

### Occasional Notes.

#### *Sir George H. Savage.*

IN the list of honours, in which the name of Sir George H. Savage recently appeared, there is probably not one that will give a more widely felt feeling of satisfaction and gratulation than that conferred on him.

These feelings are not only unanimous in the Medico-Psychological Association, but are shared by a very wide circle of professional and lay friends, with whom he has been associated in his many-sided activities. The only other feeling it could excite is that of surprise at the honour not having been conferred at an earlier date.

There is always an additional feeling of satisfaction in regard to titles conferred on men of science, that they are real honours uncontaminated by any possible suspicion of party-purse purchase.

Greatly as Sir George Savage has deserved by his practice, teaching, literary and scientific work, there is, in this honour, following on those that have preceded it, a ground for hope that it conveys a recognition of the specialty to which he belongs.

So long as the honours were limited to the holders of Government appointments, it could only be felt that the recognition was of the official, rather than of the alienist, especially while men of such standing as Sir George remained unnoticed.

In tendering our hearty congratulations to Sir George Savage, we are not detracting from his great deserving if we entertain this hope, that the specialty is also at last to be congratulated in the honouring of a prominent, popular, and distinguished member.

H. R.

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#### *The Lunacy Commission.*

Two additional Commissioners, one legal and one medical, have been appointed by the Lord Chancellor.

The views of the Medico-Psychological Association regarding the constitution of the Commission have from time to time been referred to in the pages of the *Journal of Mental Science*, and this is not an occasion for re-stating them.

We desire to offer our congratulations to Mr. Barnard Thornton Hodgson on his well-deserved promotion, and we feel sure that the ability and courtesy which he displayed as Secretary will characterise his work as a Commissioner. We desire to congratulate Dr. Charles Hubert Bond also, who, as Honorary General Secretary, was so well known to the Association.

It cannot be otherwise than a great advantage to the Commission, with its increasing responsibility and important work, that a physician of Dr. Bond's professional attainments and experience has been chosen.

Dr. Bond's abilities are too well known to require recapitulation. We need only draw attention to his work in connection with the revision of the Association Tables, and the fidelity and enthusiasm with which he has carried out the duties of Honorary General Secretary. His intervention in our debates and deliberations tended to clear the atmosphere, and he was always ready with some practical suggestions.

His skill as an organiser and his high ideals of what a modern asylum should be are exemplified in Long Grove, whose present state is a striking testimony to the efficacy of his labours for the advancement of all that is best in the proper care and treatment of the insane.

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## Part II.—Reviews and Notices.

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*Conduct and its Disorders: Biologically Considered.* By CHARLES ARTHUR MERCIER, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., etc. London: Macmillan & Co., 1911. Pp. 377. Price 10s.

Dr. Mercier has again broken new ground in this treatise on Conduct. He had already given us works on insanity, psychology, criminal responsibility, law and logic; and all his books have not only been a gain to the subjects he handled, but, without exception, have added to the great body of English literature. His form as well as his matter is always good. All that he has written has exhibited, in an abundant degree, clarity, force, eloquence, original thought, and individuality. He never leaves any doubt as to his meaning. It must be a source of pride to all psychiatrists and contributors to the *Journal of Mental Science* that they have among their number at least two men (Maudsley and Mercier) who have touched the highest point of literary style, of expert knowledge and of philosophic medicine. Our science and art is so intimately connected with human nature and life in all departments