-Lewis. (Applause.) So far, only half the term of his office has expired. We know what a brilliant success the annual meeting was at Leeds, and we have heard to-night his most poetic speech upon the whole question of asylum administration and asylum workers, a speech which I know comes from his heart. We are fortunate in our President; that is the theme of this last toast. We have a President who is second to none in scientific attainments (hear, hear), in distinguished administrative ability, second to none in the unstinted and full devotion of his mind and heart to the work of his life. His acts speak for themselves. I know him privately, as many of you do; and you all know his public record. An after-dinner speech is not the occasion for entering into his qualities and his acts, but I may be allowed to refer to one or two. First, the obligation we are under to him for the best standard text-book in the English language on mental diseases; secondly, his researches into the comparative pathology of the cerebral cortex. Our President has been elected by the unanimous voice of our Association to the position which is the highest and most distinguished, and the most cherished of all the positions that any private member of our Association can aspire to. I give you, gentlemen, the health of our distinguished President, Dr. Bevan-Lewis. (Cheers.)

The PRESIDENT: I am extremely obliged to you for the way in which you have received this toast. It is particularly gratifying to myself that it has been proposed by Dr. Robert Jones, whose friendship has always been warmly appreciated by me. I thank him for his sentiments, which are distinctly far above anything I deserve; and I can only rejoice that the accident which makes me your President for this year has placed me in the Chair on an occasion which I regard as one of the most auspicious in the history of the Association. (Applause.)

SOUTH-EASTERN DIVISION.

AUTUMN MEETING.

The Autumn Meeting of the South-Eastern Division was held by the courtesy of Drs. Adams and Johnston at Brooke House, Upper Clapton, N.E., on Wednesday, October 6th, 1909.

Among those present were Drs. J. O. Adams, R. R. Alexander, P. J. Baily, D. Bower, A. N. Boycott, A. W. Daniel, A. C. Dove, F. H. Edwards, F. W.