

lating address in his usual admirable and effective manner, adding greatly to the success of the meeting.

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*Lunacy Legislation.*

The Session of Parliament has so far advanced without the introduction of a Lunacy Bill, that no expectation of such an event can now be indulged. Bills, unlike other offspring, are sometimes the better for a protracted gestation, and the Lunacy Bill, when the Lord Chancellor is at length brought to the woolsack, ought to be of exceptional merit.

The Lord Chancellor, in considering the pension clauses, should give full attention to the strong argument reiterated by Sir J. Crichton-Browne in his address to the asylum workers, of the increased efficiency of asylum staffs resulting from retaining trained attendants by the inducement of pensions.

Another argument in favour of liberal pensions to asylum superintendents has not been so generally recognised, and that is the fact that owing to the law against the establishment of private asylums, retired superintendents are prevented in a large measure from using their professional experience. Many pensioned asylum superintendents would be able, and would be specially qualified, to treat a few patients with advantage both to themselves and the community. In the existing state of the law they are subjected to disability in this respect, being permitted to take only one patient.

This disability is not only a great injustice to the retired asylum physician, but is a great wrong to the public, which is thus debarred from obtaining the services of men of the very largest experience of insanity. Whenever lunacy law makers recover from their serious attack of prejudice against alienist medicine, one of the first reforms will be, not only to license "houses," but also to license "physicians" with special experience, to treat the insane. Asylum medical officers would then retire much earlier, and consequently need smaller pensions.

The existing injustice, so long as it continues, constitutes a most important claim on the part of the asylum medical officers to liberal pensions.

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