

FIG. 3.—Film of organism A. Byno-hæmoglobin agar culture 24 hours. Stain carbol methylene blue. × 600.

FIG. 4.—Film of streptothrix. Plate culture from fluid of hæmatoma auris; byno-hæmoglobin agar 48 hours. Stained fuchsin. × 1000.

FIG. 5.—Culture of organism A on byno-hæmoglobin agar 48 hours. Photo from drawing.

FIG. 6.—Colony of organism A. Plate byno-hæmoglobin agar 24 hours. × 60.

FIG. 7.—Colony of *Bacillus paralyticans brevis*. Plate byno-hæmoglobin agar 24 hours. × 60.

FIG. 8.—Colony of *Bacillus paralyticans longus*. Plate byno-hæmoglobin agar 24 hours. × 60.

(¹) The essay for which was awarded the second prize of the Medico-Psychological Association, 1909.

Occasional Notes.

The Superannuation Act.

After many years of effort the Superannuation Bill has passed into an Act of Parliament, and although not fulfilling the aspirations of the most sanguine, it is to the majority of prospective pensioners a most satisfactory solution of a previously unsatisfactory problem.

The gratitude of the Association is especially due to Sir William Job Collins, whose reputation and skill alone assured its passage through the House of Commons. It is perhaps not too much to say that in the hands of any other member of Parliament it would probably have failed.

To Lord Monk-Bretton an almost equal amount of thanks are due for his skilful pilotage in the troubled waters of the Upper House.

Dr. Shuttleworth's exertions have been beyond all praise, nor can there be any doubt that the weight of the Asylum Workers' Association greatly strengthened his indefatigable exertions.

The Association, too, must not forget the less conspicuous but by no means unimportant labours of the Parliamentary Committee. The steady work of this body for many years past contributed most importantly to the collection of facts and the formation of opinions, constituting the ground work on which the Bill was built.

Thus ends in a most satisfactory manner one of the most

important objects for which this Association has striven during the last thirty years. The energies that have been so long occupied in this matter are now free to be used in other directions. The existing state of the Lunacy Law offers many opportunities for their employment, and no doubt some of these will soon be absorbing the activities of that most valuable body, our Parliamentary Committee.

A report of the Commemorative Dinner, which took place on December 20th, 1909, appears in this number of the Journal.

The Section of Psychological Medicine at the British Medical Association at Belfast.

This Section, held under the Presidency of Dr. Outterson Wood, appears to have been one of the most successful meetings in recent years.

The President, in opening the Section, took for his text the desirability of promoting a much closer connection between psychiatry and neurology, and the Section, after discussion, passed a resolution recommending to the Council the desirability of having a combined Section at future meetings, to be called "The Section of Psychological Medicine and Neurology."

This resolution, we believe, has been adopted by the Council, and it will be interesting to observe the results of this new departure. The President's view that it will be of advantage to both these departments of medicine will probably be amply verified.

Dr. Mercier contributed a valuable and interesting paper on somatic delusions and local lesions. Dr. Shuttleworth's paper on Mongolian imbecility was also of great interest both for its subject-matter and its illustrations. Dr. MacCormac contributed a paper on the superficial and deep reflexes in relation to various forms of mental disease, which possessed the merit of much originality of observation. Dr. Crothers' paper on heredity in the causation of inebriety was a useful addition to this aspect of the subject. The report of the Royal Commission on the Care and Control of the Feeble-minded was very ably brought under consideration by Dr. Dawson.

Abstracts of these papers were published in the *British*