

THE MENTAL AFTER-CARE ASSOCIATION.

THE Annual Meeting of the Mental After-Care Association was held at the Clothworkers' Hall on Wednesday, March 18, at 3 p.m., the President, Sir Charles Wakefield, presiding.

The speakers included Sir Frederick Willis, Chairman of the Board of Control, Dr. Wolseley Lewis, Medical Superintendent of Maidstone Mental Hospital, and Lionel Faudel Phillips, Esq., Hon. Treasurer of Bridewell and Bethlem Royal Hospitals, and various members of the Council. There was a large attendance, and much interest evinced in the proceedings.

Sir CHARLES WAKEFIELD said there was no doubt that poor-law and local authorities generally were coming to realize that the services the Association could offer to patients discharged from mental hospitals had the particular value that such bodies were quick to appreciate—that they could save them money. That recognition was taking the form of increased subscriptions from local authorities, but it was a matter for regret that there had been a decline in subscriptions and donations from private sources. He felt sure that that was only a temporary condition, for it needed very little prompting to make kindly people realize the distress and uncertainty of those who were on the threshold of daily life again after a period of mental confusion.

Dr. HENRY RAYNER moved the adoption of the annual report, and referred to the increase in the number of patients assisted by the Association, amounting to no less than 13 *per cent.*, and added that the success in dealing with those cases had been correspondingly increased. The unsatisfactory feature of the work was that while subscriptions had fallen off, there had been an excess of expenditure over receipts amounting in the past year to over £1,000. The Association was thus again threatened with an encroachment into its reserves, but against that gloomy outlook it was encouraging to have received from Sir Charles Wakefield a donation of £500 as the nucleus of a fund which would enable the Association to carry on what was a unique public service. (Cheers.) This was further supplemented by £10 from the Clothworkers' Company and £10 from Mr. L. H. Bolton, and a promise of £10 from Mr. L. G. Foster. Thus, however gloomy the report might appear to be, they felt confident that with Sir Charles Wakefield as President and the Prince of Wales as Patron, the future of the Association was assured.

Sir FREDERICK WILLIS seconded, and said it was recognized that the sort of work they were doing could not be done by official bodies, but he could not help feeling that they were only touching the fringe of the question. He thought that each county should have a local branch affiliated to the central London body, in order that mental cases throughout the country might have the advantage of the efficient care of that organization.

The report was adopted.

Sir MAURICE CRAIG, Hon. Treasurer, submitted the balance-sheet. He regretted the dwindling subscriptions, and said year by year they were seriously encroaching upon their capital, and were living to a great extent upon the generosity of benefactors of former years. In 1923 the expenditure exceeded the income by £803, and in 1924 the excess amounted to £1,163. That deficit would, of course, be considerably reduced by the generosity of their President. He thought the Association was too silent about what it was doing. The time had come when they should do something to show the public what the society had done for them during the last forty-five years, and get some recognition from them. One-third of the total receipts last year were contributions from patients and their friends, which in itself is a wonderful tribute to the way in which the work is appreciated by those for whom it is intended.

Mr. LIONEL FAUDEL PHILLIPS, Treasurer of Bethlem and Bridewell Royal Hospitals, in seconding, advocated steps being taken to make the Association better known. The root of their trouble, however, went much deeper than that. Every illness known in this country commanded universal public sympathy—be it cancer, phthisis, or any kind of disease, save the one with which the Association dealt. The trouble was that their poor unhappy mentally sick were not appreciated and did not enjoy the sympathies of the great British public, and the only way to rouse such was by advertising in every possible way what the Association was doing. It was of good augury that the Prince of Wales had consented to become their Patron. The Royal Family were models of every-

thing charitable and good in this country, and the British public was still loyal and wise enough to appreciate the noble efforts every member of the Royal House exerted on behalf of illness and misfortune. He ventured to hope that the fact that the Prince of Wales had become their Patron would induce the public to look more kindly upon the work of the Association and to follow the lead his Royal Highness had given.

The accounts were adopted.

Dr. WOLSELEY LEWIS, in moving the re-election of officers, spoke of the untiring work of Miss Vickers, the Secretary, and the other members of the staff. He pointed out that the extension of the work with regard to the arrangements for visiting the homes of patients before discharge and reporting to the medical superintendents and keeping in touch after discharge was to his mind an enormous help to the medical superintendents and visiting committees, and enabled many patients to be discharged more quickly.

Dr. PERCY SMITH seconded, and also paid a tribute to Miss Vickers and her assistants.

A very hearty vote of thanks, on the motion of Mr. Faudel Phillips, was accorded to Sir Charles Wakefield for presiding and for his munificent gift, also to the Clothworkers for their hospitality in entertaining the large number present.

EDUCATIONAL NOTES.

London County Council.—The Maudsley Hospital, Denmark Hill, S.E. 5 (University of London).—Lectures and Practical Courses of Instruction for a Diploma of Psychological Medicine: VIIIth Course, 1925. Part II will commence on April 1.

(1) Eight lectures on the Psychoneuroses. By Bernard Hart, M.D., M.R.C.P. On Mondays at 3.30 p.m. and 5.30 p.m., commencing May 4, 1925.

(2) Eight lectures on Morbid Psychology. By Edward Mapother, M.D., M.R.C.P., F.R.C.S. On Tuesdays at 2.30 p.m. and 4.30 p.m., commencing April 7, 1925.

(3) Six lectures on the Pathology of Mental Diseases, including Brain Syphilis, its Symptomatology and Treatment. By Sir Frederick Mott, K.B.E., LL.D., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S. On Tuesdays at 4.30 p.m., commencing May 5, 1925.

(4) Eight lectures on the Practical Aspect of Mental Deficiency. By F. O. Shruballs, M.D., F.R.C.P. On Wednesdays at 2.30 p.m., commencing April 1, 1925.

(5) Six demonstrations in Clinical Psychiatry. By Edward Mapother, M.D., M.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., Maudsley Hospital. On Wednesdays, at 2.30 p.m., commencing May 6, 1925.

(6) Twelve Clinical Demonstrations in Neurology. By Sir Frederick Mott, K.B.E., LL.D., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S., and F. L. Golla, F.R.C.P. The first 5 Demonstrations will be given by Dr. Golla at the Hospital for Paralysis and Epilepsy, Maida Vale, on Thursdays at 2.30 p.m., commencing April 2, 1925. An announcement will be made later regarding the remaining Demonstrations to be given by Sir Frederick Mott, at the Camberwell Infirmary.

(7) Six lectures on Crime and Insanity. By W. C. Sullivan, M.D. On Wednesdays at 4.30 p.m., commencing at the end of May. Date to be announced later.

(8) Lectures on the Legal Relationships of Insanity and Treatment. By C. Hubert Bond, D.Sc., M.D., F.R.C.P. On dates to be announced later.

In addition to the special lectures and demonstrations of the above course, there is opportunity for clinical experience and instruction available at the Hospital. In particular there are a limited number of appointments available as clinical assistants; service in this capacity (either whole-time or part-time) is recognized by the various examining bodies as constituting the clinical experience required by the regulations for the Diploma.

Fees: For whole of Part II, £10 10s.; for a single series of Lectures, £2 2s.

Inquiries as to Lectures, etc., should be addressed to "The Director of the Pathological Laboratory," Maudsley Hospital, Denmark Hill, London, S.E. 5.

The Fellowship of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, W. 1, will collect fees from, and issue admission tickets to, medical men intending to take the course who are introduced by the Fellowship.