

*The Lunacy Bill.*

We are informed that the Parliamentary Committee has already considered what action should be taken in regard to the Pensions question. The Lunacy Bill not having made its appearance at the time of writing, it has not been possible to examine other matters, but there is reason to suppose that the forthcoming Bill will not materially differ from the last edition of its predecessor, except probably in the direction of introducing clauses enabling cases of incipient insanity being dealt with in private houses for a specified time.

As said above, the Committee has not waited for the Bill before setting to work at the Pensions clauses, and it has decided to issue a memorandum on the subject, nearly identical with that which it circulated last year. An important addition has been made in the shape of a comparison between the duties, responsibilities, risks, pay, and certainty of pensions between the asylum service and the constabulary, by which comparison it is conclusively shown that the former is at a disadvantage. The comparison has special value by reason of both asylum officers and the police in each area being engaged, managed, and paid by the same authority, the county or borough council, except in the case of the metropolis. The facts connected with the police are known to all, while the asylum is much withdrawn from public knowledge. It is hoped that when more light is shed, a sense of justice, if it does not prompt, will at least allow of a concession to the equitable claims put forward by the Association on behalf of the staff of county and borough asylums.

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*The Treatment of Incipient Insanity.*

The Lord Chancellor recently received a deputation of the conjoint committee of the British Medical and Medico-Psychological Associations in regard to the provision of legal authority for the treatment of incipient and unconfirmed insanity.

The deputation was introduced by Dr. Farquharson, and Lord Halsbury, by his observations and pertinent questions,