

Dr. Buchanan, our Divisional Secretary, for the painstaking and onerous duties he has performed so well for these meetings. He has attended to all the details, and it is only those who have been officials of this Association who know the amount of detailed work that has to be attended to to make a meeting of this kind a success. I hope all of you leave with pleasant recollections of this Annual Meeting; at any rate, we have done our best to make it pleasant, agreeable and instructive for you. (Applause.)

Sir FREDERICK MOTT: I have very great pleasure in seconding the vote of thanks, and I should like at the same time to express my gratitude, and in expressing my gratitude I feel I am expressing the gratitude of the whole psychological profession for the extreme kindness, hospitality and cordiality with which the Association has been received in Edinburgh, which is greatly owing to our President, Prof. Robertson. I am sure we are all very grateful to him for the admirable manner in which the meetings have been conducted, and the way in which we have been received in Edinburgh. But it is not new to me to come to Edinburgh to be well received. I have had that pleasure on several occasions before, and I am sure we are all very grateful to the whole of the Faculty for the way in which we have been received here. I have very much pleasure in seconding the vote of thanks to Dr. Buchanan, under whom the arrangements have been so admirably carried out. (Applause.)

The PRESIDENT: In thanking you on behalf of Dr. Buchanan and myself for your vote of thanks, I would just conclude by saying I was very pleased to see what an excellent photograph has been taken yesterday, and I would like the authority of the Association to present in its name a copy of this photograph to Sir Arthur and Lady Rose, who were our kind hosts yesterday, and I also think that a copy might be presented by this Association to the General Board of Control in Scotland for their kindness in giving us the use of their offices for our Council and Committee. (Applause.)

This concluded the Annual Meeting held at Edinburgh in 1922, and likely to be memorable in the annals of the Association.

EXCURSIONS.

The report of the Annual Meeting would be incomplete without reference to a number of delightful motor trips to places of interest in and around Edinburgh arranged especially for ladies accompanying members by the Ladies' Committee. They included a tour through the Scott country, calling at Melrose Abbey and Abbotsford, a visit to Linlithgow Palace with tea at Champfleurie by the kind invitation of Sir James and Lady Adam and a visit to Bangour Village Hospital, where Mrs. Keay dispensed hospitality.

To Lady Wallace and the Ladies' Committee not a little of the general success of the Annual Meeting was due, and for their kindly co-operation the Association is grateful.

[Members who have not already ordered copies of the photograph of the group taken in the New University Quadrangle can do so from Mr. John Moffat, 125a, Princes Street, Edinburgh. Price 4s. 6d., including printed list of names.—EDS.]

PARLIAMENTARY NEWS.

August 2nd, 1922: *Asylum patients' claim to discharge*.—Mr. ROBERT RICHARDSON asked the Minister of Health if he was aware that two Ex-service men—J. Wickenden at Long Grove and C. S. Norris at Banstead—were being detained in these two asylums respectively, while their parents in each instance were exceedingly desirous to undertake complete responsibility in regard to them and to give them comfortable homes and every care; that the wife of each, for reasons of their own, refused their release; that the wives' refusal was backed up by the medical official of the Pensions Ministry, who had decided that they must remain where they were and continue to be treated as lunatics on pain of loss of dependents' allowance; that the Board of Control had referred the case of these two private patients to the visiting committee, which had by the Act no power over the discharge of private patients; that the attempt to bar their discharge was inoperative, since the medical superintendent had failed to prove (in accordance with Section 74 of the Lunacy Act) that they were dangerous and unfit to be at

large; that the delegation of powers of intervention to the Pensions Ministry was contrary to the provisions of the Lunacy Act; that, in the case of C. S. Norris, the decision of two independent doctors under Section 49 had been overridden by illegal reference of his case to a visiting committee, whose function was restricted to dealing with paupers; and, in view of the indignity thus perpetrated on Ex-service men, would he take steps to see that they were not any longer deprived of liberty, and that they were indemnified for the injury done them by a lump sum to enable them upon immediate discharge to find their way back to a self-supporting position in life.—Sir ALFRED MOND replied: I am fully acquainted with the facts of these two cases. The Ministry of Pensions are empowered to pay an allowance to the wives while the husbands are detained under institutional care. But if the patients are discharged contrary to medical advice, that allowance would cease. The visiting committee has power in regard to the discharge of all patients whether private or public by virtue of Section 77 of the Lunacy Act, 1890; there has been no occasion for the issue of a certificate under Section 74 of the Act, because no application for the discharge of the patients has been made by the person entitled to do so under Section 72 (2) of the Act. The recommendation of one of the doctors who examined the patient Norris under Section 49 of the Lunacy Act was that he should be given leave of absence on trial. This was properly referred to the visiting committee, in whom rests the power to permit such leave of absence under Section 55 of the Act. I cannot concur in the view that any indignity has been perpetrated on these Ex-service men, and the hon. Member is in error in regard to his interpretation of the legal points. I am satisfied that the patients are, at present, properly detained, but their cases will be kept under careful observation.

August 4th, 1922: Women Members of Asylum Committees.—Sir ROBERT NEWMAN asked the Lord Privy Seal whether, in view of the fact that there were over 30,000 women patients of unsound mind in borough and county mental hospitals which had no women members of the visiting committees of those asylums, the Government would consider the advisability of granting facilities during the Autumn Session or the passing of the Lunacy (Visiting Committees) Bill, or, that the Government would themselves undertake to pass a measure of their own having the same object in view.—Mr. CHAMBERLAIN replied: The Ministry of Health is preparing a Bill which will deal, amongst other things, with the subject referred to in the question.

INCIPIENT INSANITY: PROPOSED GOVERNMENT BILL.

It is understood that Sir Alfred Mond, as responsible for the Board of Control, has under consideration the draft of a Bill to enable persons suffering from incipient mental disease to be treated in public or private mental hospitals without certification. As the result of some informal conferences, the Minister hopes that something like an agreed measure may be presented and in such short compass as to secure prompt passage. The proposal follows upon a pledge given by the inclusion of a clause to deal with this matter in the ill-fated Miscellaneous Bill which Dr. Addison submitted in September, 1920. All the various provisions of that Bill had to be sacrificed, but the importance of this subject has grown rather than diminished in the interval. It remains to be seen exactly what is contemplated. Broadly, the idea is that while the rich have resources available for curative care and attention, the poor have not, and that to afford facilities should prove economical in the long run, while avoiding for many the stigma of insanity and so inviting a freer use of existing facilities for treatment. It is pointed out that 35 per cent. of the certified patients in asylums are discharged in the course of time as recovered, and this is held to encourage the institution of methods for dealing with such trouble at an early stage if the patient is willing to take advantage of the opportunity. If the project meets with support county councils might, under improved financial conditions, be willing to provide separate homes or annexes for such sufferers.—(*British Medical Journal*, July 1st, 1922.)

EDUCATIONAL NOTES.

London County Council.—The Maudsley Hospital.—Lectures and practical courses of instruction for a Diploma of Psychological Medicine, fifth course, 1922-1923.