

previous years, and the activity of the Association, as manifested by the meeting and reports of its various committees and the number and interest of the communications, is undoubtedly not diminishing.

The President's address took the novel and much-needed form of a review of the work of the Association and its organisation. This could not have been more appropriately undertaken than by a member who has been so long and intimately connected with the administration, and who has done so much to promote the welfare of the Association, as well as to extend its influence and usefulness.

The Annual Meeting commonly gives clear indications of the work of the coming year, and this would certainly appear to be very considerable. Prospective legislation, especially in regard to the strengthening of the Lunacy Commission, the early treatment of the insane, and the registration of male and female nurses of the insane, will give ample employment to the Parliamentary Committee. The Statistical Committee has still to make arrangements for the practical use of the new tables, and the housing and re-organisation of the work of the Association will also probably require a considerable amount of attention from the Council.

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*Legislation.*

The Parliamentary Session has again passed over without producing lunacy legislation of any importance, and the prospect of the House of Commons, as at present constituted, ever again performing legislative functions satisfactorily appears to grow more remote.

Business methods year by year appear to be more lost sight of party squabbling wastes more time, and the absence of all foresight or appreciation of the needs of the country becomes more conspicuously absent.

The latter developments of political parties, indeed, should make poor John Bull exclaim, with Mercutio, "A plague o' both your houses!"

The single representative of our specialty in the House has again shown great zeal, and has exerted a greater amount of influence than could have been expected in the party *mêlée*.

There are other members of the specialty whose character and position well qualify them to aspire to a seat in Parliament, and who might well leaven the existing party mess.

An election is not now remote; and it is possible, if rumours have any foundation, that Sir John Batty Tuke may not stand unaided in the new House in his strenuous fight with the powers of legal darkness.

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*The Organisation of the Medico-Psychological Association.*

The President in his address drew attention to the desirability of attempting a further advance in the organisation of the Association by obtaining better central housing accommodation and the services of a paid official to discharge many of the duties now performed at considerable personal sacrifice by honorary officers of the Association.

The combination of all the medical societies in London into what would practically be an Academy of Medicine is now under consideration by the leading spirits of the medical profession, and the result will probably be brought before the Medico-Psychological Association at no very remote date.

The large number of special medical societies, each with its own rather costly organisation, would seem to offer a good field for combination, with considerable economy. Union, too, would certainly be productive of much greater strength to the profession in its relation to the public.

The sacrifice of a certain amount of independence to obtain such important results may possibly be necessary, but the preservation of all useful independence in such an arrangement must be carefully safeguarded.

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*The Registration of Male and Female Nurses of the Insane.*

The registration of mental nurses is one of the subjects most forcibly dwelt on by Dr. Outterson Wood in his presidential address, and demands the most urgent attention of the Medico-Psychological Association as affecting the social standing and welfare of the nursing staffs of our institutions.