

*Bureau of Information.*

We would direct attention to the proposal made by Dr. Miller, of the Warwick County Asylum, as set forth in the JOURNAL for July last, at page 625. Dr. Miller brought this question before the Council at the Annual Meeting, when it was resolved to approve of the scheme whereby a Bureau of Information regarding matters of asylum administration would be established. Dr. Miller having been authorised to obtain information, it is to be hoped that he will meet with general support in the Association. Much might thus be done to record what is useful to know in reference to details of management in various parts of the country. A great deal of work has been done in the past in the way of ascertaining the results of practical experience ; but it is lost, as records of cases are lost, in the multitude of other materials. Questions are asked over and over again which might be answered once and for all, new questioners might be referred to old replies. The success of any such plan generally depends upon the unselfish labours of one man. We have such a man in Dr. Miller. It is to be hoped that in their own interests, as well as in the interests of the insane, our members will render to him their willing support, and that we shall in course of time secure a great body of trustworthy information on points at issue.

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*Private Care.*

The *British Medical Journal* of June 29th contains an interesting article on the private care of the unsound in mind. It would seem that Mr. Hempson, solicitor to the Medical Defence Union, has lately contended that from the very words of the Lunacy Act it appeared never to have been the intention of Parliament to extend the term "lunatic" to all persons of unsound mind ; and he further suggested that in order to secure a practical differentiation the definition of the term should be varied by requiring that a patient, to be a "lunatic," must be medically certifiable. This is a proposal which must meet with our most active opposition. So far back as 1855 our predecessors were agreed that such terms as "lunatic" and "lunatic asylum" should be as far as possible disused, and they formulated a rule to that effect which is set forth at