

their experience, they are subject to injustice and to insult. The institutions connected with lunacy afford them no protection, and they are menaced with further Legislative enactments of a character unfavorable to them, and, as I apprehend, equally disadvantageous to the public.

At such a time, union among the members of our Association is most desirable, and the Presidency of an accomplished and independent physician, such as we all know Sir Charles Hastings to be, is of peculiar importance.

Pray assure the members of my sincere and grateful respect, and of my continued interest in their proceedings, and in their honour and welfare.

Yours, my dear Dr. Tuke,

Very faithfully,

J. CONOLLY, M.D."

The CHAIRMAN said he was sure they must all regret the absence of Dr. Conolly.

The minutes of the last meeting were taken as read, and confirmed accordingly.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

The CHAIRMAN then delivered the annual address :

GENTLEMEN,

It is highly gratifying to me to be called upon to preside over this Association, for it is a position which has been occupied in succession by those whose friendship I have for many years enjoyed, and whose labours have been earnestly devoted to the prosecution of the highly important department of medical science, whose advancement it is the object of this Society to promote. Yet I cannot disguise from myself the fact, that in succeeding my revered friend, Dr. Conolly, I have a very difficult position to maintain, for his name is great, and worthy of all honour, and his labours have been highly instrumental in producing those improvements, which, within our own day, have taken place in the management of the insane. I can lay claim to no such distinction. I must, therefore, hope for your indulgence whilst animated by an earnest desire to do my best to assist in the deliberations which will be directed to relieve the sufferings, and to benefit by every available solace a very afflicted portion of the human family, I rest securely in the conviction that I shall receive from you every possible assistance in my endeavours to make the present meeting in-

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strumental in carrying forward the noble and benign objects for which this Association was instituted.

Our first and great object is to be united as brethren, and to allow no selfish interests to sever the bond of fellowship which cements our union. In the present humour of the public mind, as respects our science, you are all well aware that sordid motives are too often attributed to those who devote themselves to the management of the insane; and it has been even stated, that, owing to the distinction which undoubtedly exists between public and private Asylums, there is not that cordial co-operation amongst us which is the very essence of the success of such an Association.

Now, it appears to me, that as far as this Association is concerned, we have all one object in view, which is to collect facts, from whatever source they may arise, and so to arrange and classify them as to arrive at safe conclusions. We all admit the imperfections of the present curative arrangements for the insane. We all lament the shortcomings of our art. We all desire to see improvements, but we at the same time believe that those deserve encouragement who labour in this field; and, therefore, as long as the need exists as it undoubtedly does exist, for the reception of patients in private asylums, we feel confident that those engaged in conducting them will be assisted in their efforts by their brethren, the Superintendents of public asylums, who will, on all occasions, hold out a friendly hand to them, and thus they will mutually vie with each other in alleviating the afflictions of the insane.

There is, indeed, much for grave consideration as to the treatment of the insane, and as to the way in which the public law should interfere to assist in the amelioration of their condition. There can be no doubt, that within our own day, the physiology of the brain and nervous system has been advanced, and these investigations have, in some degree, illustrated those obscure pathological conditions in which the nervous system plays a conspicuous part; but when we come to regard those phenomena which are so continually displayed in the various phases of insanity, we are compelled to admit that hitherto we have failed to derive all the advantages from physiological discovery which we trust advancing knowledge may at no distant time insure to us.

But in looking back to the past, it must be admitted that the efforts made by philanthropists and physicians have been more successful in the amelioration of the insane, by procuring better arrangements for their safe custody, and a

kinder and more benevolent mode of management, than they have been fruitful in results, in diminishing the prevalence of this sad disease, or in successfully treating its more severe forms. There is, however, no doubt that the forcible manner in which, in modern times, the necessity of watching the earliest departure from soundness of mind has been instilled into the public, is likely to lead to more successful treatment, and has already saved many from destruction.

It is also clear that the more accurate views that prevail, relative to the mode in which disturbance of the bodily functions interfere with mental phenomena, is likely to lead to more successful treatment. The brain being the instrument by which all mental manifestations are displayed, we are led to the anticipation, that ultimately, by aid of the microscope, we may be able to trace changes in its minute structure, which may lead to further advances in the pathology of this disease. Hitherto, we must admit, that morbid anatomy has not shed much light on the morbid manifestations of mind, but the labourers in this department are now more numerous, and better prepared for the investigation. The careful investigations of the reflex function of the nervous system, also give us hope that some of the more severe forms of insanity may, at no distant time, be better understood.

On all these obscure points, the members of this Association have a wide field for observation, and I trust that this meeting may be fruitful in eliciting facts that may guide our future progress. At the meeting in Edinburgh, the subject of the paralysis of the insane was discussed with great advantage, and the facts there brought forward by several members were valuable, and afford matter for careful speculation. The benefit that results from these periodical gatherings is, that obscure points in pathology, and in treatment, may be brought forward and submitted to the candid criticism of those whose daily intercourse with the insane gives them an insight into the malady, which no general practitioner, whatever may be his endowments, can possibly attain.

The relation of crime to insanity is very intricate to unravel. Every day we are presented with instances, which shew how difficult it is to say whether a person is a criminal or insane. No one can doubt this, who has been in the habit of intercourse in his medical capacity with criminals, and has been called upon to pronounce his opinion whether a criminal shall remain in prison to receive the punishment due to his crime, or whether he shall be transferred to a lunatic asylum, there

to receive all those ameliorations of his state, which this country now happily affords to those suffering from insanity.

The imperfection of our knowledge on this subject is in nothing more apparent than in the fact, that among persons having had great experience, there is often a difference of judgment on this point; and this leads the public to place less reliance on medical evidence in these cases, than it deserves. Now it appears to me, that this Association may be the means of rendering less frequent those unhappy exposures in courts of justice, where men of high standing, and of enlarged experience have been, so to speak, pitted against each other, to the scandal of the profession, and to the detriment of all parties concerned. Surely some means should be devised, by which medical testimony in cases of insanity may proceed on more secure principles.

There is no question that one principal source of the difficulty of giving evidence in cases of criminal insanity is the fact, that the judges, in their celebrated exposition of the law, have given a legal interpretation of insanity, which does not harmonize with the views entertained by enlightened medical investigators, who have devoted their lives to the study of the obscure forms of mental disease. Every effort, therefore, should be made by this Association to induce the judges of the land to re-consider those questions as to the responsibility or irresponsibility of persons charged with crime, and who have committed it under circumstances which induce experienced medical authorities to regard them as the victims of disordered cerebral organization. It should no longer continue to be said of our laws, that they lean to the side of cruelty, and that by the strict interpretation of them, as given by the judges of the land, it is quite possible, nay even probable, that a lunatic may, at this period of merciful administration of our penal code, be legally murdered.

No one indeed, can deny that the state of the lunacy law is anything but creditable to the boasted enlightenment of the nineteenth century; this fact is so self-evident that many efforts have been made to improve it, and the question has been frequently agitated by the public at large, and by the House of Commons.

Indeed, it must be admitted that the present state of the law is injurious to those who are concerned in the care and treatment of the insane. Those who are engaged in this practice should never for one moment lose sight of the consideration of the imperfection of our law. Nor, should they forget that in seeking to cure persons afflicted with insanity,

they are so to speak, brought face to face with the law, in a manner perfectly contrary to that of the ordinary medical practitioner, who usually, by the free will and desire of the patient, treats his disease; whereas in the treatment of the insane we deprive the patient of that liberty, which to an Englishman is ever so dear.

This view of the matter should make us cease to wonder, that the exercise of this branch of the profession is viewed with jealousy by the public, who are ignorant of the need of those restrictive and coercive measures, which a state of insanity demands. In dealing therefore with any Bill proposed in Parliament, we should bear this in mind, and calmly endeavour to assist the Legislature.

The course which was adopted by the Association at the special meeting, called by your late President, Dr. Conolly, was to appoint a Committee, who have reported to a special meeting of the Association.

In considering what occurred at that special meeting, and more especially regarding the sentiments there expressed by several enlightened members of this Association, it must be admitted that much remains to be done, and that the subject requires grave and careful management.

We must not lose sight of the fact to which I have before alluded, that in receiving a patient into an asylum, we usually, or frequently do so against his will, and thus deprive him of that liberty which by Englishmen is prized so highly. It is, therefore, of unspeakable importance that the utmost care should be taken that no person is so brought unnecessarily or unjustly. I am not disposed to think that the present mode of attesting insanity by two legally qualified practitioners, has worked otherwise than well. I have never, in a long experience, known any patient not insane placed under confinement. Yet the public are jealous on this point, and if any further security can be given against improper detention of patients, I should be willing to see it adopted; but anything in the nature of a public investigation previous to confinement is clearly impracticable. The legislature can never, I think, be induced thus to violate the sanctity of private life, or be a party to doing irreparable injury to many an afflicted member of the human family, by converting a curable into an incurable malady, which, doubtless, the excitement of a public investigation, might, in certain cases, readily effect. Moreover, it may be asked, is it for the public welfare, that undue impediment should be thrown in the way of instituting early treatment in certain obscure cases of

insanity? Is it not notorious, that even under the present system, there are persons in almost every great community, who are dangerous from being under no control? Is it not a lamentable fact, that the newspapers almost daily inform us of tragical events occurring from persons of unsound mind not being duly cared for?

Is it, or is it not, a benevolent act, when a fellow creature is losing self-control from cerebral disease, to take the earliest opportunity of placing him under circumstances favourable to his restoration? The answer to such a question, by all those who study the insidious nature of insanity, and who are aware of the importance of the adoption of early curative measures, will be unhesitatingly given in the affirmative; but I fear our Legislators are not sufficiently educated in this matter to arrive at a safe conclusion, and they have not hitherto shown a disposition to learn of those most capable of giving them reliable information. I fear I am justified but too decidedly in this remark, if we examine the Lunatic Treatment Bill, as introduced last session by Mr. Walpole. There is no internal evidence in that Bill, of his having sought information from those most practically acquainted with this subject. It may be fairly characterised as an onslaught against a body of men, who have given their time and their energies, and in some instances, their fortune, in order to be useful in their generation, and to have the gratification of ministering successfully to the mind diseased.

It appears to me, I am justified in using this strong language, when we reflect that one of the clauses of the Bill disqualifies all those who are engaged in the special private treatment of the insane, from giving legal certificates, authorizing the adoption of curative measures. This clause is really so offensive, and so obviously inconsistent with common sense, that it is not probable it can become law.

There is another clause of this Bill, which is equally mischievous and quite as impracticable, as the one to which I have alluded. It is that which provides for the appointment of Medical Examiners, and for the system of secret reports to the Commissioners to be carried on by those Examiners. To those who have fairly and impartially considered this provision, it appears little less than an absurdity, which can never work advantageously, and would be fraught with much evil to many unfortunate patients, who might be seriously injured by it; besides which, it is a kind of star-chamber proceeding, by which the proprietor of an asylum is, as it were, to be tried unheard, or on an *ex-parte* statement of the case. If I know

anything of the mind of my country, I cannot for a moment consider it at all probable, that the Imperial Legislature will ever stultify itself by such an enactment. There can be no doubt that every member of this Association will say, it is quite right there should be a supervision of asylums, but let it be an enlightened supervision, not a system of secret inquiry, to which unjust suspicion is the incitement. Let it be carried on by men thoroughly versed in the intricacies of the abstruse subject to be inquired into ; not by men who have no special experience to guide them in the difficult questions they will have to solve.

The Commissioners in Lunacy are the parties to whom all matters relating to the legality of detaining an insane person ought to be referred. If they are not sufficiently numerous, their number should be increased ; and in any additions that are made, special care should be taken, that those practically acquainted with the phases of insanity are placed in office. It is clear that among the managers of public and private asylums can men alone be found equal to this work. Hitherto the law has excluded the latter from the commission. Why is this? Is it that among those who are engaged in the treatment of insane private patients, there is a deficiency of qualification for the task? I reply that the most stern exclusionist would not venture on such an assertion. Is it not notorious, that there are at this time men engaged in this practice, to whose humanity, intelligence, unwearied zeal, and indomitable perseverance, we are indebted for valuable improvements in the treatment of the insane? Is it not notorious that several of them have been singularly successful in their efforts, and have thereby insured for themselves an imperishable renown? And yet these highly qualified practitioners are by the law declared unqualified for office, and for no other reason than that they have devoted their lives to the study of insanity, and to the amelioration of the condition of the insane. Such exclusion may be explained by the supposition, that the laws proceed from the narrow views of the special pleader, not from the enlightened consideration of the statesman ; or from the fact, that suspicion so blinds the mental vision of some parties, that they are unable to distinguish the special qualifications, which fit a man successfully to perform most important duties.

The time would fail me, if I attempted to enter upon a consideration of all the questions on the Lunacy Laws that are now pressing for a settlement. It is most earnestly to be hoped, that the Legislature may take an enlightened view, and not be blinded by prejudice, or by partiality. The con-

dition of the insane will not be benefitted by bringing in a Bill of Pains and Penalties against those educated, high-minded, and philanthropic men who are engaged in the management of private asylums. It is required that a broader scope should be taken, if the real grievances are to be met and remedied. One of the evils, in its effect most serious, is, that the law actually stands in the way of the early treatment of the insane, by not permitting an unfortunate sufferer, who feels that his disease is coming upon him, voluntarily to place himself in charge of those who, he knows, can snatch him from the misery which threatens him. It is illegal for any man to place himself under treatment. Instances are not wanting to illustrate the truth of this, and in dealing with this grievance, the Legislature should obviate so serious an evil, by enabling any insane patient who feels the disease coming upon him voluntarily to go to any asylum, public or private, by giving notice to the Commissioners that such is his wish and intention. Lord Shaftesbury, as President of the Public Health Department, at the meeting of the Social Science Association in Liverpool, spoke strongly on the necessity of early treatment in insanity. He said, "whatever they did, if it should please Providence to afflict any of their relatives with that disorder, let them listen to the advice which he had always given, which he would act upon if his own wife or his own daughter were unhappily afflicted; that wife or that daughter should be transmitted to some private asylum." And further, "if medical men allowed cases to go on until the evidence of insanity was so unmistakeable, that every one was convinced, why then the parties would be utterly incurable, without any probability of being brought to their senses again. The only hope was in the first development of the disorder."

There is much cause for congratulation, that the Legislature has in our day done something towards providing early treatment for a large class of the insane. There are large and splendid county asylums for pauper lunatics, with means of employment such as they have been accustomed to, with games and sports for those able to contend in them; and it is highly gratifying to reflect that these asylums also provide able and educated practitioners to watch with solicitude their inmates, to do all that science and humanity can effect for their restoration; and if these functionaries are not always free from injudicious interruption in their duty; by the Visiting Justices, yet on the whole these latter are most assiduous in their visits, and earnestly desirous for the restoration of the patients. From no one point of view is the institution of

county asylums more fraught with promise of good, in the future, than in the fact, that a large body of medical practitioners are employed in them, who are devoting their lives and their energies to the solace of the poor lunatic, and it is not too much to say that this Association of Medical Officers of Asylums and Hospitals for the Insane, with all the future benefits which are likely to result from it, would never have flourished, but for the Act of the Imperial Legislature which called into existence county asylums. There is every reason to hope that the beneficial agency of these institutions will be still further developed, and that improvements will take place in their administration. It is devoutly to be hoped, that on some future day, they may be instrumental in applying a healing balm to a class of sufferers, who, for the most part are excluded from their benefits. For under present arrangements, for the poor and educated there is scarcely any relief. It has been well said, "men who have devoted their whole lives to science and art, who, in health are eminently irritable, feeling deeply any slight, and in some of whom their very calling tends to enthusiasm, are reduced to exist on the smallest possible means, extracted from suffering friends, and to be under every disadvantage as to cure." Scotland sets an excellent example in this respect, and this class of sufferers are well provided for. All the chartered asylums there relieve patients of this class at a very moderate rate, apart, entirely, from pauper inmates; and they are provided with accommodation, diet, employment, and amusements, such as they have been in health accustomed to.

I fear I have dilated "*usque ad nauseam*," on an unpalatable subject. The truth is, that the whole question of Lunacy Law, and its bearing on those who are engaged in the management of the insane, is anything but inviting; yet in these days especially, it cannot be passed by, and must necessarily engage the attention of this Association, and of the public; but there is, in my mind, a view of the question of insanity, of the highest importance, but to which the public pay little attention. How much more productive of benefit to the community it would be, if our Legislators would lend their aid in endeavouring to prevent the increasing prevalence of insanity, rather than employ themselves in framing statutes condemnatory of those who are engaged in the exercise of that most anxious and humane department of the healing art, which has for its object the solace of the suffering and afflicted in mind, body, and estate. Let it not, however, be said of us, that we judge harshly of others, whilst we ourselves are in the

same fault. I would put it strongly to every member of this body, whether we, as an Association, are doing all we can to diminish the prevalence of insanity? I would ask you, one and all, whether we have not a duty in this respect to perform? Whether the public may not expect that we should take a lead in investigations which may issue in a more correct estimate of the causes, which in the highly civilised condition of the community in which we live, are concerned in the production of this most cruel of maladies? I would suggest that it would tend to increase the influence of this Association, and to demonstrate its utility, if we had a series of reports from our members, which would enable us to estimate more accurately the prevalence of the causes, which are respectively supposed to produce unsound mind.

Look at the question of intemperance. It is stated on authority, that seventy per cent. of the instances of insanity are produced by the intemperate use of fermented drinks. This may turn out to be a very loose assumption, not resting on a philosophical basis; for it is highly probable, that in many of these presumed instances, intemperance is a concomitant, not a cause of insanity.

The tobacco question also, is one most important for Psychologists gravely to consider, for the weed is now most extensively used by every branch of the community, and great difference of opinion exists as to its effect on the human system, particularly on the nervous functions. Doubtless, in many cases, its effects are most depressing to the heart's action, and it is often a cause of debility and dejection.

Poverty, and want of food, are pregnant sources of diseased mental manifestation; but the relative proportion in which these causes operate in producing alienation, has never been systematically submitted to careful investigation.

The intimate relationship between crime and insanity is patent to all, yet the very obscurity of the connection does not permit, at present, a very accurate elucidation; yet careful and enlightened inquiry may do much to clear away doubt, and dispel darkness.

It does not appear to me that I am wandering from the path in which I ought to walk, by submitting to this meeting my conviction, that each of the four heads, to which I have adverted, might be fit subjects for reports by committees of members of this Association. The present state of our knowledge, on these important points, might be thus more accurately defined, and suggestions might be made for future inquiry. These reports might be published in the pages of

our excellent and well edited journal, and thus most desirable information might be disseminated through the community. Further, it must be manifest that every branch of statistical inquiry, connected both with causes and treatment, should engage the attention of the members of this Association.

In conclusion, it is evident, that all those who are engaged in the treatment of the insane, incur a very weighty legal responsibility. The law is to them a severe, if not an unjust, taskmaster; and yet it is wise in all, whilst they endeavour to improve the law, scrupulously and to the letter to obey its present provisions. Yet, let it never be forgotten, that the Medical Psychologist, in dealing with the perilous stuff that life is made of, has to study the intricate and mysterious connection between mind and matter, and when reason is dethroned, and the storm of the passions hurls the victim, like a hurricane, to desolation, it is sometimes given to him by the efficiency of his art, to stem the rushing torrent, and to say, peace, be still. Or, when wailing melancholy prostrates the forlorn sufferer, it is sometimes possible to pluck from the memory a rooted sorrow, and to restore the lost one to affectionate and grateful friends. It was said by the ancient Roman, "*Homines ad Deos nullâ re propius accedunt quam salutem hominibus dando.*" Surely, if this be true, generally, of the exercise of our art, it is pre-eminently so of that highest department of it, to which those devote themselves, who are engaged in the cure of mental disease. Therefore, undismayed by the reproaches of the froward, or the despitifulness of the proud, let all those who engage in this high vocation, continue stedfastly in the path of duty; they will then have the testimony of an approving conscience, and in reply to the taunts of the ignoble, the ignorant, and the vulgar, may truly and confidently say, "let the galled jade wince, our withers are unwrung."

Mr. LEX proposed that the best thanks of the Association be given to Sir Charles Hastings for his excellent address.

Dr. SHEKLOCK said he had very great pleasure in seconding the vote of thanks proposed for the very excellent address they had just heard read by the President, Sir Charles Hastings. He felt sure the Association must be very much obliged to the President for the expanded and enlightened views he had laid before them, regarding the very urgent subjects which were at present attracting the attention of the country generally, as well as of the legislature. He trusted that the several points to which the address referred would receive

the attention of the committee. These subjects were attracting so much of public interest at the present time, that anything the committee could do with regard to them would unquestionably be received with great attention. There might not be such an opportunity found at another time. Public opinion was just then very much excited and aroused in connection with several of the points to which the address referred, and that was, therefore, a very favorable time for taking these subjects up, giving them a full consideration, and, perhaps, having them placed in rather a more satisfactory position than at present. In many respects they appeared at present very likely to retrograde; but he thought that if the Association exerted itself, and laid fairly and plainly before the public its views upon these subjects, they would in all probability take a step forward in a proper direction and obtain more enlightenment, instead of proceeding backwards, as hitherto they had appeared likely to do. He had, therefore, much pleasure in seconding the vote of thanks for the extremely able address just read, which he thought deserving of all praise.

The motion was carried by acclamation.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Receipts and Expenditure for the Year ending July 1, 1859.

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
By Balance in the hands of Treasurer	44	17 10	By Annual Meeting, July, 1858	13	6 0
„ Balance in the hands of General Secretary	9	4 10	„ Special Meeting in London, and Printing for ditto	25	12 10
„ Subscriptions, &c., paid to Treasurer	108	14 6	„ Printing & Publishing Journal, 134	18	11
„ Subscriptions to General Secretary	13	13 0	„ Postage and Sundries of Treasurer	9	0 0
„ Subscriptions to Secretary for Ireland	15	15 0	„ General Secretary	2	2 0
			„ Secretary for Ireland	0	11 8
			Balance	168	11 5
				23	13 9
	£192	5 2		192	5 2

The TREASURER laid before the meeting his annual report. He said the year preceding last year closed very well. All arrears were paid up, and the balance left in the hands of the Treasurer and Secretary was upwards of £50. It was calculated that the number of gentlemen added to the list last year would have increased that balance, but the fact proved otherwise. It would appear that in times of agitation, gentlemen did not always act with unanimity, and pay up money as readily as when they expected things

to go on more smoothly and quietly. The agitation had itself been attended with some slight degree of expense. There had been circulars issued and meetings held, which had been the cause of some little outlay. The result was that the balance was reduced to £23 13s. 9d; but the amount of arrears was much more than would cover the deficiency. The present amount of balance was not altogether unusual. The year before last was somewhat an exceptional year for the readiness with which all the subscriptions were paid up. He thought, therefore, that in reporting a balance of £23 13s. 9d., he was reporting very favourably of the circumstances of the institution. Throughout the year there had been a debt accruing to the general secretary, in consequence of the increased amount of expense attending the calling of meetings and other purposes, and in consequence of the meeting being held in Edinburgh rather than in London, which also necessarily involved some degree of expense. That debt, which amounted to £18 3s. due to the secretary being paid, still left the balance of £23 13s. 9d. The society would, no doubt, order that the amount due to the secretary should be paid forthwith. He thought there was nothing in his report which was not favourable. The subscriptions received by the Treasurer had been £107 5s. 4d.; by the General Secretary £13 13s.; and by the Irish Secretary £15 15s. The expenditure by the Treasurer, which was mainly for the printing of the journal was £126 18s. The General Secretary's expenses including the meetings called in London, had been £41; the expenses of the Irish Secretary 11s. 8d. The accounts had been audited, and the books of the Treasurer and Secretary had been signed by the officers.

Dr. BRUSHFIELD moved that the Treasurer's report be adopted.

The motion was unanimously carried, and the sum of £18 3s. due to the General Secretary was ordered to be paid.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the next portion of the business is a vote of thanks to our late President, Dr. Conolly. I feel that I am not departing from what is usual upon these occasions, when I propose myself a vote of thanks to that eminent and distinguished individual. I am sure you all feel with me very great regret that he has not been present upon this occasion, because no one can more gracefully perform the duties which would have devolved upon him than Dr. Conolly would have done. Circumstances which we regret, imperatively prevent him from

being present on this occasion, but that fact does not at all lessen the regret which we all feel that he is not with us. I need not allude in any way to Dr. Conolly; his fame is known and read of all men. So long as he remains a member of this Association, he will ever be considered one of its most distinguished ornaments. His name is written in the history of mental alienation, so far as its history is comprised within the last quarter of a century, in indelible characters. It is past the power of malevolence or of any species of unfriendly comment to take from him the high name and the reputation which will ever be his. I regard it as a circumstance of great importance to this Association that he should have been our President last year when we met in Edinburgh. He there so gracefully performed his duties, and in every way shewed to the eminent men of the northern metropolis that we were well headed; that no one who reflects upon what passed upon that occasion, can do otherwise than join with me in offering to Dr. Conolly our most earnest thanks, with the desire that his valuable life may yet be prolonged for many years.

Dr. BUCKNILL—I second the vote of thanks to Dr. Conolly, and I am sure that all the members present at this meeting will agree with what you, sir, have said so gracefully and so fairly of our distinguished and philanthropic late President. His name has been an ornament to the Association, as it has been an ornament to the medical profession in general, and an honour to his country. I feel that while the ranks of psychology embrace such men, the unfavourable state of public feeling towards physicians engaged in practice among the insane must be as transitory as it is unjust.

The motion was carried by acclamation.

THE FUTURE PRESIDENT.

Dr. DAVEY said—Mr. President, there has been imposed upon me a duty of a very satisfactory and pleasing nature; it is that of proposing to you the name of a gentleman to act as our President in the coming year. When I tell you that the gentleman to whom I allude is Dr. Bucknill, I am perfectly sure that all present will rejoice at my proposition. I need hardly say that Dr. Bucknill is one who has worked hard for the advancement of science, and whose writings assure us that he is well deserving to hold the position of President. His zeal in our cause is of no ordinary kind. His earnestness for the well-doing of the

insane, is not a quality of every day occurrence. For these and for many other reasons, which will occur to each one of you, I have great pleasure indeed in proposing to you the name of Dr. Bucknill as President for the coming year.

Dr. PAUL said he had much pleasure in seconding the nomination of Dr. Bucknill as President for the ensuing year. It was not necessary to say much, the repute of Dr. Bucknill was known to them all. He was quite sure that his appointment as President would give unmixed satisfaction.

The resolution was carried by acclamation.

Dr. BUCKNILL: Mr. President, I beg leave to thank you for the high honour you have conferred upon me, and I can only say that I will do my best to discharge its duties worthily. Following such men as yourself and Dr. Conolly, my task will not be light; but it shall be my most earnest solicitude to discharge my duty to the best of my abilities. I beg most sincerely to thank you for the honour conferred upon me.

Dr. TUKE then proposed that the next place of meeting be London. The place of meeting ought to have been Dublin, but he had a letter from Mr. Lawlor, stating with extreme regret that the Dublin body could not receive them next year.

Dr. PAUL seconded the motion.

Dr. SHERLOCK proposed as an amendment that Dr. Bucknill be consulted as to whether the next meeting of the Association could not conveniently be held in Exeter.

Dr. BUCKNILL said London would be most convenient to him, and he had been on the point of seconding Dr. Tuke's proposition. It was most important at the present time that the meeting should be held in a place which gave the greatest facilities to members to assemble. Next year, when Bills were likely to be before the House affecting the Association, the meeting ought to be held in the metropolis, where the largest number of members could attend.

Dr. SHERLOCK did not press his amendment, and London was accordingly fixed upon as the place of meeting next year.

ELECTION OF TREASURER.

Dr. TUKE proposed that Mr. Ley be re-appointed *Treasurer*, adding that there could not be found one more attentive to the true interests of the Association.

Dr. FAYRE seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF EDITOR OF JOURNAL.

Dr. TUKE proposed that Dr. Bucknill be re-elected *Editor of the Journal*. He felt confident that the *Journal* had done a great deal for their position as psychologists; and, when they considered the enormous disadvantage under which Dr. Bucknill laboured in bringing out the *Journal* so far from London, from public libraries, and all the sources of information which were constantly needed in his editorial labours, they would all see that they could find no better qualified man. He was not only an able physician, but also a most accomplished writer, and some of his recent articles in the *Journal* really held a high rank not only in psychological medicine, but in English literature.

Dr. EDGAR SHEPPARD felt peculiar gratification, although he had not the pleasure of knowing Dr. Bucknill, in seconding the motion. It would be impossible to over-estimate the great talent displayed in the *Journal*, particularly in some recent numbers, and he would take that opportunity of mentioning a circumstance which occurred to him during last summer. He was travelling in Brittany, and he visited the celebrated asylum there, with which he had no doubt some members of the Association were familiar, where he found the resident physician reading Dr. Bucknill's recent work. The physician was not a very accomplished English scholar, and asked him (Dr. Sheppard) for some explanation which he endeavoured to give. Having the last published number of the *Journal* with him, he left it with the physician, telling him what a distinguished position Dr. Bucknill occupied, and of the efforts being made by the public asylums throughout the kingdom to advance the science. That gentleman received the *Journal* with very great interest, and promised that he would read every word of it. He could only repeat that he had great pleasure in seconding the nomination of Dr. Bucknill, whose services he would not only willingly admit, but felt extremely proud of.

The CHAIRMAN said he could reiterate every word which had been said in praise of Dr. Bucknill.

The motion was unanimously carried.

Dr. BUCKNILL said he felt deeply moved by their kind appreciation of his services as Editor of the *Journal*. It was a position of which he was very proud, and in which he was delighted to feel that he gave satisfaction to them all. He must own that he had to encounter some difficulties, not only

in the mere matter of labour, but inasmuch as he had to put things on record in the *Journal* which were not always agreeable to members of the Association. But whether he edited it with ability or not, he could promise them one thing, that he would always edit it with honesty. And if there were any matters affecting their specialty which ought to be published, he would be no party to their suppression. He knew that he had given personal offence to members by refusing to suppress, or rather by not suppressing things which had a very important bearing upon scientific questions relating to the insane. Whatever came forward before the public or before the courts of law, or which in any way came to his knowledge as a matter which he deemed it honest and right to publish in the *Journal*, should be published, whether it affected his own interest, or that of any other person. He could, therefore, promise them, that whatever he might lack of that ability which they so kindly attributed to him, in their generous feelings towards him, he should always do his very best to discharge, with uprightness, his very responsible duties.

ELECTION OF SECRETARY.

Dr. BUCKNILL proposed the re-election as *Secretary* of Dr. Lockhart Robertson. He said he personally had so much to thank Dr. Robertson for, and so much to expect from him, that he felt it to be his own peculiar duty to thank him for the past, and to crave his services for the future. He thought it would be impossible for the Association to have a more zealous, more gentlemanly, more able and urbane Secretary than Dr. Robertson, and he had the greatest pleasure in proposing his re-election.

Dr. SHERLOCK seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

ELECTION OF AUDITORS, &c.

The next business being the election of *Auditors*.

Mr. LEY moved that Dr. Tuke and Dr. Sherlock be appointed Auditors.

Dr. PAUL seconded this resolution, which was unanimously carried.

THE SECRETARIES FOR IRELAND & SCOTLAND.

Mr. LEY said that the *Secretaries for Ireland and Scotland*

c²

had been usually re-elected. Dr. Stewart was one of the earliest members of the Association, and had added more members to their list than almost any other gentleman. It was, Mr. Ley believed, in 1837, when Dr. Stewart came forward as one of the original founders of the Association, in whose affairs he had always taken a most active part and interest. He had great pleasure in proposing that Dr. Stewart and Dr. Wingett be re-appointed Secretaries for Ireland and Scotland. Dr. SHEPPARD seconded the motion, which was carried.

Dr. TUKE then read the following letter of invitation to inspect the Rainhill Asylum, which had been forwarded by Dr. Rogers, of Rainhill.

Rainhill, July 17th.

Dear Sir—It is my wish to join the Association of which you are the Secretary (Medical Officers of Asylums, &c.), and I hope the members will pay me a visit when at Liverpool. The distance is only nine miles, they could come out in the morning, lunch at my house, and return to dinner.

I am, yours faithfully,

Dr. L. Robertson.

THOS. L. ROGERS.

Dr. Tuke observed that the members would be very much obliged to Mr. Rogers, and that some of them doubtless, would avail themselves of his kind invitation.

A vote of thanks to Dr. Rogers, having been passed Mr. BRUSHFIELD said that he for one should not only visit the Asylum at Rainhill, but also, if possible, those at Prestwich and Lancaster, for those three institutions ranked amongst the highest in the kingdom. Should any of the members desire to visit his own asylum, in Cheshire, he should have great pleasure in receiving them, and do all that he could to supply them with information and to enhance the pleasure of their visit in other ways.

PROPOSED FOREIGN HONORARY MEMBERS.

DR. TUKE then stated that Dr. Conolly had transmitted to him a list of foreign gentlemen to be proposed as honorary members. No one of these names would not do honour to this or any other medical association, for the list included some of the first physicians upon the Continent, but there seemed to be a technical objection on the ground that one of the rules of the Association required that the names of proposed honorary associates should be sent round in a

circular before the annual meeting. Dr. Conolly had not done so, but had simply announced his intention of proposing certain associates. Dr. Tuke then read the following names, observing that it would have to be put from the chair, whether the Society would take Dr. Conolly's notice as sufficient, or whether they would require the rule to be observed strictly.

Dr. Falret, Paris.

Dr. Guislain, Ghent.

Dr. Calmeil, Paris.

Dr. Foville, *Fils*, Paris.

Dr. Evart, Holland.

Dr. Howe, Massachusetts.

Dr. Fleming, Editor of the *Zeitschrift der Psychiatrie*.

Dr. Morel, St. Yon, Rouen.

Mr. LEY said that it was honourable and pleasant for both parties to have honorary members on the list of an Association, if they could be certain that the gentlemen would accept the appointment. He thought the best plan would be for the list to be read, the names to be circulated in the meantime, and the appointments confirmed at the next meeting.

Dr. DAVEY thought that by not attending strictly to the rules, they would be apt to get into a lax way of business, and that the interests of the Association might suffer. He coincided with Mr. Ley in the course which that gentleman recommended.

Dr. PAUL thought that the bye-law might be suspended.

Dr. BUCKNILL quite agreed with the view taken by Dr. Tuke and Mr. Ley; if the rules were broken through on this occasion, on behalf of foreign psychologists, it might on a future occasion be infringed on behalf of gentlemen in this country, respecting whose claims to the position of honorary members of the Association, the unanimity might not be so great. It would be safer and wiser therefore to adhere strictly to the rule. Indeed, he was inclined to go still further, and to say that it would be for the benefit of the Association, to restrict the number of their honorary members, and not to make that title too common.

After some further conversation, it was decided that the subject should come regularly before the next meeting for decision.

LIST OF NEW MEMBERS.

The following list of new members was next submitted for election.

George Birkett, Esq., M.R.C.S., Northumberland House, Stoke Newington.

Dr. H. Browne, Hayes, Middlesex.

Dr. J. Langdon Down, Idiot Asylum, Reigate.

D. Rossiter, Esq., M.R.C.S., Haydock Lodge, Ashton, near Warrington.

Dr. Lorimer, Royal Asylum, Perth.

Dr. J. M. Lindsay, County Asylum, Wells, Somerset.

James Strange Biggs, Esq., County Asylum, Surrey.

Frederick Needham, Esq., Lunatic Hospital, York.

Dr. P. M. Duncan, Colchester.

M. L. Rogers, Esq., Medical Superintendent, Rainhill.

Dr. Mc Kinstry, Armagh District Hospital for the Insane.

Alfred Wood, M.D., Barwood House Asylum, near Gloucester.

Dr. Dixon, Gloucester House Asylum.

Some conversation took place as to the practice with regard to the ballot, on which it was explained by Dr. BUCKNILL that the rule hitherto observed had been, that gentlemen desirous of becoming members submitted their names to the secretary and the committee, who prepared a list for the general meeting. If the names were all considered unexceptionable, the whole number, to save time, were elected at once. If, on the other hand, any doubt arose, the ballot was adopted. On the motion of Dr. TUKE, seconded by Dr. SHERLOCK, the above list of names was agreed to.

STATISTICS OF ASYLUMS.

Dr. TUKE said he had a resolution to propose, which would commit the society rather to an expression of opinion than anything else, but which at the same time he was most anxious to bring forward. At the present time, with legislative enactments in prospective, it was of the greatest possible importance that there should be union amongst the members of the Association; and he could not disguise from himself the fact, that there was not that union; and on the contrary a distinct line of demarcation between the medical officers of public asylums and the proprietors of private asylums. There was an element of trade

in the very constitution of private asylums which made it perfectly natural, and almost justifiable; indeed, there was the same line of demarcation between those engaged in the practice of lunacy, and the ordinary physician. He thought it very important however that this union should, if possible, be effected between the two bodies, and the only way in which he could see that it could be done, was by keeping in view the fact, that they were engaged in a common profession. He was perfectly sure that if they could only convince their medical brethren in public asylums, that the interests of the practitioners attached to private asylums was not allowed to interfere with their duty as medical men, they would at once become, not only co-members, but as they ought to be, brethren-in-arms. It had occurred to him that the only way in which they could do this would be by a better system of statistical tables. He believed that one great cause of the efficiency of the officers of public asylums, was their system of reports, and the publicity given to the results of their treatment of the insane. The remarks of their President in his able address, bore him out in this opinion. He believed there was a spirit of emulation excited amongst the public asylums, which was of great value in the treatment of patients, and he thought this might be made available also in the treatment carried on in private asylums. There would, no doubt, be difficulties in the way, but the resolution which he was about to propose, would, he believed, in some degree meet these difficulties. At present, if the question were asked, what was the proportion of cures in private asylums? it must remain statistically unanswered. He must say that he was grieved and distressed to hear from one of our most distinguished physicians in a committee room of the House of Commons, that the cures in private asylums were only 50 per cent. in recent cases, and that of these recent cases 25 relapsed. If this were true, he must confess that the sooner the proprietors of private asylums left the Association the better; for they were most certainly not fit to sit down side by side with the physicians engaged in the treatment of insanity in the public asylums. He (Dr. Tuke) however, did not believe that it was true, and he only mentioned it in order to shew the great importance of having clear and distinct returns. They had no returns by which they could tell how many of their patients recovered, or how many died, they were merely registered as received and discharged, and this was unaccompanied by any reliable statement as to recovery or otherwise. The only way by

which they could get at this information was by a general system of returns. There would be another advantage also in such a system. He need not point out the fallacy of arguments drawn from minor statistics. A single asylum might cure 60 or 70 per cent. out of 200 or 300 cases, another equally good might do nothing of the kind; but if they could get the same returns for several thousand cases by grouping together asylums of the same class in London, and compare them with those of the same class in the country, they would at once obtain a valuable statistical result. For instance, there were many private asylums in which restraint still lingered. How valuable would it be to compare the results of treatment in these, with the results of a similar number of asylums where no restraints were employed. In some asylums—and here was a most important question—what Lord Shaftesbury and the Committee of the House of Commons recognized as the “lay treatment” largely prevailed. A system which it was considered could be adopted as well by ladies, or gentlemen who were not medical men, as by medical men themselves. Now this was a question of fact—was it or was it not successful in its results of cure?—and he thought it was a question which medical men would be very willing to put to the test of statistical proof. There was another point also, which he touched upon with some reluctance, and that was the system of agreements between medical men and proprietors of asylums for paying per centages, or having arrangements by which medical men continued to be the paid visitors of such places, without the knowledge of the patients. That was also a question of importance, though a question with which they, as an Association, had perhaps nothing to do. They might, however, very easily ascertain whether the gentlemen who did this had the same proportion of cures as those who did not; and if they had, it was a matter of perfect indifference how they chose to pay their medical men; if they had not, they might perhaps be led to adopt a better system. He only mentioned this as an instance of the value of statistical returns. It was another question, altogether, whether statistical returns would be available, or would bring out all these facts; but if they would, it was important that the society should give them its recommendation and influence. The question of relapses too was one of vital importance. In comparing private asylums with public ones in these returns, one fact must be kept strongly in view. There were

many cases in private practice which were cured without going into an asylum at all, and for this reason they could not expect to cure so many recent cases of disorder as the public asylums. There were many cases of puerperal mania which were cured at home; and in the same way cases of *delirium tremens* in the higher classes of society were treated at home; the patients recovered, and did not swell the list therefore, of the cures of the private asylums. One objection had been made to these returns, by a distinguished member of the Association, who said that they would not be trustworthy; that in private asylums they were in the habit of sending out their patients as cured, and then re-admitting them, and sending them out again; so that one patient might be cured half a dozen times over. It appears that an error of this kind might arise sometimes from the nature of the present returns; but if the returns were carefully drawn up, so as to distinguish between chronic cases, cases of first attack, and recent cases, this fallacy could not creep in, and the returns would be perfectly trustworthy; besides the Commissioners of Lunacy would hold in their hands duplicates of such returns, which must be therefore correct. In conclusion, Dr. Tuke moved, "That in the opinion of this meeting, a clear and statistical account of the nature of cases admitted into private asylums, and the results of their treatment during the last few years, distinguishing the chronic cases, the recent cases, and those of the first, second, and third attack, would be most valuable to psychological medicine, could be easily attainable from the medical officers in each asylum, would be trustworthy, and would probably afford valuable data for future medical enactments."

Mr. LEY was happy to second the resolution. He thought there could be no question about the value of statistical information, which, though perhaps never strictly true, was the closest information which they could get to the truth.

Dr. FAYBER: How many years would you propose for the average?

Dr. TUKE: A few years only in order to get a sufficient number, say from 100 to 300 cases from each asylum. I would not take less than 100 cases. If this resolution is carried, Dr. Robertson and myself propose to draw out the blank form of such a return, and refer it to Dr. Thurnam, whose reputation stands the very highest in statistical questions connected with our special department of medicine. We would then send it round to the members.

Dr. FAYRER repeated that the number of years should be fixed from which to take the average of cases.

Dr. TUKE would rather fix the number of cases.

The CHAIRMAN suggested a period of five years, because it was probable that during the last five years there had been more accuracy with regard to the records of private asylums.

Dr. SHERLOCK thought that five years would be a very good period, and would enable them to make valuable comparisons in various matters.

Dr. PAUL said, that in the large asylums it would involve a great deal of trouble, as about 1,030 cases passed through his hands in five years.

Dr. TUKE observed, that as there would be 10,000 cases in the large asylums, to compare with 600 or 800 in the smaller ones, the statistics would be useless unless they obtained a fixed number of cases from each asylum, say 200 or 100. They would thus get an easy per-centage comparison, and save a vast amount of trouble in working out the results. They must, however, have the same numbers to compare with the same numbers. If large asylums like that of Dr. Paul were to be compared with smaller ones, where there were only 8 or 10 cases, it would be easy to compare them exactly by comparing 10 years of one with one year of the other. The objection as to the picking of the cases would be met at once by taking the last 2 or 300 cases admitted or discharged.

Dr. SHERLOCK said, that if the last series of cases was taken there could be no objection; but to select particular cases would be of no earthly utility.

Dr. HITCHMAN was obliged to Dr. Tuke for bringing the subject forward, and he thought that such statistics would afford valuable opportunities of comparison between private and public asylums. He should be sorry to be separated from such men as Dr. Conolly, Dr. Wood, and others who had separated themselves from public institutions, and had taken charge of private asylums, and he should be happy to find that these distinctions were passed away.

Dr. DAVY observed, that the subject was one of very great importance, and one about which he had thought a great deal. Indeed, for some time he had resolved that when he had been ten years at Northwoods, he would publish a full and accurate report, statistical and otherwise, of his experience there. He thought it important to do so, not only as illustrating facts with regard to the treatment of insanity, but because it would be calculated to get rid of

those prejudices which prevailed throughout society in relation to private asylums. He believed it was only necessary for the public at large to know what private asylums were, how they were conducted, the large number of cures effected there, and the small mortality which prevailed, to be assured, that a grievous error had been fallen into, in supposing that they were not satisfactorily managed, and that patients therein were not treated with the greatest kindness, and in the most scientific manner. This great error on the part of the public, was to be got rid of by a public statement and avowal of the facts which obtained in private asylums; and if the proprietors of such asylums would give, as he intended to do, decennial reports of their operations, he thought the effect would be of such a kind as to go far to remove the prejudices which had existed; and on this account alone, he attached great importance to the publication of these reports. For these, and other grounds, he begged to support the resolution proposed by Dr. Tuke.

Dr. MC CULLOUGH thought it would be very desirable for the returns to be upon an uniform plan; at present every Superintendent had a plan of his own, so that the tables were not available in the mass for statistical purposes. He proposed as an amendment, that a committee of the members of the Association, should be appointed to consider the entire subject of statistics, with regard to asylums, and draw up a series of tables.

While Dr. Mc Cullough was writing out his amendment, Dr. BUCKNILL, at the request of the chairman, filled up the time by proposing a resolution "that the managing committee of the association be augmented by six members, who should be appointed from the members who occupied themselves different positions in the treatment of the insane; namely, that one of the members should be the Superintendent of a county asylum; another, the Proprietor of a licensed house in the metropolitan district; another, the Proprietor of a licensed house in the provinces, another the Superintendent of one of the Scotch asylums; another, of one of the Irish asylums; and another, the physician to a hospital for the insane." He thought all their members, with one or two exceptions, would come under one or other of these denominations, and that, if they increased their managing committee by adding six members, representing the different interests of the Association, they would give greater satisfaction than at present to all the members in the management of its affairs.

Dr. DAVEY seconded the resolution which he took it was to supersede the necessity of having voting papers. It would be remembered that at the Edinburgh meeting last year, he took upon himself to propose certain alterations and amendments in the rules of the Association, and at that time a Committee was formed, whose duties were to have been discharged between the meeting of last year, and the present meeting. The subject matter of the amended rules, however, was accepted by those in office, and he had been told by Dr. Robertson, that the thing was looked upon as an accomplished fact, and that voting papers were to be drawn up, and distributed amongst the members, so that each member might carry out those amended rules and regulations which he (Dr. Davey) had the honour of suggesting. He believed, however, that at present, these balloting papers were objected to, because the Committee had never done the work it was appointed to do, and because the amended rules were accepted and attempted to be carried out in an informal manner. He took it, therefore, that this resolution was to meet this difficulty; and, as it might be considered somewhat as an amendment on his own proposition of last year, he had much pleasure in seconding it, because he believed that, as Dr. Bucknill said, it would extend the representative principle, and tend to render the operation of the rules and regulations of the Association more desirable and harmonious.

Dr. TUKE did not wish to oppose the resolution, but he feared that it would be an infraction of the existing rules. The rule with regard to the managing committee "with power to add to their number" only applied to the Committee which met at twelve o'clock, in order to arrange the business of the annual meeting.

The CHAIRMAN thought, it was quite competent for the annual meeting to appoint a committee to attend to any matters which might occur during the year, without any fear of conflict with the officers of the Association.

Ultimately, after further conversation Dr. BUCKNILL added the following clause to his resolution:—"And that this committee, with the officers of the Association, constitute the managing committee of the Association for the ensuing year."

The resolution was then put and carried unanimously; and the following gentlemen were chosen to form the committee—Dr. Hood, Dr. Sherlock, Dr. Skae, Dr. Paul, Dr. Davey, Dr. Lalor.

Dr. TUKE feared lest the adoption of such a resolution would form a precedent which might be worked injuriously to the Association on future occasions.

Dr. DAVY did not anticipate such an event.

Dr. MC CULLOUGH then re-introduced his amendment as to the appointment of a committee to consider the subject of the statistics of asylums, and draw up a form of tables applicable to both public and private asylums. He thought Dr. Tuke's motion would only partially realise the desired object. The statistics of public asylums were by no means in a satisfactory state, and he thought it would be much better to have the whole subject thoroughly investigated, and a uniform system adopted applicable to both classes of institutions.

Dr. TUKE, after reading his resolution again, advised that it should be put as a substantive resolution; as if it were passed it would not interfere with Dr. Mc Cullough's proposition.

This was accordingly done, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Dr. Mc Cullough's proposition being then the only one before the meeting,

Dr. FAYRER suggested as an amendment, that it should apply to private asylums only.

Dr. MC CULLOUGH explained that his object was to improve the statistics of public asylums. He would not bind down a Superintendent to anything beyond a certain number of tables; but it was most important that a limited number of tables should be upon a uniform plan, and that the whole results of the country might be added up and compared in a way which could not be done at present. The tables should relate to the causes of insanity, the cases of death, and the proportion of cures; and there should be a classification of the different forms of insanity. If any Superintendent chose to give other tables, of course he might do as he chose.

Dr. DAVY then seconded Dr. Mc Cullough's proposition.

Dr. TUKE observed, that the 16th rule prescribed that the tabular statements should be of a uniform plan. The resolution, therefore, was perfectly unnecessary.

The CHAIRMAN thought that Dr. Mc Cullough was perfectly in order with respect to the rules. He was moving for a committee.

Dr. MC CULLOUGH observed, that the rule had never been carried out, as the statistics of public asylums were not uniform.

Dr. TUKER really hoped that the amendment would not be carried. He did not know anything which did more credit to the members of the Association, than the very admirable way in which the reports of public asylums were at present drawn up, the vast amount of work which the Superintendents performed, and the clear way in which the statistics were arranged. It appeared to him that after his remarks upon private asylums, it would be an ungracious thing to attempt to alter in any way the reports of the public asylums. When they got the returns from private asylums, he saw no objection to the committee trying to get them all under one system; but he thought the society would be doing itself great mischief by appointing a special committee. What standard of excellence, for instance, was to be taken?

Dr. Mc CULLOUGH explained, that he did not propose to take any particular person's tables, but to have a certain number of a certain form for the adoption of the society.

Dr. SHEPPARD thought that it would essentially injure the value of the returns at present issued by the Superintendents, and in which the different modes of treatment adopted by different physicians were pointed out, if the resolution proposed by Dr. Mc Cullough were adopted. Many members of the Association would object to make any alterations in the style of their returns. It was all very well to make a distinct return founded upon these reports, but it would be very invidious to go to any Superintendent and ask him to alter his returns, which was what the resolution amounted to.

Dr. Mc CULLOUGH said that his object was to make the statistics of asylums of use to the public by collecting their results year after year, and in order to do this, there must be uniformity.

Dr. SHEPPARD said it would be the object of the committee to make them uniform.

Dr. Mc CULLOUGH replied that they could not be put together at present, because they were made out from different data.

Dr. SHERLOCK remarked that the Lunacy Commissioners did not take the forms made out by the Asylums, but made out tables for themselves. He took it that the work of the Committee would be to arrange the results of certain public and private asylums in a form agreed to by the Association, giving certain particulars with regard to the course of mortality, the duration of cure and various other matters, without referencr to the published reports at all.

Dr. TUKE then proposed, and Dr. ROGERS seconded, as an amendment "That the present reports of public asylums are admirably drawn up, and that it is not desirable to interfere with them by the appointment of any Committee.

Dr. MC CULLOUGH explained that he did not mean in the least to reflect upon the statistical tables of the public asylums. He thought they were very good, and all he wished, was to have them in the form in which they could be most advantageously compared.

The CHAIRMAN put the amendment, which was adopted by 5 votes to 3; several members remaining neutral. The resolution was then put *pro formá* and lost.

INSANITY AND CRIME—COMMUNICATION BY DR. DAVY.

Dr. DAVY said he had intended to make a few remarks, which, however, as the time pressed, he must compress within a brief compass. He had a few facts before him, and he merely wished to bring them before the attention of Sir Charles and the meeting, with the view, as he conceived, of shewing the public, who really were the friends of the insane. He trusted that these facts would have a good effect upon the minds of those who were desirous of legislating for the insane, and adopting measures for their amelioration. They were facts of a very stubborn kind, and if he mistook not, were of that nature which had never yet entered, except very cursorily and temporarily, into the heads of those who had given so much attention to the lunacy laws. He took up the other day a file of old newspapers, and went through them with some care, in order to pick out from their pages the number of insane persons who had committed crimes. He found recorded, the fact, that within the last few years so many as 38 insane persons had been arraigned for murder; that these 38 insane persons, guilty of the crime of murder, had caused the death of 53 persons; and that of the 38 insane who were tried for their lives, 10 were executed, 17 acquitted on the ground of insanity, the fate of 8 he could not discover, and the remaining 3 committed suicide. Now, here were facts startling in their nature, and calculated to awaken the attention of legislators to this fact—that insanity was very little understood; and that in consequence of the ignorance which generally prevailed with respect to it, large numbers of insane persons were abroad in the world, who ought to

be secluded and protected from the commission of crime. It followed too, that in consequence of the neglect which surrounded these poor creatures, the lives of fifty sane persons had been sacrificed. Fifty persons had lost their lives who, had they not been subjected to such a terrible fatality, might have been living at this hour in the exercise of the rights and privileges of society, and honourably fulfilling their various duties. Of the eight unknown, he thought that some two or three were transported. Transported for what? Not so much because they had infringed the laws of their country, as because they were neglected; because, being oppressed with a dreadful disease, they were allowed their liberty to go about the streets and parade the country districts; and so neglected and borne down by the pressure of disease of the brain, they were impelled—having lost their volition and all command of their moral feelings—to the commission of crime. And what was the consequence? They were dragged before our tribunals; they were not subjected to wholesome and necessary treatment, but they were treated as prisoners; and if they were not executed or transported, they were made the companions of real criminals, and exposed to all the hardships of a protracted life, having lost their self-respect, and become like criminals; disgraced not only in themselves, but in having heaped disgrace upon their families. The meeting would agree with him that these were very startling facts, and that these things had occurred only because insanity was not understood, because our Legislature did not care to make itself acquainted with the facts of insanity, and because they would not listen to the voice of those who did know what insanity was. The lawyers would not be taught by the doctors the true indications of cerebral disease. To prove that these remarks were not foreign to the present meeting, and that this of all others was the time when they should compel public attention to this question of insanity, it was their duty to raise their voices against the neglect which obtained in reference to the insane, to show that legislators must listen to what they had to teach them, and to prove that the law itself was at fault. He would only refer to a trial which had just taken place at Winchester, on the Western Circuit, by which all his preceding remarks would be verified, and the justice of the words he had spoken, fully established. Mr. Baron Bramwell presided on the occasion, and the indictment charged Henry Benjamin Haynes with the wilful

murder of Mary Mc Gowan, at Aldershott. This poor man murdered the girl under the influence of cerebro-mental disease. He (Dr. Davey) thought that the facts upon the piece of paper which he held in his hand would assure the meeting of this: Haynes had some connection with the girl, but they were good friends, and there had been no quarrel or dispute between them. He seized her by the neck, went into another room, took a razor from a box in his possession, seized her again round the neck and cut her throat. Presently she was a corpse. He was very properly taken into custody; his trial had just now come off; and they had the issue of that trial before them. He would just draw attention to two or three facts as he found them reported in the paper. They were staggering facts, and he thought if Baron Bramwell was ever brought to his senses, and made to appreciate truth as it really was, he would very much regret having committed himself to the extent he had done. One of the witnesses called, was a person named Callender, who stated that the prisoner had been very uneasy in his mind ever since he left America, as he had seduced a young woman there who had a child by him, and whom he deserted. He was asked what had made him kill the deceased? "I don't know," he replied, "poor girl she never did me any harm. It was not her I intended to kill; it was Margaret Cheltenham, who caused me to be kept in the hospital, and it was the devil did it." In cross-examination, Callender said, "that he had travelled from America with the prisoner. He appeared to have something on his mind, and was not like what he had been before he went. He seemed at times hardly to know what he was doing." Another witness called was Sergeant Herman, who said "I have known the prisoner for four years, and was with him in America. After his return, I observed a great alteration and peculiarity in him. When he took a drop of drink he appeared rambling in his mind, and also at other times, very often." In cross-examination, the witness said, "He used to be talking about a woman in America. He seemed sorry that he could not marry her." He said, "Oh, my head!" "He appeared quite out of spirits. One time when he had drank he went away to York and came back very honourably, and gave himself up." He used to say, "Oh, my head! that poor girl." "He did not appear to know what he was doing." It was suggested that the evidence of the surgeon of the gaol should be taken, and Mr. Cole said, that for the satisfaction of his Lordship he had sent for him.

The Judge said, "He doubted whether, after the speeches, it would be right to put this witness into the box, but he would consult Mr. Justice Crompton. Mr. Baron Bramwell upon his return, said, his learned brother agreed with him, that it was better to be regular, and, therefore, he should decline to have this gentleman examined."

Medical evidence (continued Dr. Davey) was refused upon this occasion. Mr. Baron Bramwell had committed himself to this statement:—

"It would be a most dangerous doctrine to say, that because you could not show a motive, a man was to be acquitted. The question was whether this prisoner had a sufficient degree of reason to know that the act was wrong. If he knew what the act was, and that the act was wrong, the prisoner was punishable for the act. When a man committed murder, the influence of religion, the law, and humanity had been overcome, but that was not to relieve him from punishment. Did the woman die by the hand of the prisoner? If so, he was guilty, unless he did not know the nature of the act, or did not know that it was wrong. Those were the only two matters for their consideration. It was to the advantage of all to obey the law, and every improper acquittal was detrimental to the interests of society."

The jury retired for upwards of two hours. They then sent a note to the judge, to state that some of the jury had doubts as to the state of mind of the prisoner, and therefore requested some further explanation of the law as regarded insanity. The judge directed the jury to be sent for, and on their coming into court asked them if they had any observation to make. One of the jurors said the prisoner seemed to have acted under an uncontrollable impulse. The judge said that did not make the offence the less murder. Malice was implied when there was a deliberate cruel act committed, however sudden it might be. It was no matter how sudden the impulse—whether it was the result of long previous deliberation, or whether it was the impulse of an instant—it would be as much murder in one case as in the other. No jury could properly acquit on the ground of insanity, if they believed the accused was conscious of the act he was committing, and that he knew that act was contrary to law. If they gave a verdict contrary to this, the result would be to increase the number of cases of uncontrollable impulse.

In consequence of that statement, the jury returned a

verdict of guilty, and the man was condemned to death.* Now, if their society was really to be a practical one, and to look after the interests of the insane, he (Dr. Davey) thought that a statement of this kind, and a verdict like this appearing in the daily prints, should not go without their notice; but that if they had really the interests of the insane at heart, they should keep their attention fixed upon facts of this nature, and never allow them to pass unnoticed. He did not himself see why they should not form a committee, with the object of putting themselves into communication with the legislature, and of pointing out the defects of the present law, as it affected the insane charged with crime. He could not himself think it possible that, if the Legislature were really aware of the insufficiency of the law as it affected such persons, and were satisfied of its inhumanity, and of its untruthfulness to science, but that something would be done to amend it. At the present time no insane person was safe from the consequences of his acts. No person under the influence of cerebro-mental disease could say how far he should go, and when he should stop. Their President might be attacked by this disease, their wives and their children might all be subject to its influence, and when this cerebro-mental disease came on, none of them could put a limit to it. He (the speaker) might do something under the influence of this disease, should it ever afflict him, which might render him in the eye of the law, a criminal. But how very hard it was that persons subjected to such a dreadful disorder should not be protected from the consequences of an act which they never choose, of an act forced upon them, and the result of organic change which they were not instrumental in bringing about. They would agree with him that the matter which he had introduced to their attention was of very great moment and he did hope that as a body they would go practically into the question. In conclusion, therefore, he proposed "that a committee of the Association be formed, to put itself into communication with the Legislature, with a view of exposing the present defects of the law, as it affects the insane charged with crime."

Dr. SHEPPARD seconded the resolution. Members would

* The sentence was not carried out, as will be seen by the following extract from the *Observer*:—"A MURDERER RESPITED.—A respite was forwarded on Saturday night from the Secretary of State to stay the execution of Henry Benjamin Haynes, who was convicted at the late Winchester Assizes for the murder of a woman at Aldershott."

doubtless recollect the saying of Sidney Smith, that "we should never be free from accidents on the railways until a bishop was killed;" and so, as specialists, he believed they would never be safe in their practice until some honourable member for Marylebone, or some other Queen's Counsel got a knock upon the head from some insane person.

The PRESIDENT: In what way did you think of getting into communication with the Legislature?

Dr. DAVEY: That is one point of detail which I have not thought of at all, but I suppose it is practicable in some way.

Dr. SHEPPARD: Sir Charles, you have had great experience in deputations, will you give us a little light upon the matter?

Dr. FAYRER said, that if the public were more acquainted with private asylums, and the manner in which patients were treated in them, there would not be that outcry which was raised against them. They were accused of sordid motives, and of making use of their patients for mercenary views. They had a great deal to put up with, and there were many things in connection with their position with which the public ought to be acquainted, and he did think, that if the public knew more of the asylums and of the way in which the patients were treated, they would not accuse the medical men of those views. He thought the very facts which Dr. Davey had brought forward, would be the means of shewing the public more of their proceedings, and do them a great deal of good.

The PRESIDENT then put the resolution, which was carried unanimously, and the following gentlemen were appointed the committee—Dr. Davey, Dr. Sheppard, Dr. Hitchman, and Dr. Palmer.

The PRESIDENT observed that the whole matter hinged on the decision of the judges. They might give a legal interpretation to insanity, which did not hold good in its psychological truth. He had no doubt that in point of law Baron Bramwell was right.

Dr. DAVY: Yes, but we have nothing to do with law; we have to do with justice, with humanity, and with reason.

The PRESIDENT: I think if the judges could see the position in which they are, they would at once alter it.

Dr. TUKE: It is not Baron Bramwell's fault.

Dr. DAVEY remarked, that unless they agitated the question, they would never be heard.

Dr. ROGERS said he had been asked by the Secretary to propose a vote of thanks to Sir Charles Hastings for the very able manner in which he had filled the chair, and the useful

and instructive paper which he had read. The paper was valuable, inasmuch as it directed the attention of members to rely upon themselves rather than the Legislature, and to endeavour to do away, by their own exertions, with a certain amount of obloquy that was liable to fall upon members when any cases of insanity came into courts of law. He wished the task had devolved upon some older member of the society; but he thought that none would differ from him in returning a cordial vote of thanks to Sir Charles for the manner in which he had filled the chair.

Dr. HITCHMAN had very great pleasure in rising to speak upon this point. He felt deeply grateful to Sir Charles for taking the chair upon this occasion; for although they were in point of numbers, a small body, compared with that great Association, which in connection with theirs had selected the noble town of Liverpool, the home of merchant princes, for its annual meeting, yet he felt that in the importance of their relative functions they might claim co-equal fellowship with them, and walk, as it were, *pari passu*, as a common brotherhood of philanthropy and science. And if anything were wanting to prove this, it would be found in the delightful fact, that their distinguished President was also the founder and the President of that great Association; and he (Dr. Hitchman) did hope, that from the circumstance of their occasionally meeting together, great good would spring up, and that many diseases of which the public had only confused notions, would become more clearly known, even by the medical profession, and that many diseases which were as yet impracticable to science, might become ameliorated. If they looked at their own specialty, which was but one of yesterday, they must admit that its progress had been continuous, and that if they boldly declared their sentiments, and followed up from time to time before the public those subjects which Dr. Davey had so eloquently described, the evils of which he complained would pass away. Without quite endorsing all that Dr. Davey had said, as to the judges of these realms, he (Dr. Hitchman) did think that lawyers, as a body, were entirely deficient in knowledge in reference to the influence of physical organism upon mental acts. He believed that ignorance, gross and dark pervaded the mind of the public upon these matters, and with regard to the results of physical disorders upon mental acts. In addition to what Dr. Davey had pointed out, he (Dr. Hitchman) might specially illustrate one question upon which he felt strongly. He did think it was monstrous that Life Assurance Associations

should refuse to pay the policy of a man, who, under a morbid impulse, fell a victim to suicide. It was great cruelty to orphans and widows, that they should be deprived of that means of support which the unhappy man in his moments of health had secured to them; that they should, as it were, be branded with penal consequences to a greater extent than if their natural protector had fallen a victim to misfortune or to crime. He hoped that their meeting would be attended with some practical results in regard to these matters; and that when their words came through the press before the public, they would meet with an indulgent hearing, and that the public would believe that these words were spoken from a large experience. He, himself, had known great woe fall upon families from this cause, when he was sure that the suicidal act was as completely independent of the man himself as death would have been from inflammation of the lungs, or any other well-known disease. He thought they had a duty to perform to those sufferers in their respective spheres, by endeavouring, wherever they could, to prevent suicide from mental diseases from being fatal to the payment of the policies; and he hoped they would not leave this great city, without using their influence upon all with whom they came in contact, to realize this object. He might appeal to all who had received enjoyment from the writings of the gentle Cowper, who had been thrilled by the eloquence of Robert Hall, who had admired the patriotism of Romilly, or who had sympathised with Chatterton or Tasso, whether the shield of their protection should not be thrown over the children of those who had suffered from the cause which he had described. He had great pleasure in endorsing the sentiments of Sir Charles Hastings, and in calling upon the meeting to express their thanks to him. The vote having been carried by acclamation,

SIR CHARLES HASTINGS, in replying, said that he was much obliged to the meeting, and that he should always endeavour to advance those great truths which it was their object to cultivate and promote. It gave him ineffable pleasure to find himself amongst them again, and he could assure them, that to co-operate with his medical brethren in meetings like these, and in social intercourse, was one of the greatest pleasures of his life. He begged most cordially to thank them for their kindness.

This closed the business of the meeting. The annual dinner afterwards took place at Radley's Adelphi Hotel, the President in the chair.