

doing my best on the old lines, or help in the development of a new system which shall transform the whole treatment of insanity, and greatly ameliorate the condition of the insane.

FREDERICK NEEDHAM, M.D.

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*Lunacy Legislation.*

Mr. Dillwyn succeeded, on the 25th of May, in obtaining a Second Reading for his Lunacy Law Amendment Bill. By the time this number of the Journal is published, further progress may have been made with the Bill, but it is not very likely that it will pass into an Act this year. Our objections to the Bill, as well as a frank admission of the value of certain clauses, are so fully stated in the Journal for October last, that we need not repeat them here. These objections have not been met by any revision of the Bill.

The Parliamentary Committee of the Association lost no time in considering the provisions of the Bill.

It was the opinion of the committee that the powers proposed to be given to the Visiting Justices of erecting asylums or of purchasing licensed houses, should be vested in the State; that the minimum price fixed for the purchase of licensed houses is manifestly inadequate; that the present mode of admission to asylums and licensed houses should remain in force, except that in every case, within seven clear days, the patient shall be visited and the order countersigned by a public officer appointed for that purpose; that in cases admitted on a certificate of emergency, two further certificates shall be obtained within seven days; that the clause of the Act at present in force with regard to the admission of boarders in Royal Hospitals, should be extended to asylums and licensed houses, and that notice of the death of a boarder should be sent as in the case of certified lunatics; that in Clause 13, providing for the liberation of persons confined in lunatic asylums, in place of "two registered medical *persons*," should be inserted *visitors*; and that the cost of the examination of a patient, as proposed in the Bill, should be borne by the person making the application; that the 15th Clause, giving power to Commissioners to remove patients from private to public asylums, should be omitted.