

*The Asylum Workers' Association.*

The annual meeting of this Association was held on May 18th, under the presidency of Sir John Batty Tuke. From the Annual Report and the report of the meeting, it appears that the Association, although flourishing financially, shows a considerable falling off in the number of its members. This lack of interest is the more to be regretted at the present time, when the interests of asylum workers are so greatly jeopardised by the Bill for the registration of nurses now before Parliament. Unless the Asylum Workers' Association is numerous and vigorously supported, its protests against the injustice that is threatened to mental nurses will be wanting in weight. This is a vital question, and the members of the Medico-Psychological Association would be doing good work in using their influence to awaken asylum employees to a sense of the importance of their interest in this question of the registration of nurses.

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*The Royal Commission on the care of Idiots and Imbeciles.*

This Commission was appointed last year to consider the existing methods of dealing with mentally defective persons who are not dealt with under the Lunacy Acts. The commission, as originally constituted, strangely enough, contained only one medical person—Dr. Needham—although aided by two K.C.'s.

The medical element in the Commission was subsequently strengthened, and a large proportion of the witnesses have been medical men, including several members of our speciality; we must hope, therefore, that the results of the deliberations of the Commission will show that the medical side of the questions involved has not been neglected.

The original composition of the Commission must not be taken as an indication of a specially low esteem of the medical profession, but as evidence of the general ignorance and contempt of our governing classes for all scientific knowledge and experience.

Verbosity is the popular and especially the parliamentary test of ability. It is not astonishing, therefore, that our royal commissions are conducted on methods of inquiry that are