

*The Library.*

The Library of the Association, to which especial attention is again drawn by a notice in "Notes and News," is worthy of more support than has been hitherto accorded to it.

The members of the Association are scattered in isolated groups of two and three throughout the country, a large majority of them being remote from access to any considerable scientific library. Under such circumstances, if the scientific spirit is to be encouraged and developed, it is absolutely essential that opportunities of seeing and consulting the best and most recent scientific works and periodical publications is absolutely essential.

The individual members of the asylum staff cannot do this without an outlay, which would be a very serious sacrifice of income; neither can the governing body of the individual asylums be expected to make such an expenditure.

A subscription to such a library as Lewis's will no doubt give a supply of current works, but cannot supply the more serious works and periodical literature which are of greater importance.

The problem for the circulating library of the Association is principally this of providing the periodical literature. The Journal receives a considerable number for review, but hitherto these have been used up in the reviewing. It is hoped that many of these will be available in future for the Library, but they will probably not be usable during the current year of issue.

An ample supply of periodicals might be obtained if asylum committees would make a small grant for the purchase of such periodicals, and if the asylums would form themselves into groups (divisional or otherwise) so as to prevent too much duplication. These might then be available for circulation amongst the asylums of the group or division at an early date. At the end of the year they might either be added to the asylum library or be sent as a contribution to the central library. The cost of such an arrangement to each asylum would be so small that even if a grant in aid could not be obtained from the committee, it might be collected by subscription from the committee members or even by the joint subscrip-

tions of the staff. The latter at the present time probably make an outlay which would more than cover this co-ordinated expenditure.

The library funds would by such an arrangement be set free to obtain by purchase all really important books as well as to make such a subscription to Lewis's as would make the more ephemeral and doubtful books available to members in every part of the country.

The scientific spirit of the Association would be greatly encouraged by such an arrangement, and in the course of time, by gifts and bequests, in addition to the sources of acquisition above indicated, the Association would become the possessor of a library *nulli secundus* in its special subjects, in which its members might have a justifiable pride.

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*Forcible Feeding.*

The long and acrimonious discussion in the *Times* on the question whether Sir Victor Horsley introduced the suggestion of an alternative to nasal feeding in the trial relating to the forcible feeding of a female prisoner, is of little interest to the readers of this Journal.

Sir Victor's description of nasal feeding as "disgusting," "barbarous," and "brutal," in so public a manner, certainly calls for comment. In asylums this procedure is daily necessitated, and it is desirable that our patients and their friends should not be encouraged to view this method of treatment in this light, since many of them would be seriously prejudiced thereby. "Disgusting," if applied to the quality of the food, is certainly erroneous, since this is commonly of the very best kind. "Brutal," if it refers to the mode of feeding or the intentions of the feeders, is also unwarranted in regard to a procedure that is only resorted to in the best interests of the patient. "Barbarous" is certainly not a true description of a mode of treatment employed in the most modern hospitals. Sir Victor Horsley admitted that he had used it, and would use it if necessary. Is he therefore barbarous?

These epithets are certainly not merited by nasal feeding as practised in our hospitals and asylums, and were intended, we must assume, to apply to the circumstances of the particular case. It is desirable that this should be made perfectly clear.