

advancing the treatment of insanity in this country by the Superannuation Bill for Asylum Employés, which he has introduced in the House of Commons.

Whether this Bill will become an Act in the present stormy aspect of parliamentary affairs is still doubtful. The hope of a Session freed from the more extreme forms of party preoccupation is gone, and with it much of the opportunity for minor legislation.

Whatever the fate of the Bill the main fact will remain that the members of the Medico-Psychological Association, after very many years of discussion, have at length arrived at the almost unanimous agreement that the provisions embodied in the present Bill would be acceptable, with some modifications, not only in England, but in Ireland and Scotland.

That this has come to pass is a tribute to the long-continued exertions of our Parliamentary Committee, to which, as well as to Sir William Collins, the Association owes a sincere expression of thanks.

The Library of the Association.

The Library still demands the assistance of the members of the Association to make it of real use. The means and space at the service of the Library do not admit of any endeavour at a complete, or even an extensive, collection of works relating to psychiatric medicine. The number of books dealing with the subject in a more or less systematic manner is very great, but only a very few of them are of lasting value, due to any originality of observation, classification, or other characteristics constituting a real advance in knowledge.

The means of the Library would fully admit the acquisition of the chosen few, but periodical literature and that relating to original observation is of far more importance to those who are engaged in practical work or in scientific investigation. This would seem to be the field which is especially open to the Library. Members of the Association probably take or receive copies of the literature of every piece of scientific research or of every journal relating to psychiatry, and very many might contribute these to the Library.

This is the literature of which members in institutions

remote from easy access to libraries have most need, and for which there is a demand that the Library cannot at present meet. It is very desirable, therefore, that all possible contributions of literature of this kind should be made.

The question naturally suggests itself whether the time has not arrived when some more extensive effort could be made, and a more comprehensive scheme devised, whereby the members of our specialty could have access to a really complete bibliographical collection of works in which they are interested?

Why should not the asylums of the whole country combine to this end? The Scottish asylums have already combined for pathological work. Every asylum has its own library of greater or less extent, in which probably a large number of works are many times re-duplicated.

Why should there not be a co-ordination by which each asylum should undertake to provide certain literature or make certain contributions to a general fund for a central library or libraries, organised so as to be accessible to all medical members of asylum staffs?

Such conjoint action if practicable would require considerable time to organise, and still more in obtaining the agreement of the various bodies interested. In the immediate future it is desirable that the best use should be made of that which is already in existence, to make it a possible nucleus of a future British Library of Psychiatric Medicine.

Part II.—Reviews.

Mind and its Disorders: a Text-book for Students and Practitioners.

By W. H. B. STODDART, M.D., F.R.C.P. With illustrations. 8vo. London, 1908. Price 12s. 6d. net.

Dr. Stoddart has written a book in order to induce his readers to think neurologically of mental processes, his clinical work having been largely a research into the nature of nervous phenomena associated with mental disorder. His results in this field have been given to the profession to a very considerable extent, and Dr. Stoddart now formulates them systematically relative to normal and abnormal mental conditions. It has long been recognised that any study of insanity must be based upon a knowledge of psychology—that is to say the