

comforts, but without unduly prolonging their lives by the excessive care and luxury so generally insisted upon in the modern asylum?

"In conclusion, I wish to call your attention to a reference you made the other day about the cost of your new asylum, which was somewhat misleading. You said it would work out at a rate of £325 per bed. While this may be strictly true, you forget that the administrative buildings—recreation hall, workshops, laundry, etc.—are constructed for an asylum of double the present size, so as to allow of future extension, and as the patients' wards represent scarcely half the value of the entire building, you have already expended three fourths of the cost of an asylum for double the present number of patients, and therefore, when the additional wards are erected, the average cost of your building will be reduced to £240 a bed.

"Many asylums of recent date have cost no more than this, and even less, as in the case of the County of London, where, in spite of high wages, asylums are built perhaps more economically than in any other county in England. Two asylums quite recently completed by the L.C.C. have cost, in the one case less than £200 per bed, and in the other not very much more; while a third they are now building on similar lines bids fair to rival the other two in completeness and cost.

"I am, yours truly,

"GEORGE T. HINE."

The County Council Times and Local Government Review.

COMPLIMENTARY.

Dr. JOHN B. CHAPIN.

We have received a handsome volume giving an account of a notable dinner in honour of Dr. Chapin, of the Philadelphia Hospital for the Insane, on the completion of fifty years' professional work. Dr. Chapin, as is very well known, succeeded that lamented physician, Dr. Kirkbride, whose name is held in especial reverence on both sides of the Atlantic. The chair was occupied by Dr. Edward N. Brush, who had occasion to say many fine things about Dr. Chapin, and the proceedings, which were most enthusiastic and widely supported, culminated in the presentation of Dr. Chapin's portrait, a fine photogravure of which adorns the memorial volume. We heartily congratulate Dr. Chapin and his friends on this happy occasion.

Mr. R. H. HEURTLEY SANKEY.

Mr. Sankey has retired after a notable length of active service at the Oxford County Asylum. Indeed, it may be doubted if there has been another medical superintendent so long on duty, with the exception of Mr. Humphrey at the neighbouring institution for Buckinghamshire. Mr. Sankey's residence at Littlemore stretches over fifty-two years, and we trust that he will favour us with his reminiscences of the many changes which he has witnessed during his professional life. It was Mr. Ley, of Littlemore, Mr. Sankey's predecessor, who proposed the establishment of this *Journal*, while he was treasurer of the Association; and for fourteen years these two gentlemen were associated as medical superintendent and assistant medical officer. Mr. Sankey was thus brought into contact with the Association in its early development, and can recall the memories of those we specially honour. His name is distinguished in our lists by the asterisk showing that he joined before 1855, and there is but one veteran, Dr. T. N. Brushfield, to bear him company. Long life and happiness to both!

We are glad to observe from the *Oxford Times* of March 10th that Mr. Sankey retires on a pension of £582 per annum, such sum not exceeding the amount of two thirds of his salary and emoluments. Some adverse comments were made at the city council meeting, but the motion passed with only three dissentients. The committee made handsome acknowledgment of Mr. Sankey's work which those of us who know him will gladly endorse, while his wide circle of friends will wish him many and happy days in his retirement.
