

The After-care Association.

The Annual Meeting of this Association was held at the house of Sir William Church, the President of the College of Physicians, who presided.

The report shows a steady annual increase in the number of cases assisted, but the increase in the subscription list is less satisfactory.

The speakers, among whom were Drs. Claye Shaw and Robert Jones, bore testimony to the valuable work of the Association in the prevention of relapse in recovered patients, and the suggestion was made by Dr. Rayner, in view of the good results of the work, that it might well be called the Association for the "Prevention of Insanity by Relapse."

The statistics as yet are not of sufficiently long standing, or of sufficient extent to yield any definite results, but there can be little doubt that, as time passes, the asylums which most largely avail themselves of this aid for their recovered patients will have the satisfaction of recording a considerable reduction in the number of their relapsed cases.

Tent-life for the Insane.⁽¹⁾

The tent-cure of the tuberculous insane, inaugurated in June, 1901, by Dr. A. G. MacDonald at Manhattan, was found so successful that in July of the same year it was tried for filthy and demented patients, also with most strikingly satisfactory results.

Increased appetite and assimilation were universal in the dements, who in many cases improved in their habits, and the tuberculous showed marked improvement. This mode of treatment is also to be tried on convalescent patients.

The tent-life in New York State is apparently carried on for only three or four months, but in our more favourable climate it might probably be continued throughout the summer. When St. Thomas's Hospital was at the Surrey Gardens some of the patients were accommodated in tent wards during the larger part of the summer. It is to be hoped that this new departure in treatment will be tried on this side the Atlantic.