

OFFICIAL REPORT.

ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF ASYLUMS
AND HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.

A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of the Association was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen Street, on Wednesday, the 17th of September, at 3 o'clock. The meeting was called, to receive Dr. Bucknill's resignation of the editorship of the Journal, and to make arrangements for its future management; and also to elect Drs. Bucknill and Hood to be honorary members of the Association. The following members were present. Dr. Conolly, Baron Mundy, Dr. Sankey, Dr. J. S. Bushnan, Dr. W. Tuke, Dr. Paul, Dr. Ross, Dr. R. H. Burnett, Dr. Manley, Dr. Christie, Dr. Millar, Dr. Hitchman, Dr. Duncan, Dr. J. F. Duncan, Dr. Henry H. Stewart, Dr. J. Strange Biggs, Dr. McCullough, Dr. T. Thurnam, Dr. Robert Stewart, Belfast; Dr. C. H. Fox, Mr. Ley, Dr. Robertson.

Dr. Kirkman, the president, occupied the chair.

The President.—Gentlemen, this is a very important meeting of the Association; and without further preface, as we shall have plenty to do, I will call upon Dr. Robertson to read the notice convening the meeting.

Dr. Robertson, having read the notice, said—This meeting is called in accordance with precedent established by Dr. Conolly, who, when president, held two general meetings to consider the new lunacy laws, which, in the year 1859, were before the House of Commons. Dr. Kirkman, in consultation with the committee, determined that, under present circumstances, he would call a general meeting to deal with this important question of the editorship of the Journal until the next annual meeting of the Association.

The President.—If you will allow me, I will now read a letter which I have received from Dr. Bucknill, containing his resignation. I must say I do so with mingled feelings of regret and pleasure—regret that we have lost Dr. Bucknill as the editor of the Journal, and pleasure that we shall not lose him as an associate and friend. I am sure that in everything connected with the interests of the Association he will always be active and energetic.

The President then read the following letter:

“DEVON COUNTY ASYLUM; *Sept.* 16, 1862.

“Dear Mr. President,—The Lord Chancellor having conferred upon me the appointment of Chancery Visitor, it has become necessary that I should resign into the hands of the members of the Association

the office of Editor of their Journal, with which they entrusted me nine years ago.

“I have much pleasure in looking back upon these years of editorial labour, which I have incurred at the bidding of the Association, as time which has not been ill spent in advancing the knowledge of our specialty, and in aiding and directing well-intentioned efforts to promote the interests of that most afflicted portion of our fellow-creatures whose remnant of comfort and happiness in this life is so intimately dependent upon our knowledge and our humanity.

“I have to offer my heartiest congratulations to my fellow labourers in this work, and to assure them of my continued interest in its advancement. I think I shall not be out of order if I show this interest at the present time by addressing a few words to you on the choice of my successor. I earnestly hope that you will be enabled to entrust the responsibilities, which I have had the honour to bear, on a gentleman who will discharge them with discretion and temper, and who, taking a comprehensive view of all matters bearing upon the welfare of all classes of the insane, and upon that of all those whose real interests are bound up therewith, will conduct the Journal in that spirit of impartiality which will give weight to its opinions, and reflect honour upon the Association.

“It affords me much pleasure in being able to express my own conviction, that the Association would find such an editor in my friend Dr. Robertson, to whom we are already under so much obligation for the long and zealous discharge of the duties of General Secretary. My new office prevents my acting as a member of the Association, or I should have attended to-morrow to have proposed and voted for Dr. Robertson. I feel myself, however, still at liberty to express my opinion, and I do so with the full assurance that the members of the Association, who for so many years have kindly placed some value upon it, will give it their best consideration. I do not see where the Association will be able to find a fitter man to be the editor of their Journal than Dr. Robertson, who has so zealously done the work of the Association for the last seven years, who has been one of my ablest coadjutors in the Journal, who has devoted himself to the study of psychological medicine during the whole of his professional life, and who is well known to many of the members of the Association as a gentleman and a man of honour, against whom no shadow of suspicion can attach that he might be capable of making the Journal serve indirect or personal ends.

“Allow me, before I conclude, to say a few words on another subject. An attempt has recently been made to persuade you that your Journal ought to be largely devoted to the exposition of your grievances. If anything could more readily than another bring your Journal into contempt, it would be an undignified system of querulous complaint. But when a real and general grievance exists, not

only ought the Journal to declare it plainly, as it has done in several instances, but the Association itself ought to take action if any useful mode of action should be open to it. Such a grievance does appear to me to have been inflicted upon many of the members by the amended form of the 12th section of the Lunacy Acts Amendment Act. This 12th section was introduced with the intention of conferring a large benefit upon the officers of asylums by reducing the term of service under which a pension could be granted from twenty to fifteen years, and by allowing the amount of the pension to be calculated upon the value of lodgings and allowances in addition to the salary. This good intention has been defeated, and the officers of asylums left in worse case than before, by a rider appended to the original clause, by which 'rider' it has been enacted, that no such superannuation shall be chargeable on or payable out of the rates of any county until it shall have been confirmed by the justices in quarter sessions. In all counties this provision will be a great impediment, while in some it will amount to a prohibition of all superannuations. The first superintendent to whom I pointed the clause out said, 'In my case it would entail the concurrence of the sessions of two counties and of three boroughs, which would be impossible.'

"You are not unaware of the interest I have long taken in the efforts made to obtain just provisions for superannuation, and on the ground of this long continued interest I would beg to suggest that, at your meeting to-morrow, you should appoint a committee, not with any vague and impossible mission of general interference with legislative measures, but with the definite object of obtaining a reversal of the latter portion of the 12th clause of the recent Act, and to press for legislative sanction to satisfactory superannuation arrangements. I would beg to suggest that, in such arrangements, a distinction ought to be drawn between those asylum officers and attendants upon whom falls the heat and burthen of responsibility in the treatment of the patients, and those who are engaged in less arduous duties. At present the superannuation of asylum chaplains and stewards stands on exactly the same ground as that of the medical officers of asylums; and it is worthy of remark that the new Act contains a clause (sect. 13) providing for the superannuation of matrons who are the wives of officers already pensioned. After yourself, my dear sir, the Nestor of superintendents, I have been the longest in office as the superintendent of any county asylum. It is now eighteen years and a half (18½) since I was elected to the office of medical superintendent to the Devon County Asylum, and although in resigning that office I lay aside all personal interest in this question of superannuation of the officers of asylums, I beg you to believe that I am incapable of becoming indifferent to the general interests of my old friends and associates.

“Allow me, dear Mr. President, to tender to you and the Association the expression of my sincere regard, and to remain

“Very faithfully yours,

“DR. KIRKMAN,

“President of the Association of Medical Officers
of Asylums, &c. &c.”

“J. C. BUCKNILL.

Dr. Conolly: Mr. President and gentlemen, I suppose it will be the wish of the members present, that they should express to Dr. Bucknill their thanks for his services, and should give a cordial reception to his letter, and the sentiments expressed in it. I have not had the advantage of knowing what the subject of the letter was, but it confirms, I think, what I have endeavoured to express in a short resolution, which I beg leave to submit to the consideration of the meeting. That—

“The members of the Association, sincerely congratulating Dr. Bucknill on his appointment to the important office of Visitor to the Chancery Lunatics, have to express their regret that the responsible duties now devolving upon him are incompatible with his continued superintendence of the ‘Journal of Mental Science;’ and on receiving his resignation of its editorship, beg to offer him a grateful and cordial expression of their appreciation of his valuable services during a period of nine years. They feel assured that Dr. Bucknill will not cease to take an interest in whatever relates to psychological science and its application to medical treatment, and they trust that he may long enjoy his increased opportunities of promoting the welfare and the protection of the insane, and the real interests of the medical profession in relation to insanity, and which they believe to be inseparably connected with the real advantages of the community.”

I beg merely to submit this to the meeting, not to be at all the interpreter of their sentiments. This resolution of course contains my own views, and I beg leave to propose it in that form, or in some similar form, so that the feelings of the meeting be expressed to Dr. Bucknill.

Dr. Hitchman: As one who has long admired the transcendent ability of Dr. Bucknill, the unwearied energy, the great zeal and high moral courage he has shown in conducting the Journal, I beg to second the proposition that has been proposed by Dr. Conolly.

The President put the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

Dr. Robertson: The next subject which we have to bring before the meeting to day is the election of Drs. Bucknill and Hood as honorary members of the Association. It has always been our practice, as in the case of Dr. Gaskill, and in the case of Mr. Wilks, and also in the case of Dr. Browne, when he was elected Commissioner in Scotland, to offer the honorary membership to gentlemen who have been promoted to official positions, the business of which pre-

vents their coming and taking part in the proceedings of the Association. I am sure the Association will feel that we do well to make this offer to Drs. Bucknill and Hood. The other night I was reading one of Shakespeare's plays, and I met with a passage which seemed to me so appropriate to the present occasion that with these lines I shall leave my proposal in your hands :—

“ Who shall go about
To cozen fortune and be honourable
Without the stamp of merit ?
Let none presume to wear undeserved dignity.
Oh, that estates, degrees, and offices,
Were not derived corruptly !
And that clear honour were
Purchased by the merit of the wearer.”

I am sure no clearer honour was ever purchased by the merit of the wearer than in the case of both Dr. Bucknill and Dr. Hood in their recent advancement to the offices which they hold, and which I hope they may long continue to fill. I beg to move that Drs. Bucknill and Hood be elected honorary members of this Association.

Dr. Maudsley : I have great pleasure in seconding the resolution, which must commend itself to the unanimous approbation of every member of the Association. I am sure that we are all heartily glad that the Lord Chancellor has made two such excellent appointments, and we shall be equally glad to see the names of two such distinguished men among our honorary members.

The President put the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

The President : I have now to read to you another letter of resignation which I have received from Dr. Robertson.

“ HAYWARD'S HEATH ; *Sept.* 17.

“ Dear Dr. Kirkman,—I beg to place in your hands the resignation of the office of General Secretary to the Association, which I have now held for seven years. In so doing I would desire to express to the Association my thanks for the consideration with which they have on all occasions received my poor efforts in their service—a service which to me has thus always been a labour of love.

“ Believe me,

“ Sincerely yours,

“ C. L. ROBERTSON.”

The President also read a letter from Mr. Ley, resigning the office of Treasurer.

Dr. Thurnam : With reference to the last letter, I beg to suggest to the meeting that we ought not hastily to receive the resignation of Mr. Ley, for really this is not the ordinary occasion for appointing the officers of the Association. We are summoned to-day for the special purpose of filling offices rendered vacant by the resignation of Dr. Bucknill. I hope we are not going to be called upon

to receive the resignations of all our officers, for I fear if we accept the resignation of the Editor, the Secretary, and Treasurer, the next resignation will be your own as President, and we shall be an un-officered Association. I really hope that Mr. Ley will not press his resignation. I do not see that his case is at all mixed up, or in any way hangs upon, the vacancy which unhappily in many respects we may say is now before us.

The President: I have received six or seven letters from Mr. Ley, some of which I have in my pocket, and he wishes distinctly to have his resignation brought forward to day. We are now only making appointments *pro tem.*; they must be confirmed at the Annual General Meeting. Whatever appointments are made to day will be subject to the confirmation of the Annual Meeting.

Dr. Thurnam: I hope it will not be inconvenient to Mr. Ley to hold his office until our Annual Meeting. The letter which has been read does not imply more than a wish to be relieved.

Dr. Robertson: It is one of a series of letters which he has been writing ever since Dr. Bucknill resigned. He says his work was bound up with Dr. Bucknill's, and he does not wish to continue his duties under a new editor.

Dr. Thurnam: We are hardly in a position to accept his resignation at the present time. The meeting is called for a special purpose, and special duties will only be transacted to-day.

Dr. Robertson: I do not suppose Mr. Ley will press his resignation. I shall be willing to be the interpreter of the feeling of the meeting to Mr. Ley.

Dr. Stewart: I think, Mr. President, it will be altogether out of rule, as my friend Dr. Thurnam has remarked, to accept Mr. Ley's resignation. We are assembled here for the special purpose of appointing those officers who must be appointed, owing to certain changes which have taken place by the promotion of others; but on the present occasion to act upon that letter of Mr. Ley would, I think, with very great respect to him, be entirely going outside our duties; in fact, we have no power to accept it. This meeting is called for a specific purpose, and we certainly have no right to go beyond that object. It would be quite irregular, and independently of that I should be sorry that we should lose the services of Mr. Ley, who has so long held the responsible office of Treasurer, and so satisfactorily discharged his duties. Under any circumstances, I think he might, as Dr. Thurnam has suggested, retain the position in which he has given so much satisfaction, until the regular Annual Meeting of the Association.

Dr. Robertson: I shall be very happy to convey that expression of feeling to Mr. Ley, and I have no doubt he will be satisfied.

Dr. Thurnam: Mr. Chairman, I have been requested, since I came into this room, to propose a gentleman to fill the office of Editor of the Journal for the nine months which remain, until our Annual

Meeting in July next. In doing so, I would make very few observations. It appears to me, as it has been suggested in the letter which you have read, that it is a very important function which this meeting is called upon to perform—the appointment of a successor to Dr. Bucknill, a gentleman who for more than nine years has filled the office of editor with great ability, and to the general satisfaction of the members. I am not here to defend every sentence which has appeared from his editorial pen in that Journal. On many occasions, I could not subscribe to many sentiments which have there appeared; but in the main I am prepared to say that the Journal has been edited with great skill, and very much to the advantage of the members of the Association. Therefore, I am extremely anxious that for the future we should have an equally able and equally discreet editor. Sir, I looked at the rules of the Association yesterday, for I was not able to do so before, having been absent from home for two or three weeks, and it appears to me that this meeting, summoned under your authority, is not competent to elect an officer of this description, who shall be the permanent editor of the Journal. We can only fill up temporarily the office of editor, and finding that Dr. Lockhart Robertson, who for so long a period has filled the office of secretary, is willing to take upon himself the new functions of editor of the Journal, I very much rejoice at it, and I have great pleasure in proposing, that until the next Annual Meeting in July, Dr. Lockhart Robertson be elected editor of 'The Journal of Mental Science.' In electing him, I believe we shall have every guarantee that the functions of editor will be discharged with advantage to the Association.

Dr. Burnett: Mr. President, before the resolution is seconded, allow me to make a remark. I think I have a right to be heard now. Am I correct, sir?

The President: No; the resolution has not been seconded.

Dr. Burnett: But before it is seconded.

The President: No; I think it should be seconded.

Dr. Campbell: Mr. President, I have much pleasure in seconding the nomination of Dr. Robertson. So far as I know that gentleman, I think we cannot do better than appoint him during the next nine months to conduct this Journal, which has been so ably edited before by Dr. Bucknill. I am fully aware of the difficulty of recommending a gentleman to fill Dr. Bucknill's place, but I believe we shall find in Dr. Robertson a gentleman who is thoroughly qualified to discharge the duties of the office with credit to himself, and with advantage to the Association.

Dr. Burnett: Mr. President and gentlemen, I have attended this meeting for the purpose of hearing a discussion upon the election of the new Editor of the Journal, and I hope the subject will be discussed before we separate this afternoon. It is quite unnecessary that I should tell you that the editorship of this Journal, situated

as the editor is in relation to the Society which he undertakes to represent, is one of no trifling importance. I am sure I do not speak invidiously when I tell you that there are very diverse interests represented in this Association. I do not think it is at all an unusual thing, where the interests are so wide apart, to have two or three descriptions of editors—that is to say editors not all selected from one particular class as representing the Association. I can instance an example of that by alluding to the appointment of the Bishop of Jerusalem, which you know is taken alternately by this country and by the kingdom of Prussia. And also in many of our ecclesiastical appointments, the appointment rests sometimes with the Crown, and sometimes with the See. In this case, I think it is a very important thing that the editor of the Journal should be a man not holding exactly the same position with the Association as the editor that went before. About nine years ago, I think it was, when Dr. Bucknill was appointed editor, I made the proposition that he should be the Editor of the Journal,* and I did so because I thought the interests of psychological medicine were going rather too much in one direction, and I thought I should like to see a little restoration of the balance. Now we have had Dr. Bucknill nine years, he has advocated the cause of the Association with much credit to himself, and with great satisfaction to all the members of the Association, but at the same time I do hold that a society like this ought not to be fettered, and that we ought to have a free representation of the interests of all. Without saying anything more, I beg, therefore, to propose that the editor should be elected from one of the proprietors of private asylums; that instead of electing a man who represents the superintendents of county asylums, we should this time elect the proprietor of a private asylum.

Dr. Tuke: It seems to me that Dr. Burnett's proposition is monstrous, that we should select a man from a special class. Our object should be to get the best man in the right place. Therefore, I do not see that we are in any way called upon, or that we ought in any way to commit ourselves to say that the editor of the Journal should be a public man or a private man. Let us get the best man we can in the place. Therefore, I think we ought to negative Dr. Burnett's proposition.

The President: Dr. Burnett, have you any one that you would wish to propose as editor?

Dr. Burnett: I do not wish particularly to propose any one member; I did not come here with the design of proposing any particular member, but I did come intending to support that prin-

* [On referring to the minute-book of the Association, we find that at the meeting at Oxford, in 1852, when the establishment of a journal and the election of an Editor were determined upon, Dr. Burnett was not present. Dr. Bucknill's appointment as Editor was proposed by Mr. Ley and seconded by Dr. Thurnam.—Ed.]

ciple which I have now stated, because I believe it to be a sound one. If you recollect, before Dr. Bucknill was appointed, we were very much dependent upon the editor of 'The Psychological Journal,' who was the proprietor of a private asylum, therefore, you see the principle has been acknowledged before. We have acted upon it, and it was in order that it should not be carried all in one direction that I supported Dr. Bucknill, and it was by my resolution that he was elected editor of the Journal. Now, I say we have had a physician of a county asylum as editor, and the time has again recurred when we should select the editor from one of the private asylums. I really do not wish to dictate who should be the editor, but if you ask me to name a member on the spur of the moment, it has occurred to me, in consequence of receiving Dr. Bushnan's circular, that he is a man qualified for the office. He is calculated to advocate the cause of psychological medicine, he is a man who has been accustomed for many years to edit public journals, he has seen and had a good deal of experience in literary matters, and I think he is quite as calculated to uphold the integrity of our society as Dr. Lockhart Robertson himself. I do not see why he should not be elected, nor why he has not, in fact, a higher claim, on account of his previous experience. I should say he is a much superior man to Dr. Robertson, because Dr. Robertson has not had any experience as the editor of a journal.

Dr. Harrington Tuke: Will you allow me to point out to Dr. Burnett that we have already got his *beau ideal*. We have already a gentleman at the head of a journal who is connected with a private asylum, therefore, if there is any question which Dr. Burnett thinks could be properly canvassed in that journal, he could at once apply to that gentleman. I think it is very undesirable, indeed, that we should divide our meeting upon the question of public and private asylums. We ought to avoid as much as possible the question ever arising. We meet here as physicians on the footing of perfect equality, and I would deprecate exceedingly any resolution that would divide us on that point. For myself, I shall vote for Dr. Robertson. I am perfectly sure that that gentleman will deal justly with every member of the profession, whether engaged in the private, as it has been called, or the public practice of it.

Dr. Burnett: I may, perhaps, be permitted to make one remark before anything further is said. I have not divided the meeting, because the principle was acted upon nine years ago. We changed from a proprietor of a private asylum to a physician of a public asylum, therefore it is no division of the meeting. But there is another reason why I should oppose Dr. Robertson's election. It is simply this: I will state it to the whole meeting, and I am quite certain the great body of the meeting will go with me upon it. I do not think it is right for one who has resigned his appointment to

dictate to the meeting who shall be his successor, nor do I think it is a matter for the Council to take into consideration, because we should come here under such circumstances to receive the dictation of the council; we should not be a public body. Under those circumstances I do say everybody has a right to be heard. I do not want to have any personal remarks. With regard to proprietors of asylums, many of them, I believe, to be the greatest men I am acquainted with; at the same time, I do not think it is right that I should be looked upon as wishing to divide the meeting, simply because I wish to ventilate the question, which is of great importance to the whole profession.

Dr. Thurnam: May I be allowed to make one observation? I think some misconception must have arisen on the part of Dr. Burnett. I have been connected with this Association from its earliest institution, some twenty years ago, and I am not aware of any journal or periodical emanating from this Association edited by a gentleman holding office in a private asylum. I do not recollect any such circumstance.

Dr. Burnett: I say we had no journal at all, therefore our interests were advocated by 'The Psychological Journal.'

Dr. Thurnam: You said a change had been made some nine years ago, when Dr. Bucknill was elected, and now was the time to revert to the former precedent. I may have misunderstood Dr. Burnett.

Dr. Burnett: So far it was a change, that instead of our interests being advocated by 'The Psychological Journal,' from that time forth our interests were advocated by our own editor.

Dr. Thurnam: As an Association we were entirely independent of that journal, and had no connection whatsoever with it. It was entirely a private speculation, with which we had no concern. It was in existence then, and is in existence still. I would venture to say, in reference to what Dr. Burnett has said, it appears to me, Mr. Chairman, with submission to you, that it is perfectly competent for any gentleman here to propose any gentleman whatsoever as editor of the Journal. There is not the least feeling in the matter. I am sure I would not have ventured to submit this resolution to you had I supposed I was coming here with the object of dictating to the meeting who should be the editor of the Journal. This meeting is entirely open; but we, as a committee, I imagine, were not out of order in coming prepared with our views on the subject, and in submitting them to the meeting; but that does not at all prevent any other gentleman rising in his place, and proposing any gentleman whatever to fill this office.

The President: It strikes me that it is not simply the editor of the Journal you are so much considering, or the interests of the Association alone, but you are considering an appointment which is connected with the interests, not of the insane of England only, but

of the insane of the civilized world, for I do believe, with reference to our Journal, if I may make use of a quotation, "There is not a speech or language where its voice has not been heard;" and when I remember that Dr. Robertson has been very much associated with our foreign members, I do think he has a powerful claim upon us. I should be sorry to state anything from the vantage-ground of this chair, but I most cordially echo the opinion that Dr. Tuke has advanced, and also Dr. Thurnam.

Dr. Burnett: I beg, as an amendment, to move that Dr. Bushnan be the new editor. If anybody will second that proposition it will set the matter at rest.

The President: It is proposed that Dr. Bushnan be the future editor of the Journal; does any gentleman second that resolution?

Dr. Wood: Perhaps I may be a little out of order in saying anything before this is seconded, but I should like to suggest to Dr. Burnett the expediency of withdrawing his motion before it is seconded. I feel strongly that it is desirable we should have no division here. All our interests are in common, and they will cease to be in common if there is division in the camp. I repudiate the notion of attempting to appoint a man because he belongs to this or that branch of the profession. I think as our friend here, Dr. Tuke, has very well said, we want the best man, come from where he may. I do not think we are quite in a position at the present moment fairly to balance the claims of rival candidates. Therefore I think it is much better, as it is only a provisional appointment, that we should be unanimous in it. We should have the opportunity in the spring, first of seeing what the new editor can do, and then in a more satisfactory manner than I think we can do now, of making a final appointment. The only way in which I think we can meet the difficulty, for I feel it is a difficulty, is, that we should consent to this provisional appointment. We presume it has been proposed by the committee to appoint Dr. Lockhart Robertson provisionally for the next nine months. As that time approaches, we should be able to determine whether Dr. Robertson or doctor anybody else would be the proper person to be put forward. Then I would suggest that the form of election should be something different from canvassing a man's merits before his face. I think by that time we may all become acquainted with the claims of the respective candidates, and let each man who proposes to be a candidate, send a circular round, so that each member of the Association may have the opportunity of forming his own opinion, and then let the voting be by ballot.

Dr. Tuke: I rise to order on this matter. Dr. Wood has risen, and has asked permission to suggest that Dr. Burnett should withdraw his resolution, and now he is making a speech about how we shall conduct the election next year. I am entirely in the hands of the meeting.

Dr. Wood: So am I. I am going to ask Dr. Burnett to withdraw his motion, and I am only saying what I do now as a reason why I think it would be desirable to do so. If my friend thinks I am out of order, as perhaps I may be, I am quite willing to sit down. I have very little more to say, except this,—that I do feel very strongly it is of the greatest possible importance that we should have no division; therefore, on that ground especially, I would ask Dr. Burnett to withdraw his motion.

Dr. Burnett: I should be very sorry, indeed, to be the cause of dividing this meeting, and I only lament that you allowed Dr. Wood to put it upon that ground, because I commenced my observations by saying, “We are all a brotherhood;” and it is to prevent anything open to suspicion—which I am certain has been pretty freely suggested, because it could not have reached my ear unless it had been so—it was to prevent anything of that kind that I proposed to restore the balance, that there should be no cause for division; but, depend upon it, if you persist in always electing an editor from the county asylums, the Society will not always be as united as it is now. I am certain it will not be. It is all very well for men to say at these meetings they hope this and feel that; but, after all, it is acts and not words that we wish to be guided by, and therefore I am very anxious that an understanding should take place at once. I have no ill feeling towards any man; I have no wish to show any ill feeling. Here, especially, I feel I am amongst my brothers, and therefore I should be very sorry to do anything to divide the meeting. I do not think, because I do not withdraw the resolution, that I ought to be represented as standing here to divide the meeting; I do not think that is right. It is a perfectly free and unfettered meeting; and I think the resolution I have proposed ought to be put.

The President: Does any gentleman second Dr. Burnett’s resolution?

The resolution was not seconded, and it consequently fell to the ground.

Dr. Conolly: Gentlemen, I am going to take the liberty of making a few observations upon the general bearing of this matter, and in doing so I rather appeal to you as a very old member of the profession, one gradually retiring from all the active duties of it, and with no ambition and no personal object whatever in what I say. I very deeply regret that there should be even the appearance of division in an assembly of gentlemen, all of whom we know to be engaged in such honorable service, and most of whom we have the happiness of knowing also as men who have shown that they possess high attainments, both intellectually and morally. I trust that if there is any little feeling of this kind, it will be allowed to die away, for you must remember, gentlemen, that there is no section of society, I really believe there is no section of society which labours under more

misapprehension and greater disadvantage than our section—the speciality of attending to the interests of the insane. We really may be said to be people who have no friends (hear, hear). The public are entirely ignorant of all our highest duties, and have no appreciation of them at all. The tendency of almost every legislative movement is to confer some new disadvantage upon us, or to throw some insult or affront upon medical men who are engaged in this department of practice. As for the public in general, we know that they have not any sensible notions upon the subject, and that everything depends upon the exertions of medical men who are connected with it, and upon their temperate representations at all times, or, if I may use the word, their instruction of the public in matters that relate to us. There is one point to which, as there are so many superintendents present, I would take the liberty of alluding. I have often alluded to it before as the great want of our profession, and a great impediment to any progress in it; and that is, a want of schools for clinical instruction in the nature and treatment of mental maladies. Until you have those schools, you will never be able to command men to take positions of great importance—not such as you would sometimes wish could be found. Nor will you give to the study of mental disorders its proper value till you place it in that rank which it ought to take among other departments of medical science. At present it has no place whatever. It is recognised in none of the schools, it is scarcely taught in any of the schools. That is one great and general disadvantage we labour under. I hope, gentlemen, that proper attention will be given to this and other subjects, and among the rest to a much larger intercourse with our foreign brethren, a more intimate knowledge of what is doing by the great minds that are scattered over the different countries of Europe as well as our own, so that we shall have a more general comparison, as it were, of ideas between them, and that many points that are subjects of dispute and prejudice, will be more clearly understood. These and many other important points which I shall not take the liberty of mentioning to you at present, seem to me materially connected with the conduct of our Journal. I think whoever is editor, the Journal must always be considered as the organ of this Association, and I am most anxious that it should be so conducted as to fulfil all these conditions. I therefore do hope that if there is any little feeling of the kind, it will be allowed to subside, and that, at all events for the present, we should concur in the resolution which has been proposed to you.

The President: It remains for me to put the resolution proposed by Dr. Thurnam, seconded by Dr. Campbell, “That Dr. Lockhart Robertson be elected editor of the Journal until the next Annual Meeting.”

The resolution was put, and carried *nem. con.*

Dr. Robertson: Mr. President and gentlemen, I shall willingly

accept the charge of the Journal, as you have proposed, until July. In doing so, however, you will perhaps allow me to slightly refer to some remarks which have been made. Neither the committee, nor Dr. Bucknill, nor myself, put me forward. On the contrary, I most carefully avoided putting myself forward. I intended leaving the question of editor entirely in the hands of this meeting; but it was in consequence of a printed circular sent round to every member that I was forced into action. In that circular one of the members offered himself as editor, and I felt that to remain longer silent would certainly be to forego my just claims upon the appointment. Therefore I wrote to several of my friends. I wrote first to Dr. Bucknill, then to Dr. Wood, Dr. Munro, Dr. Campbell, and Mr. Marshall; and I wrote to Dr. Thurnam and others, stating that I also was desirous to have my claims considered by this meeting. It was in consequence of the appeal that I made to Dr. Bucknill that he wrote this letter to the President. I should have been very unwilling to sit down, leaving the meeting under any false impression that Dr. Bucknill wished to dictate who should be his successor. I am sure that nothing could be farther from his mind. There were many letters exchanged between Dr. Bucknill, Dr. Kirkman, and myself. Our whole wish was to call a general meeting, so that the committee should not appear to interfere in the matter of the Journal. I resigned the secretaryship, because, considering myself a candidate, I thought it was fair that the Association should meet me as one of the members, and not as an office-bearer. I shall very willingly conduct the Journal until July, on the distinct and clear understanding that I have no more claim on the editorship in July than any other member of the Association. I am particularly fortunate in having received from Dr. Maudesley—a name that I am quite sure every gentleman who reads the Journal will appreciate—the promise of his co-operation during this period. The editorship shall remain open till July. I shall edit it, and I have the promise of Dr. Maudesley's assistance until then. I hope that Dr. Wood will so far approve of our efforts as to continue his support to us until that meeting. That, however, is a question for the future to determine. I beg to thank you for this, and for the many other acts of kindness I have always received from the Association.

Dr. Wood: Mr. President, I am sure that what Dr. Bucknill did, in recommending Dr. Robertson as his successor, he did in the interests of the Association; and the very straightforward and manly way in which Dr. Robertson has proposed to act, during the forthcoming nine months, quite removes any doubts in the minds of anybody as to his being the proper person to take charge of the Journal until that time.

The President: Gentlemen, Dr. Robertson's editorship of the

Journal entails another appointment which you must make to-day. You must have a Secretary.

Dr. Hitchman: Mr. President and gentlemen, I have very great pleasure in moving that Dr. Harrington Tuke be solicited to take the office of Secretary of this Association. He is a gentleman whose courtesy and ability are well known to us all. He has taken a most active and lively interest in the success and prosperity of this Association from the very earliest time of its establishment; and I am sure his appointment would be satisfactory to us all.

Dr. Manley: I have very great pleasure in seconding that resolution. It would be a graceful act to Dr. Tuke, as he lost the presidentship a short time ago.

The resolution was put, and carried unanimously.

Dr. Tuke: Mr. President and gentlemen, I very sincerely thank you for the honour you have done me. I would almost rather be secretary than president. I think the office of secretary is one in which a man may be of great use, who has at heart social intercourse and kind feeling between the members. I shall be very happy, as Secretary, to promote that in every possible way. I sincerely trust that as a society we shall all be bound together, and that we shall never on future occasions have amongst us any distinction between "public" or "private" asylums. I sincerely trust that that may be the case, and that when I meet you next year I may be re-elected Secretary.

Dr. Robertson: I believe, gentlemen, the only business remaining to do is to propose a vote of thanks to our Chairman. He has taken very great trouble about this meeting, and had a great deal of anxiety and thought about how we should conduct it. He has come a long journey to attend it; and I beg to propose a vote of thanks to him for his conduct in the chair.

Dr. Millar: I beg to second that proposal.

The motion was carried with acclamation.

The Lunacy Acts Amendment Act, 1862; Paper of Instructions by the Commissioners in Lunacy (September 1st, 1862).

Private Patients.

Sec. 23.—The order must be dated within one month prior to the reception; the person signing the order must himself have seen the patient within one month prior to its date; and a statement of the time and place when the patient was so seen, must be appended to the order. A form of order is subjoined.

[c. 96, s. 4. c. 97, s. 74.]

Sec. 25.—Where possible, every order must contain the name and address of one or more relations of the lunatic, to whom notice of the death of the lunatic must be sent.

Sec. 24.—Besides the persons hitherto prohibited from signing certificates and orders, the following also are now disqualified: