

protested against the metaphysical objections of the inseparable union of functions.

8.—Justification of the term, moral insanity.

9.—The non-recognition of the disease may be disastrous to the patients from legal points of view.

CHEMICAL INVESTIGATION AND DIAGNOSIS.

By Dr. A. WYNTER BLYTH.

1.—The author details the processes of analysis employed in each case.

2.—He gave examples of the quantitative determination of the urine of hypochondriacs and general paralytics.

3.—He next treated of the blood of the insane giving methods and results, &c., &c.

The PRESIDENT announced that the experiments on hypnotism, which had been offered by Dr. Beard, of New York, had been withdrawn.

THE PRESIDENT also stated that he had received a communication from Professor Tamburini, enclosing photographs of his asylum, which, he felt sure, they would receive with thanks.

Dr. BUCKNILL said that he wished to propose a vote of thanks to Dr. Lockhart Robertson, for the admirable manner in which he had discharged the duties of President.

Dr. HACK TUKE having seconded the motion, the vote of thanks to the President was put to the meeting, and carried with acclamation.

Dr. LOCKHART ROBERTSON briefly thanked the meeting for this expression of their thanks, and, after alluding to the valuable support which he had received from the Vice-Presidents, Drs. Crichton Browne and Maudsley, said that he felt sure that the meeting would join with him in thanking the Secretaries, Drs. Savage and Gasquet, for the hard work they had undertaken in promoting the work of this Section, and which had been attended with such satisfactory results (applause).

Dr. MONRO having seconded this, a vote of thanks to the Secretaries was put to the meeting, and carried unanimously.

Dr. SAVAGE said that, on behalf of Dr. Gasquet and himself, he thanked the meeting most heartily for the vote of thanks. They had worked with perfect satisfaction; they had had help all round, and, with such good materials ready to hand, it was no wonder that the meeting had been a success.

"AFTER CARE" ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Meeting of the Association for the "After Care" of poor and friendless female convalescents from Asylums for the Insane, was held, on 7th July, by kind permission of Dr. Andrew Clark, at his house in Cavendish Square.

There were present the Earl of Shaftesbury (in the chair), Dr. Andrew Clark, Dr. Burnet, Dr. Bucknill, Dr. Mickley, Dr. Lockhart Robertson, Dr. T. C. Shaw, W. G. Marshall, Esq., E. Lushington, Esq., Rev. E. Hawkins, F. Simpson, &c.

Among the ladies present were Lady Frederick Cavendish, Lady Brabazon, the Dowager Lady Lyttelton, the Hon. Mrs. Talbot, the Hon. Miss Fremantle, Mrs. Gladstone and Miss Alice Gladstone, Miss Antrobus, Mrs. Andrew Clark and others.

Dr. LOCKHART ROBERTSON proposed that the Earl of Shaftesbury should take the chair.

The Rev. H. HAWKINS, Hon. Secretary of the Association, read the report, containing a summary of the history of the Society, together with a statement of some results of "After Care."

Dr. ROBERTSON observed that the allowance which Visiting Magistrates were empowered to give to convalescent pauper patients conferred valuable assistance—the amount being about ten shillings a week during a limited period.

Dr. BUCKNILL urged the importance of restricting the offices of the Association to such convalescents as were thoroughly recovered, as he considered that *complete* recovery should be a condition of introduction, by the "After Care Society," into domestic employment. He referred to the importance of influencing magistrates to exercise their power of granting convalescent allowances.

E. H. LUSHINGTON, Esq., spoke of the assistance which might be rendered by the Charity Organization Society.

Dr. ANDREW CLARK directed attention to the circumstance of the Association not being a *begging* institution. He said that recovery was, in some cases, a disaster, for want of a convalescent resort. What a sad thing it was, he remarked, under some conditions, to recover! He considered that there should be a medium of communication between this Association and Convalescent Homes.

W. G. MARSHALL, Esq., also addressed the meeting.

The Earl of SHAFTESBURY said that there should not be *separate* Convalescent Homes for mental cases, as the inmates would thereby be prejudiced.

A vote of thanks was given to the CHAIRMAN, who remarked that it was the 53rd year of his association with the subject of lunacy treatment.

It was proposed and carried, "That a Sub-Committee of the Association be appointed to communicate with the Convalescent Committee of the Charity Organization Society, in order to obtain information for carrying out the objects of this meeting; the sub-committee to consist of Mrs. Clifton, Miss Alice Gladstone, Rev. H. Hawkins.

Thanks were offered to Dr. Andrew Clark for his kind reception of the Association, and the meeting then separated.

Correspondence.

THE "OPEN DOOR" SYSTEM.

To the Editors of "THE JOURNAL OF MENTAL SCIENCE."

GENTLEMEN,—In the July number of the Journal there is a communication from Dr. Needham, asking some details as to the mode and results of the open-door system.

At the outset I would recommend a perusal of Dr. Rutherford's annual report for the year 1880, which answers most of the queries put by Dr. Needham. The Commissioners in Lunacy on reporting on this asylum also enter largely into the subject. There is also a communication of great value, and throwing much light on the system, in a recent number of the "Fortnightly Review," from the pen of the Honourable Francis Scott. The reports of the Fife and Kinross Asylum while under the superintendence of Dr. Tuke and afterwards of Dr. Fraser treat specially of the subject, as also the reports of the Lochgilphead Asylum while under the superintendence of Dr. Rutherford.

Concerning asylums devoted to the care of persons in good circumstances, I am unable to speak; but I may be pardoned giving my expe-