

*Retirement of Dr. Beach.*

“There are mile-stones on the Dover road.” We have passed one of our mile-stones when we mark where Dr. Fletcher Beach drops out of our official ranks. Fortunately, we do not say good-bye, for we are assured of his good company and kindly aid in the ranks, while he continues to occupy a position of greater freedom and lesser responsibility. Dr. Beach has given ungrudgingly of his time and talents to the Association that placed him in the responsible and honourable post of General Secretary. Generous and well-deserved acknowledgment of his services was made at the Annual Meeting, where he occupied his place for the last time. The Association is fortunate in having secured Dr. Percy Smith as his successor, and we trust that it will be long before we have to chronicle another change in this important office.

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*Criminal Responsibility.*

The Report of the Criminal Responsibility Committee has now been finally adjusted, and the compromise effected between extreme views may be accepted as the best possible at the present time. While the legal mind is unbending from rigid formalities of doubtful authority, the medical attitude should be one of expectant attention. We are not in a position to dogmatise; our information is not exact, full, and precise in leading to inevitable conclusions. Having plainly indicated that the McNaghten case does not now meet the necessities of justice, we leave it to legislators to amend the practice of the courts when that can be done. The advance of medical science has discredited the answers of the judges as they were formerly interpreted; but a constructive policy does not at present appear to be possible. Time will infiltrate the courts with modern ideas, and the stability of jurisprudence, as administered by able men of whom the nation is justly proud, is wisely resistive of immature proposals.

The Association has been well served in this matter by the Committee appointed two years ago. The exhaustive memorandum prepared by Dr. Orange, and the vast amount of labour bestowed upon the investigation necessary by Dr. Mercier must be gratefully acknowledged. At the same time, there is in the Report no expression of finality; it does

not discourage further research and future consideration of the problems involved. On the contrary, it is a settlement *ad interim*; and we again remind those whose duty leads them into the witness-box that all important cases should be recorded with precision and promptitude.

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*Pensions and Gratuities.*

During the past year the question of pensions and gratuities to those engaged in asylum service has been repeatedly before the Association. We direct special attention to the communication we have received from Dr. Murray Lindsay which will be found under "Notes and News." We would regret to learn that Dr. Lindsay contemplates retiring from the position he has so long held to the advantage of the county of Derby, were it not that we are assured that he will be no less active in promoting the interests of the Association in his well-earned leisure. As the questions at issue are still *sub judice* we refrain from going into details at present. It is, however, encouraging to learn that the English and Scottish Commissioners are in full sympathy with the demand that asylum officials should be properly provided for by pensions and gratuities in the circumstances so repeatedly made clear.

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*British Medical Association.*

The meeting of the British Medical Association at Carlisle, held in the end of July, attracted many visitors to that historic town. The section of psychology was most ably and hospitably presided over by Dr. J. A. Campbell, who was supported by a fairly good attendance. The meeting will be memorable by reason of the great pains taken to render it successful, and the interesting nature of the scientific work presented. We must regret that the section was not so fully attended as it deserved. No doubt it was difficult for those specially interested in psychology to be present for two successive weeks at places so distant as London and Carlisle. We have remarked already upon this difficulty, and must further add that at Carlisle there was an additional cause for regret in failure to present communications promised. This is a growing evil, and must be remedied. One discussion at Carlisle would have fallen