

*Non-Specialist Asylum Appointments.*

The discussion on this subject by the South-Western Divisional Meeting, and the resolution passed, prove that the specialty is alive to the evils that may arise from the appointing of inexperienced medical men to the control of asylums. The danger of such appointments being made does not arise only from the ignorance, personal interests, or parsimony of local authorities, but may come from other branches of our own profession. In "Notes and News," under the heading of "Insanity Law," we quote a recommendation by the *Medical Record* (U.S.A.) that the medical representative on the Lunacy Commission for New York State should be a "neurologist"!

The immediate result of such appointments will be, that the highly qualified medical men who are now filling junior posts will retire from the specialty, and the advance in scientific study and treatment of the insane will be retarded.

The Commissioners in Lunacy must appreciate the importance of such a state of things, and would probably welcome and assist a representation of the evil and injustice involved to the Home Secretary and the Lord Chancellor.

Local authorities will always be liable to be influenced as already suggested, unless they are definitely controlled by superior authority. Appeal to their judgment ensures no permanent conviction. Committees are said to have no conscience, and when triennially elected they certainly have short memory.

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*Colonial Branches.*

The very important and interesting question of the establishment of Colonial branches of this Association will probably come before its members for decision at an early date.

The suggestion arises from the already established nursing examination at the Cape, and from an application for the extension of this to New Zealand.

The enlargement of our work in this manner renders it desirable that some representative of the Association should be appointed in each Colony; and it is probable that the nomination of such a representative would best be arrived at with the assistance of the members of the Association in