

Committee, who are by the Act bound to give him a superannuation allowance based on his present salary and emoluments. Dr. Greene, previous to his appointment at Berry Wood, was for upwards of ten years a medical officer in an asylum; since that time he has for nineteen years and a half been Superintendent of Berry Wood Asylum. To the great regret of the Committee, it has now become their duty to consider what should be the amount of the superannuation allowance to be granted to Dr. Greene, on the basis of the scheme settled by the County Council in the year 1890. The Committee have unanimously decided to grant a superannuation allowance of £850 per annum."

Although the County Council were not unanimous in regard to the amount of the pension granted, there were apparently but three dissentients. The very handsome remarks made by those who had long experience of Dr. Greene's services amply compensate for this very small fly in the ointment. We join with the Committee in their expression of cordial thanks and approval on his retiring from public life.

We regret to note from the same report that Dr. S. A. K. Strahan has resigned his position as Assistant Medical Officer, and that his length of service did not entitle him to any retiring allowance. It is to be hoped that Dr. Strahan will continue his work in reference to mental diseases, and that he will not be lost to our specialty.

It should also be recorded that Mr. Mitchell, the head attendant of the same asylum, tendered his resignation after nearly twenty years' service, and was granted a superannuation allowance of £80 per annum.

THE AFTER-CARE ASSOCIATION.

Sir William Broadbent kindly permitted the annual meeting of the After-Care Association to be held at his house on 31st January, and took the chair himself. He made a few introductory remarks. The report was read by the secretary, and Dr. Savage, the Archdeacon of Westminster, Dr. White, and the Rev. E. S. Hilliard respectively moved, seconded, and supported the adoption of the report. The election of the officers and council was proposed by Mr. Deputy White and seconded by Dr. Norman Kerr, and carried unanimously, and the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman and Lady Broadbent, which was proposed by Dr. Rayner and seconded by the Rev. Henry Hawkins, the originator of the Association. Two facts were universally acknowledged by the speakers: one that the year ending December 31st, 1897, has been the most prosperous and useful in the history of the Association; the other that the difficulties in providing employment for convalescents from mental disease are far in excess of those connected with any other form of redemption work. People more willingly employ the criminal discharged from prison than a cured lunatic. The need of the help granted by the Association is intense, and the form of help most beneficial is that which enables the patient to recover his strength in a convalescent home, and then gives him work. As one speaker remarked, "it is enough to drive anyone mad again to be discharged from the asylum, where he has had every comfort, to face the world penniless, dependent on his own exertions, and yet to have the door of so many occupations shut in his face on account of the nature of his recent illness." During the last twelve months 147 cases passed before the council, and the maintenance fund reached £561, a higher sum than it has ever done. The boarding out of convalescents in cottage homes in the country has been carried out with increasing success, and there is need of additional homes for this purpose. Higher rates are now paid per week for each boarder, and this has proved a wise expenditure. The Council has decided to appoint local secretaries, and a number of ladies and gentlemen have signified their willingness to act as such. This will save considerably in postage and working expenses. More convenient offices have been secured in the Church House, and efforts are being

made to make the work of the Association more widely known, and thus secure a larger number of subscribers. During the proceedings Dr. Mocatta promised a donation of £25 if a sum of £1000 was raised by other benefactions. The Rev. H. Hawkins closed the meeting with a sketch of the origin and growth of the Association, mentioning in the course of his remarks that the French society for the same object is far ahead of ours.

INFLUENZA AND ISOLATION.

The epidemic of influenza raises a question of vital importance. Is it possible by isolation to save the risk of infection? It seems to us that the Collective Investigation Committee might obtain an authoritative answer. The recrudescence of this plague year after year has opened a wide field of experience, and still opinion seems to be contradictory and chaotic. Isolated papers and letters, records in asylum case-books, and annual reports should be analysed and brought into focus.

FATIGUE IN SCHOOLS.

Mosso has pointed out that the fatigue curve was characteristic for each person, and that the amount of work done by a muscle could be expressed in terms of work as kilogrammetres; he showed, too, that mental fatigue, in so far as it affected the general nutrition of the body, could also be estimated in kilogrammetres. Acting on this suggestion, Dr. Kemsies has lately employed the ergograph systematically for a year in two large schools in Berlin. Curves were taken before and after lessons, and the particular lesson was noted. The general result of these experiments was that the pupils showed greatest fatigue after gymnastics. With regard to mental exercises, mathematics headed the list; then came foreign languages, religion, and history; natural history showed least fatigue. A specimen of a day's experiments is as follows:—After nine hours' sleep, 5657 kilogrammetres; after one hour lecture, afternoon, 4086 kilogrammetres; after walk and bath, 5282 kilogrammetres; after evening lesson, 4094 kilogrammetres. The fatigue passes off again after two hours from its commencement if the lesson has been changed.

MESCAL.

Mr. Havelock Ellis has, in the *Contemporary Review*, lately recorded the effects of mescal (*Anhalonium Lewinii*) upon two poets, an artist and himself, as Dr. Weir Mitchell did so fully in the *British Medical Journal* of December, 1896. The colour sense in the insane is not infrequently affected painfully or agreeably. It is common to hear complaints that everything looks black or grey in melancholia, and sometimes red is predominant in the ideas and conversation. We are not aware that mescal has been given in these conditions.

WANDERING LUNATICS.

The city coroner of Liverpool, Mr. Sampson, has lately drawn attention to the fact that there is no suitable provision for dealing with persons suffering from the milder forms of mental aberration, and who, while they show no definite marks of insanity, are unable to give any satisfactory account of themselves, and are clearly in a condition in which insane impulses might at any time arise with grave danger either to themselves or to others. Such persons are frequently found by the police wandering at large, and are then conveyed to the bridewell and examined by a medical man. If they are found to be unable to take care of themselves, and yet the medical man does not feel justified in certifying then and there that they are insane, it is manifest that, in the interests both of the sufferers themselves and of the public, they should be retained in some suitable