

Dr. Stas.—In taking this chair, perhaps my first and most pleasing duty should be to express, what I am sure is the cordial and unanimous feeling of all present, our sense of gratitude to Dr. Kirkman, for the very able manner in which he has fulfilled the duties of President during the past year. I am sure we all feel deeply the honour of being presided over by the father of our profession. I have been requested by the Committee to reserve my address until the private business of the meeting has been proceeded with. The Secretary will now read the minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been confirmed, the Treasurer's balance-sheet was read by Dr. Kirkman.

The following letter was read from Mr. Ley, the Treasurer, on resigning his office.

To the President of the Association of Medical Officers of Hospitals and Asylums for the Insane.

LITTLEMORE;
July 8th, 1863.

Dear Sir,—I am sorry that I am unable to attend the meeting of the Association appointed to be held on the 9th instant, and I must beg of you to express to the members present my regret at being absent.

The uncertain state of my health has obliged me to abstain from attending former meetings, and to request that, at this ensuing meeting of the Association, some other member shall be elected to fill the office of Treasurer.

The success of the Association, and the ready attention paid by its many members to its support and interests, reward its office-holders for the little exertion they are called on to make.

I return my acknowledgment and thanks for the share awarded me.

Notwithstanding the considerable increase in the outlay on the Journal, as announced at the last annual meeting by Dr. Bucknill, who was then Editor, it will be observed, with satisfaction, that the balance of this year holds good comparison with its predecessor; that it is less may be attributed to the greater expense of our extra meeting. With best regards to our associates present,

I remain, dear Sir,
Faithfully yours,
WILLIAM LEY.

The Treasurer's report was read by Dr. W. Kirkman.

Balance Sheet for the Year 1862-3,
Presented by the Treasurer, at the Annual Meeting of the Society, held July 9th, 1863.

RECEIPTS.	£. s. d.	EXPENDITURE.	£. s. d.
By Balance per Report of 1861-2—		By Annual Meeting in July, 1862	12 14 0
of Treasurer	76 0 10	Special General Meeting, September, 1862	9 18 3
of General Secretary	6 11 9	Editorial expenses of one year	34 9 6
of Secretary for Scotland	11 4 6	Printing and publishing of Journal	140 8 9
Total	93 17 1	Sundries of—	
By Subscriptions paid—		The Treasurer	1 0 0
to Treasurer	119 18 4	The General Secretary	0 0 0
to General Secretary	34 12 0	Secretary of Ireland	0 0 0
to Secretary for Ireland	26 5 0	Secretary for Scotland	0 3 3
to Secretary for Scotland	16 16 0	Total	198 13 9
Total	292 13 0	Balance of Treasurer	£. s. d. 60 3 8
Examined and found correct.	291 8 5	of General Secretary	6 6 0
WM. P. KIRKMAN, Auditor.		of Secretary for Ireland	66 9 8
		Total	26 5 0
		Total	£291 8 5

Notes, News, Correspondence, &c.

WM. LEY, Treasurer.

WM. P. KIRKMAN, Auditor.

Dr. Kirkman.—I beg to propose a vote of thanks to Mr. Ley for the services he has rendered to the Association for so lengthened a period. Those services have been very energetic and very effectual, and I am sure we shall unanimously tender our thanks to him.

Dr. Robertson seconded and *Dr. Tuke* supported the motion, and bore testimony to the efficient and orderly manner in which the office of Treasurer had been filled by Mr. Ley.

The motion passed unanimously.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT FOR THE NEXT YEAR.

Dr. Tuke stated that the Committee, after due deliberation, had decided to recommend Dr. Henry Monro to fill the office of President elect for the next year, with the conviction that the name of no member of the Association in London would be more acceptable as President for 1864. A resolution would be brought forward to alter the mode of election; but the feeling of the Committee was strongly in favour of retaining the present system, and it was of the highest importance that no dissension should be introduced into the hitherto pleasant and genial meetings of the Association. The Committee were further of opinion that the next place of meeting should be London. *Dr. Tuke* then formally proposed *Dr. Monro* as President elect.

Dr. Conolly seconded the proposal of the Committee, and said it would be, no doubt, to the advantage of the Association to have so highly respected and valuable a member elected as President for the ensuing year.

Dr. Monro.—There is nothing I should desire more than the honour of being elected President of the Association, were it not that I really feel that it is for the interests of the Association that some one else should fill that office. But if you continue to wish to have me as President after what I have said, I beg to say that I shall esteem the honour which you confer upon me. My reasons against wishing to be President are these:—first, I feel that I have not worked at the Association; and then I feel that any one who holds the office of President of such an Association as this ought to be a man of business, which I am very much afraid I am not. I also feel that I should have to preside here, and sit in authority over a number of gentlemen much older than myself. But there is another reason which presses upon me, and which is certainly adverse to my acceptance of the office. I believe that this Association peculiarly wants what *Dr. Kirkman* has spoken of—union. The great disadvantage of the medical profession at large is, that we are all of us working singly. Lawyers say—“We hold a higher position, because we meet in court, and have many opportunities of acting together.” Medical men, on the contrary, are engaged in their separate work, and a good deal of that work is a rivalry of each other. Now, we have in this Association representatives of private asylum and county asylum practice, and I think that both those classes of gentlemen are in many respects unfit to hold the office of President. Those gentlemen who are connected with private practice in London are unfortunately even more like rivals than the ordinary run of physicians. Now, I want to have some one elected President whose position is such that he cannot be a rival of any one. Gentlemen connected with counties live too far off; they are, it is true, free from those charges which are constantly brought against gentlemen who keep private asylums in London; but residing, as they do, in different parts of the country at a distance from London, I do not think that they are exactly the persons to be elected to fill the office of President of the Association; I therefore put myself out of court, and all my friends, but I have something to propose

which I hope will set me right with you all. I want a gentleman to be elected President of the Association whom we shall choose year by year. This is a radical change, I grant, but this is the only opportunity I have of making such a proposition. The future Presidentship is offered to me; I accept it on one ground—that I may be able to decline it, if you will receive my proposal. If some one else had been proposed, it would have been an unkindness in me to make such a suggestion; but as I am proposed, an opportunity is afforded me of bringing forward what I believe to be a most important change in the Association. I want to see at our head a gentleman whose character is high, whose experience is great, and who, on account of his position, cannot be esteemed the rival of any one. I do not want to go out of our own body to choose a great man who may be connected with lunacy, or may be in the habit of sitting over us as a judge in other matters; but I want some one who has our sympathies, who is connected with our work, and to whom we can always appeal in cases of emergency. I believe he ought to be a gentleman resident in London, and one who could have the assistance of a small body of the most active men of the Association. If the proposal I am about to make should be accepted, I shall be happy to be one of that small body, if I am thought a fit person to be so. I want to have a permanent President, but elected yearly, with the power of refusal on the part of the members, as in the case of the College of Physicians: we elect a President every year, but we are wise enough to elect the same man, and we have been wise enough of late to elect the best man. At the College of Surgeons a different system prevails; and I do not desire to say anything disrespectful of that body, but I believe the best plan is that which the College of Physicians has adopted. The President ought to be a man of high and honorable position, one who, while he retains that position, should fill the office permanently, and bring to bear the weight of his character upon the Association; he should not only be a man of keen intellect and of a good heart, but a man of weight and influence, and who will be accepted by the country as a good and fitting representative of the treatment of insanity. We have derived great advantage from the Presidents whom we have elected from time to time; we have suffered a great loss in Dr. Bucknill; he was the mainspring of the Association while he was connected with it. We have had great gain in our kind friends Dr. Tuke and Dr. Robertson, and we shall all be rejoiced to act with them in any way; but my idea is, that we want a head. I shall be happy to hear this question discussed amongst you on the present occasion. We want a man of the character I have described, and a man of high European position; and I need hardly say there is but one man whom we could look upon as holding that position, and I want that man to be the permanent President of the Association. I dare say he has a great deal to worry his mind already, and that he would be disposed to refuse the office; but I am sure if he will accept it, it would be the greatest gain to the Association. I need hardly say that the gentleman to whom I refer is Dr. Conolly. (Applause.) Another objection I should entertain to filling the office of President, is my unwillingness to read, according to custom, a formal discourse from the chair, which I am sure I could not do so well as I could express my feelings to you in this way. I want to have the honour which my friends Dr. Conolly, Dr. Sutherland, Dr. Bucknill, and others, have had before me, but I want very much more to promote the honour and dignity of this Association.

Dr. Tuke said that Dr. Monro appeared to be in error as to the rule in reference to the election of President. There was nothing to prevent any other gentleman being nominated; and if it was thought conducive to the interests of the Association that the office of President should be perpetual, the same gentleman could be re-elected every year; there was nothing in

the rules necessarily requiring a change. It had been the custom to elect a new President, and it was found to be of great advantage in bringing members together from different parts of the country. Some of their most eloquent addresses and best *résumés* of the state of mental science ever delivered in England had been given by the successive Presidents of the Association.

Dr. Conolly.—I think the question before the meeting is, whether the members should do themselves the honour of electing Dr. Monro as the President for next year. To that I think there can be no objection; but with regard to the other point, it will require very grave consideration. As far as I am personally concerned, I can assure you that I was perfectly unprepared for anything of the kind. I am entirely without any ambition of the sort; and at the first blush, I cannot see anything in the proposal to recommend it to you. I feel myself very much the gradual advance of years. I have generally been considered, and have really been, an active and laborious man; but I begin to find that I am growing idle. I have not that alacrity either in public or private matters that I formerly, perhaps, to a certain degree, possessed. I should, therefore, consider that I was placing myself in an improper situation, and in too prominent a one, at my time of life, if I were to accept such an office. At the same time it is impossible for me to express too strongly the honour that I feel has been done to me by so very respected a member of the particular department of medicine to which my life has been devoted. If, however, any question of the kind should be thought deserving of the serious attention of the Association, apart from any personal consideration with regard to myself, I think a little time must be given for reflection. I am sure that the intervening time cannot be more honorably spent by us than in offering the chair to Dr. Monro when next it becomes vacant.

The resolution for the election of Dr. Monro at the next meeting was then unanimously adopted.

Dr. Monro, in thanking the members, repeated that he was very anxious to see a permanent Presidentship established, and Dr. Conolly as the permanent President. If, however, the old system was continued, he should be truly rejoiced to succeed the honorable men who had been elected on previous occasions, and only hoped that he should be able to do something a little commensurate with the speech he had made.

It was then resolved, on the motion of *Dr. Tuke*, seconded by *Dr. Monro*, that the place of meeting in 1864, should be London.

THE TREASURER.

Dr. Robertson proposed Dr. Paul as Treasurer for the ensuing year.

Dr. Lowe, in the absence of Dr. Campbell, seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

Dr. Paul briefly thanked the members for his appointment.

THE EDITOR OF THE JOURNAL.

Dr. Conolly.—I have the honour to propose that Dr. Robertson be re-appointed Editor of the Journal. There can be no doubt in the minds of the members as to the propriety of requesting Dr. Robertson, if he is so good as to take that laborious office, that he should do so. The Journal, during the last year, has been most excellently conducted, and contains much interesting and valuable information, particularly as regards foreign asylums. It is a publication of extreme importance, as containing the expression of the opinions of the Association; and it depends almost entirely

on the conduct of the Journal whether the Association maintains its high character, and diffuses important knowledge and better views of everything that relates to our department of medicine.

Dr. Monro seconded the proposal, which was unanimously adopted.

Dr. Robertson.—At the last meeting, in September, I gave notice that, in the event of my being re-elected, it was my intention to move that *Dr. Maudsley* be associated with me as joint Editor of the Journal. We have a perfect understanding with regard to the way in which the work will be performed, and I am sure the Association will not suffer by this proposed alteration.

Dr. Wood seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

Dr. Maudsley.—I beg to return my thanks to the Association for electing me Editor in conjunction with *Dr. Robertson*. I shall endeavour to devote the best of my abilities to carrying out the objects of the Journal and of the Association.

THE SECRETARY.

The President proposed that *Dr. Tuke* be requested to continue his valuable services. It was unnecessary to say a single word in support of the proposal, the members being all aware of the zealous and efficient manner in which *Dr. Tuke* had discharged the duties of his office.

Dr. Monro and *Dr. Kirkman* rose to second the resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

Dr. Tuke thanked the members for his re-election.

THE SECRETARIES FOR IRELAND AND SCOTLAND.

Dr. Thurnam proposed that *Dr. Robert Stewart* be requested to continue his services as Secretary for Ireland, and *Dr. Rorie* as Secretary for Scotland.

Dr. Sherlock seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

Dr. H. H. Stewart thanked the Association on behalf of his brother, *Dr. Robert Stewart*.

AUDITORS.

On the motion of *Dr. Robertson*, seconded by *Dr. Paul*, *Dr. Kirkman* was re-elected Auditor, and *Dr. Helps* was also elected to the office.

ALTERATIONS IN THE RULES.

Dr. Tuke brought before the Association a proposal that there should be a quarterly meeting of its members. He said it was desirable that the members should meet oftener than they did at present, for the purpose of discussing questions of interest and reading papers.

Dr. Burnett said that the question could not be considered, as it had not been specifically introduced in the circular sent out to the members.

Dr. Tuke said that notice had been given that certain modifications in the rules would be proposed.

The President thought that such a motion could not be brought forward without specific notice.

Dr. Tuke, in withdrawing his resolution, gave notice that he would bring forward the motion at the next meeting, and would previously specify the exact words of his resolution.

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS.

The following new members were proposed and unanimously elected:

A. Addison, Esq., Royal Asylum, Montrose.
 G. N. Bacon, M.D., Thorpe Asylum, Norwich.
 H. Benbow, Esq., M.R.C.S., Hayes Park, Middlesex.
 H. Bower, M.D., County Asylum, Stafford.
 H. Brown, Esq., Lee, Blackheath, Kent.
 E. Clapton, M.D., Visitor of Lunatics, County of Surrey.
 R. A. Davies, M.D., County Asylum, Stafford.
 W. Daxon, M.D., Richmond Asylum, Ireland.
 J. Dickson, M.D., late Crichton Royal Institution.
 D. J. Howden, M.D., Royal Asylum, Montrose.
 G. Irvine, M.D., County Asylum, Colney Hatch.
 W. L. Lindsay, M.D., Murray Institution, Perth.
 H. Rooke Ley, Esq., Haydock Lodge, Ashton.
 E. Manley, M.B., Prestwich Asylum.
 K. McLeod, M.D., County Asylum, Durham.
 J. C. McIntosh, M.D., District Asylum, Perth.
 J. Sadleir, M.D., Milholme Asylum, Musselburgh.
 J. W. Sheill, Esq., Maryborough Asylum, Ireland.
 R. Spencer, Esq., County Asylum, Kent.
 P. W. Stark, M.D., Liverpool Asylum.
 H. G. Stewart, M.D., Crichton Institution, Dumfries.
 R. Williams, M.D., Bethlehem Hospital.
 R. Wollaston, M.D., Visiting Physician, Coton Hill.

HONORARY MEMBERS.

The following gentlemen were proposed for election as honorary members:

William Lawrence, F.R.S., Surgeon to Bethlehem Hospital.
 Dr. Delasiauve, Editor of the 'Journal de Médecine Mentale,' Physician to the Bicêtre; President of the Société Médico-psychologique of Paris.
 Dr. Girard de Cailleux, Inspector-General of Asylums in the Prefecture of the Department of the Seine.
 Dr. Moreau de Tours, Chief Physician of the Saltpêtrière.
 Dr. Damerow, Physician of the Halle Asylum, Prussia; Chief Editor of the 'Allgemeine Zeitschrift für Psychiatrie.'

Dr. Conolly.—I desire to offer a very few observations upon this subject. I have felt very great interest in the institution making itself known to the members of the profession, particularly of this department, in the various countries of Europe and America. It is well known that foreign physicians generally consider themselves in a state of opposition to the physicians of this country with regard to insanity, and all questions relating to it. Nothing has been so great a cause of dissension and difference of opinion as an entire want of acquaintance with the institutions and physicians of this country. Generally, foreign physicians are unacquainted with the English language, and they go back not at all wiser than they came, entertaining a number of prejudices, and urging numerous objections which have been over and over again refuted. I think it is most important to keep up as far as possible an intercourse with foreign physicians, and to express towards them all the cordiality of feeling that becomes us in our position. I am only sorry that on this list I do not see the names of any of our brethren on the other side of the Atlantic. Although we take no part with the South or the North in their present unhappy struggle, I may truly say that I have not met with more liberal, enlightened, or agreeable persons among our foreign visitors than those who have come from America. I have found them very anxious

for information and desirous of getting at the truth in all important questions; and as far as their publications are concerned, we have certainly no reason whatever to complain of them.

The honorary members proposed were unanimously elected.

REPORTS OF COUNTY ASYLUMS.

The Secretary acknowledged the receipt from Dr. Thurnam of a set of reports from the Wilts County Asylum, and said he should be glad to receive similar donations of complete sets from the officers of other similar institutions for the library of the Association. The best selection of such reports was at the College of Surgeons. The Association, he thought, ought to receive copies of all such reports for preservation and reference.

The President requested the Editors to insert a notice in the Journal to that effect.

SUPERANNUATION ARRANGEMENTS.

Dr. Kirkman proposed—"That a committee be appointed from this Association, with the definite object of obtaining a reversal of the latter portion of the 12th section of the Lunatic Asylums Amendment Act, and to press for legislative sanction to satisfactory superannuation arrangements." The section of the Act to which he referred was as follows:—"Provided that no annuity by way of superannuation, granted by the visitors of any asylum under the provisions of this Act, or of the Lunacy Act, chapter 97, shall be chargeable on or payable out of the rates of any county, until such annuity shall have been confirmed by a resolution of the justices of such county in general or quarter sessions assembled." The concluding proviso he regarded as most cruel, negating the use of the clause altogether. Speaking personally, having been connected with public asylums for thirty years, he could not well be refused a pension, but to secure it it would be necessary that the subject should be discussed at four sessional meetings. He had no doubt that he could command the undivided interest of the whole of his house committee; but objectionable remarks and slurs might be thrown out at the sessional meetings, which would be extremely painful. Any one fitted to be an asylum officer must necessarily possess a sensitive mind, and the harsh remarks occasionally made in magisterial sessions would be likely to wound his feelings. He thought the enactment ought to be compulsory, and the objectionable clause removed. At the present time a beloved member of the Association was suffering from physical injury, and it would be a most unfair thing if a gentleman in his position were subjected to unpleasant remarks about his superannuation allowance.

Dr. Robertson seconded the resolution, and said that, as the section originally stood, the question of superannuation was left to the visitors; but a very active member of the House of Commons succeeded in committee in getting the objectionable rider added, which literally made the preceding portion worthless. Thus, he had no doubt that any reasonable reward for his services in Sussex would be gladly given by the committee of visitors, but he should exceedingly object to be made the subject of discussion at sessional meetings in the two divisions of the county. He had known the most trifling matters, involving the expenditure of £50, made the subject of lengthened discussion there; and if a proposal were made to allow a medical superintendent three or four hundred a year, most painful remarks to the feelings of a gentleman would be made as to his *physique*, his general state of health, whether more work could not be ground out of him, and the like. He had no doubt that great benefit would be derived by the appointment of a small committee to consider the question carefully, and communicate with

the Commissioners and with some members of the House of Commons on the subject.

The following names were suggested:—Dr. Kirkman, Dr. Thurnam, Dr. Sheppard, and Dr. Robertson.

Dr. Thurnam said the matter was one which ought to be approached with some delicacy, and that harm might be done by moving too actively at first. He thought it might be worth while to bring the matter before Parliament in a public way before adopting the course suggested by Dr. Robertson.

The President thought the members might safely leave the mode of proceeding to the discretion of the committee.

Dr. Burnett suggested that a deputation should wait on Lord Shaftesbury upon the subject.

The Secretary read the following letter from Dr. Flynn:

CLONMELL ASYLUM;
August, 1863.

Dear Sir,—Nothing, except a sad bereavement, which I have recently been afflicted with, would have prevented me from being present at the important meeting of our Association, which will take place in a day or two at the College of Physicians.

Permit me, however, through you, to bring under the notice of our English brethren, and through them of the Treasury and Irish Government, the case of medical resident superintendents of district asylums, so far as superannuation is concerned.

Recent legislation has placed us, as may be seen by the annexed correspondence, under "The Civil Service Superannuation Act." This Act gives retiring allowances to us on *sixtieths* of our salary, if over ten years in office. Our salaries are generally £300 per annum. So that a resident medical superintendent of an Irish Government asylum, for *thirty years' service*, will get for continuous responsibility, day and night, about £150 *per annum*, if he live out that terrible period!

A remedy does exist, and your Association, by a slight effort, may obtain it.

By *sec. 4* of "The Civil Service Superannuation Act" the Treasury has it in its power to pass a minute rating us in the professional scale, and thus allowing us twenty years for our professional acquirements in addition to our *actual* period of service. This would give us two thirds after twenty years' service. A word from our talented Irish Secretary, Sir R. Peel, whose kindness, courtesy, and honorable treatment of the resident medical superintendents is beyond my humble power to do justice to, would settle this at once, and it only needs to be pointed out to his clear and frank mind to have it set to rights at the Treasury.

I pray your excuse for thus trespassing on your time, but a little comfort in old age to a hard-working, isolated class, whose salaries are modest and whose duties are heavy, must plead my apology.

I am, dear Sir, yours,

JAMES FLYNN, R.M.S.,
District Lunatic Asylum, Clonmell.

H. TUKE, M.D., 37, Albemarle Street, Piccadilly.

Dr. Duncan said that, not being connected with a district asylum, he could with propriety take the matter up. He thought the Association was bound, as far as possible, to protect the interests of the officers of asylums, and that their Irish brethren were entitled to their sympathies.

It was then resolved to remit Dr. Flynn's letter to the committee appointed on the subject.

MODE OF ELECTION OF PRESIDENT.

Dr. Davey moved the following resolution:—"That with the view of securing to this Association the full benefit of the representative principle, in so far as the annual election of its President and the other office-bearers (the Editors of the Journal excepted) is concerned, the present practice be discontinued, and that voting-papers be supplied to the members present, to be filled in as required." He considered that the present system did not work satisfactorily, and that the representative principle ought to be more fully carried out in the election of President. The manner in which the last proposal of the Committee was received by Dr. Monro himself proved that the present mode of nomination was a bad one; and if it should be continued, he believed that much dissatisfaction would be expressed by members of the Association. The adoption of the plan he proposed would do away with much unpleasantness, and would, he was persuaded, conduce to the welfare of the Society.

Dr. Burnett seconded the motion, and urged the importance of extending the franchise, instead of continuing to be governed by a clique.

Dr. Robertson moved, as an amendment, that the rule for the election of President remain unaltered. He said it was always open to any member to propose any gentleman as President; the Committee merely brought forward the name of some gentleman whom they thought fitted to fill the office, so that there might be some proposal before the members, in order that the business might not come to a dead lock.

Dr. Monro thought that the Committee should still exercise its functions, but that the balloting should always be resorted to in the actual election.

Dr. Wood thought it was the duty of the Committee to suggest the names of those whom they considered eligible, but he was not quite satisfied as to the constitution of the Committee itself. For the purpose of having the representative principle more fully carried out, he should like to see members of the Committee elected annually by the general meeting; he did not think it right that the Committee should be perpetual.

After some further discussion, *Dr. Robertson* withdrew his amendment.

Dr. Thurnam thought that the views of all parties would be met by the addition to the 7th rule of the words "Balloting papers being used in such election," and moved an amendment to that effect.

Dr. Davey thought that the rule so amended would not meet the necessities of the case; that the Committee would still continue to nominate, and that the election of President would still be virtually in their hands.

Dr. Monro seconded the amendment of *Dr. Thurnam*.

Dr. Tuke spoke in favour of the retention of the existing system, and said he thought that the proposed alteration would have the effect of sowing disunion among the members. If it could be shown that any President had been elected who had not filled the office well, he should be willing to have the rule altered; but the system having worked so satisfactorily, he was unwilling to see it changed.

Dr. Duncan thought that the ballot should be employed for the election of the Committee.

Dr. Burnett thought that the Committee ought not to remain longer than a certain period in office, and ought not to have the power of nominating all the officers, which the proposed addition to the rule would confer upon them.

The amendment was then submitted to the meeting in the following form:—"That the words 'That balloting papers being used in such election for the appointment of President' be added to Rule 7."

The amendment was carried by a majority of eleven against three.

Dr. Thurnam moved the appointment of a Committee to consider the expediency of making some alterations in the rules, especially in regard to the appointment of the Committee.

The following names were proposed:—*Dr. Kirkman*, *Dr. Thurnam*, *Dr. Robertson*, *Dr. Sheppard*, and *Dr. Davey*, with power to add to their number.

The motion was seconded by *Dr. Monro*, and unanimously adopted.

The meeting then adjourned.

AFTERNOON MEETING, 2 P.M.

The members assembled at half-past two o'clock.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

The President delivered his address. (See PART I. *Original Articles*:—"The Classification of Insanity," &c. By *DAVID SKAE*, M.D., &c. &c. &c.)

Dr. Wood proposed a vote of thanks to the President for his address.

Dr. Conolly, in seconding the motion, said that he had listened to the address with peculiar interest. His own medical experience had led him to become more and more convinced that in every case of insanity, if they really had the power perfectly to investigate it, it would be found that there was some foundation or origin in bodily malady. The conviction, however, had perhaps only fully reached his own mind at rather too late a period to be of any great advantage to his patients. He was highly gratified to hear the opinions expressed by so active and experienced a member of the profession as the President, and he was sure that the perusal of his paper would stimulate many to more observation, and to reflections that would be serviceable to the public.

PRIVATE ASYLUMS.

Dr. Eastwood read his paper on Private Asylums. (See PART I. *Original Articles*:—"On Private Asylums for the Insane." By *J. W. EASTWOOD*, M.D.)

THE REFORM OF BETHLEHEM HOSPITAL.

Dr. Robertson.—I am sure we have listened with great pleasure to the interesting paper that has just been read. The subject is one that must interest the mind of every member of this Association—the means by which the insane of various classes are to be cared for and accommodated. The insane poor are now well cared for, and that matter may be regarded as very nearly settled. The insane of the upper classes are also year by year better accommodated; but the old grievance remains open with regard to the accommodation provided for the insane of the middle classes. The recent discussions which have taken place, both in the House of Lords and before the court of Bethlehem Hospital, have revived the hope that it may be possible to make a further provision for the insane of the middle classes, by diverting the revenues of that magnificent foundation to their use and aid. Perhaps most of the members of this Association have read the letter which the Commissioners published, and the statements of *Dr. Conolly* appended to their last report, in which the whole question was most touchingly brought forward. This subject being one of such importance, I feel extremely desirous, with your permission, of moving that this Association do at this moment resolve itself into a committee to consider how best the revenues of Bethlehem Hospital

can be applied to the cause of the insane of the middle class, and whether it is not possible to aid the efforts which the Commissioners are now making to induce the governors to pause before they refuse the liberal offer which the governors of St. Thomas's Hospital have made, rather than continue to keep Bethlehem Hospital in its present comparatively useless and unsatisfactory condition, and further to consider whether some expression of opinion, on the part of this Association, forwarded to the Home Secretary and to the Commissioners, might not further the object which those gentlemen have in view.

Dr. Tuke seconded the motion.

Dr. Wood.—Allow me to ask whether this is at all a usual mode of proceeding in an Association like this—to resolve itself into a committee to direct the governors of a public institution what they shall do. It appears to me that we are rather taking too much upon ourselves. We may express opinions, and those opinions may carry some weight; but I think if we take upon ourselves to legislate for a governing body we are travelling out of our province.

Dr. Conolly.—It appears to me that Dr. Robertson's object is only that the Association should in some way or other be led to express an opinion upon a very important subject—a subject of very great interest to the public. It is not a matter between the governors of Bethlehem and their patients, but a matter that concerns the public administration of a charity of very great importance. I think we might, as a large association of gentlemen connected entirely with the subject of insanity, venture to express an opinion, at all events; not by any means to dictate the course to be pursued; and that such opinion might be so expressed to the Commissioners as to have some influence. The usefulness of Bethlehem ought certainly to be very much wider than it is, and its influence upon medical education ought, I may say, to be *created*, for it does not at present exist. There are benefits of the most important character, not only to the interests of medical men connected with insanity, but to the public at large, that should at this moment be pressed upon the attention of the governors in the strongest manner; for if the opportunity now goes by, the state of Bethlehem must continue what it is for another hundred years. I appeal to any gentlemen who receive, as I frequently do, foreign visitors, who come to visit our asylums, and I ask whether such visitors do not go back with all their prejudices confirmed, by seeing that we, in our writings, express certain views and opinions as to the treatment of insane, and that the large public institutions in or near London, to which they are especially and almost exclusively directed, do not present to them the model or example which they were led to expect. I offer these remarks without the slightest disrespect to any one connected with those institutions; but I cannot conceal from myself that they require very great alteration and improvement. I believe that the medical men attached to those institutions—I speak particularly of Bethlehem—are quite incapable of carrying out, in the present building, many improvements that might be suggested by them, in accordance with the present state of psychological and of sanitary science, subjects which now deservedly occupy so much public attention. I am, therefore, very anxious that Dr. Robertson's proposition should be carried into effect, and that the members of the Association should not separate without expressing their views on this great impending public question. If the present opportunity is passed over, it will not recur in the lifetime of any one of us. (Applause.)

Dr. Wood.—I do not at all object to the discussion of this question; on the contrary, I think it a very interesting one, and I am happy that it should have taken place. My objection was to resolving ourselves into a committee for the purpose. I thought that we might approach the discussion without

doing it in such a formal way, as if we thought that we had a right to dictate to the governors.

The President.—It is open to any member to submit a resolution on the subject, without forming ourselves into a committee.

Dr. Robertson.—Then I beg to submit the following resolution:

"That the members of the Association have regarded with especial interest the question of the removal of Bethlehem Hospital to a site more adapted to the present state of psychological and sanitary science, and affording enlarged means of relief to the insane of the middle and educated classes in impoverished circumstances, and that they desire to express their concurrence in the representations already made to the governors of that important institution by the Commissioners in Lunacy."

With reference to this proposal for the removal of Bethlehem Hospital into the country, I desire simply to echo the statement of Lord Shaftesbury in the House of Lords—that Bethlehem Hospital is essentially a public hospital, and its property public property. To pretend that Bethlehem Hospital has lapsed into the private property of the Corporation, and that the public have lost all control over its management, because otherwise they have ceased to control or interest themselves in the corporation, is quite absurd. I therefore start with the distinct statement that the Association considers Bethlehem Hospital to be public property, and the revenues of the hospital to pertain to the public, and to be applied by the legislature, if necessary, for the relief, in the most effectual manner, of the insane who may be the most fitting objects of its bounty. Now, the legislature having provided most liberally for the care of the insane poor, the revenues of Bethlehem Hospital ought to be devoted to the use of the insane of the middle class, and the new Bethlehem be made, as Dr. Conolly suggests, a model middle-class asylum; and it is to the realisation of this plan that the resolution points. As Lord Shaftesbury stated in the House of Lords, Bethlehem Hospital contains about 240 patients, and its income is about £20,000 a year. As his lordship said, there ought at least to be 400 patients, if they are all kept for nothing; and if a small payment were made, which might in most cases be fairly met—say five or six shillings a week—the number might be raised to 600. This of itself would be a reform such as would spread a blessing among a large number of people. The fact is, however, that the governors have 240 persons only under their care, because they cannot get more. The friends of the insane will not send them to Bethlehem, even for nothing. The admissions of *curable cases* at Bethlehem, writes Dr. Webster, have been gradually decreasing. Thus we find that—

		Total admission of curable cases.	
In the three years	previous to the 1st January, 1843	..	896
" " "	" " " " " " " "	1853	.. 898
" " "	" " " " " " " "	1863	.. 520

—being, on the last triennial period, a decrease of 378, or two fifths. One reason, I have little doubt, of this remarkable decrease in the admissions at Bethlehem, while the doors of every other asylum are besieged with applicants, is because the public view with dislike that dismal, dreary prison in the Lambeth marshes. No doubt the very best has been done for the patients by Dr. Hood that could be done; but, with all his skill, the place is dreary, desolate, dismal, and unsuitable for the treatment of recent insane cases. I knew Bethlehem Hospital well under the old *régime* of the visiting physicians, and have repeatedly visited it when under Dr. Hood's able superintendence; and I am both a competent and willing witness of the marvellous improvements which he introduced into every department of the

hospital. Still the fact remains, that when people leave Bethlehem and go to the county asylums, with their pleasant grounds and fresh air, they see that the pauper lunatic is better off, and they actually come and try to get their friends in as paupers there, rather than send them to Bethlehem. In the case of every county asylum in England there is a constant fight to strike off the parish lists persons who are desirous of making their friends paupers, in order to get the benefit of a high class of treatment, for which they are ready to pay 10s. a week, rather than receive it free at Bethlehem. I think this is a fact that the governors have to look to, and which hitherto they have not looked at. With regard to the offer made to them, they actually tell the public that £150,000 would not build another Bethlehem! I am prepared to build another for £100,000, and to put the £50,000 into their pocket. Lord Shaftesbury said he would build another, and put £10,000 into their pocket. The average of county asylums, containing 400 or 500 patients, have been built, and about 100 acres of land obtained, considerably under £100,000. In the treatment of the insane of the middle classes, you do not want expensive houses, with drawing-rooms and the accommodation offered to private patients. What you want is good, honest hospital accommodation. You want a common day-room and common bed-rooms, and the whole system of our county asylums, with a little better furniture and a few more ornaments, such as are required by people of the middle class and professional persons. I am prepared to say that that offer of £150,000 for Bethlehem was abundant; and the liberality of that offer is another point upon which I wish the Association to express an opinion. You are aware that the governors of Bethlehem, in their wisdom, had a scheme for building a grand Bethlehem, at the cost of the governors of St. Thomas's Hospital, who were to build it to their satisfaction. Of course it was perfectly impossible for any hospital to listen to such a proposal. As the recent events are so thoroughly in the memory of the Association, it would be superfluous for me to repeat them, and I shall now content myself with moving the resolution which I have laid on the table.

Dr. Sherlock.—I presume that Dr. Robertson, in bringing forward this resolution, wishes that it should carry as much weight with it as possible; but if it is proposed in an aggressive spirit, coupled with the remarks which he has made, I am afraid his object will not be secured. I would suggest that if our opinions are to have any weight, they should be without drawing any invidious comparisons. We only wish the hospital to be removed from a position where we think it is not calculated to afford the benefit and relief for the insane which it was intended to do.

The President.—There is nothing conveying any reflection on the management in Dr. Robertson's resolution, whatever that gentleman may have said in his speech.

Dr. Conolly seconded the resolution.

Dr. Wood.—I should like to make a few remarks before this resolution is put. I have no particular interest in Bethlehem, although I know something about it, and am, perhaps, as competent as most people to speak of its actual condition. I must say it strikes me as a most unfair proceeding for persons who have a particular view of things to come forward and so exaggerate or misstate their case as altogether to mislead as to the facts. When any one tells me that Bethlehem is regarded by the public as a gloomy, dreary, desolate place in Lambeth marshes, I say that that is so calculated to mislead that, if other people say the same, I do not wonder that the hospital has but few patients. But what is the truth? Not that the position of Bethlehem, not that its condition or its management, is all that we could desire; though perhaps, as regards position, something might be said in its favour. When I was connected with Bethlehem, there were but very few county asylums, and in those days we had a large supply of recent case

Dr. Robertson now speaks of the small number of patients there (of course he is entitled to exclude those who have been there hitherto in the criminal department). When I was there there were upwards of 400 patients in the hospital. Circumstances have so altered that there are now comparatively few patients of that class, because they are provided for elsewhere; but it is not true—I state it distinctly and positively—that it is on account of the gloomy, dreary, unsatisfactory, and useless condition of Bethlehem—those are not the grounds upon which patients have hesitated to apply for admission. The truth is, first, that they are well provided for elsewhere to a very great extent; then, I may say, they have become at Bethlehem extremely exclusive; they have declined to admit a class of patients whom I think they ought to admit; in fact, it has occurred to me at the hospital with which I am connected to admit patients who have been refused at Bethlehem, and I have had the satisfaction of seeing them go out cured. I think that is a mistake on the part of the governors of Bethlehem, which they may well remedy, and the sooner the better. If the proposition was only to consider the question how far Bethlehem might be made more available for that class, I should thoroughly have gone with Dr. Robertson; but when he prefaces his proposal by giving an account of the condition of Bethlehem quite different from the facts, I cannot go with him at all. I would ask him, if he has not been in Bethlehem of late years, to go to it now, and say if he can point out any county asylum (not excluding his own, which is admirably managed) where they have such rooms as they have in Bethlehem. I say he cannot. I do not say that in Bethlehem, as in every other house built as long as it has been, there may not be gloomy parts; but I say there is abundant accommodation for the class of patients whom I should be very glad to see there—the class of persons who are received at St. Luke's, and who, I think, might be very properly received on a much larger scale at Bethlehem. I hope the ample revenues will be applied to that purpose; in that respect, I think, the authorities are altogether wrong, and there I thoroughly concur with Dr. Robertson and Lord Shaftesbury in the proposition to make this ample revenue available for such a purpose; but I strongly feel, with the previous speaker, that if we want to make any impression upon the governing body, we must approach them not only courteously but truthfully; we must not lead the public to believe that the place is worse than it is. With regard to its removal, he must be a bold man who, under existing circumstances, would dare to express an opinion against that removal, and I do not know that I have the requisite courage. I have, however, my own opinion, and I could give reasons why I think it is open for discussion; but what strikes me forcibly is this, that there is an institution containing very excellent accommodation, which has been reared at an enormous cost. I suppose nobody knows what has been spent upon the place—at any rate, money has been spent without stint for years and years—and when the proposal is made to level that to the ground to make place for another, does it not appear a cruel waste of money? I altogether demur to the proposition that one person may say to another, "I like the position of your house, and I should like to build my house upon it. I will give my idea of its value; I am sure you will be better off somewhere else—at the top of yonder hill. Just make your own arrangements; I will give you £150,000." Twice that sum will not pay for the building, or anything like it.

Dr. Robertson.—It will build a better.

Dr. Wood.—You never will build a better; if you pull it down, you never will build anything half so good, in my opinion. I do not mean to say that it may not be better arranged, or that there may not be some great improvements in the carrying out of the designs; but I say there is no such building in the country, and if Bethlehem is pulled down there never will be such a

one. I do think there ought to be some little consideration on the part of those who are dictating to the governors as to whether the case is so bad as to render it necessary to sweep that vast establishment altogether away. I have some doubts about it in my own mind, but I am quite clear about this, that if we hope to influence the governors of Bethlehem at all, we shall not do it by treating them in the cavalier way we propose. I have no particular sympathies with the governors in the matter; I have some personal friends amongst them, whom I know to be right-minded and honest men; but I do not like to see any class of men talked down. There has been a great deal of unfair proceeding with regard to this Bethlehem question on the part of those interested in it. The governors have been put down, and accused of all sorts of unworthy motives, which I am sure do not actuate them. This question is, no doubt, one which we are competent to deal with, and fairly to discuss; and it is right, under existing circumstances, we should discuss it; it is a question that rather presses for discussion, inasmuch as whatever is done, must be done now, or it will never be done at all. If Bethlehem is to be removed, and I do not say it should not be, now is the time for its being done; if it is allowed to remain, it is likely to last longer than any building I know. I do not desire to discourage discussion; but I say you should not in the least degree exaggerate the case as against Bethlehem, or those who are acting for it.

Dr. Robertson.—I hope Dr. Wood did not understand me as finding fault with the management of Bethlehem Hospital; on the contrary, I am desirous of bearing my testimony to the manifest skill in its management; but I stated that, despite the best management, the fabric would not admit of proper arrangement, that the place was dismal, and the *entourage* so wretched that it was not fitted for a hospital for the treatment of the insane.

Dr. Monro.—This is a subject on which I should like to say a few words. I have never been connected with Bethlehem Hospital, though my ancestors have been for 130 years, so that I feel a very great interest in the institution. On the other hand, I have a very great interest in instituting asylums for the middle classes. I was engaged once with Dr. Conolly in trying to put forward such a scheme; I also took the trouble to write a pamphlet on the subject, but I am afraid it has not been read, as I think it ought to have been. I feel that both Dr. Wood and myself approach this subject with considerable discomfort; for, of course, we must be aware that whatever is said against Bethlehem Hospital must be said with greater force against our own, St. Luke's. It is a most important thing that this question should not have any personal matter mixed up with it. I have not made up my mind upon the question whether it is better to remove Bethlehem Hospital or not—it is a question of great difficulty; but I do most thoroughly agree with Dr. Wood, and with another speaker, in thinking that it will be very injurious to put forward wrong views and exaggerated statements. It is impossible that any one who knows Bethlehem can really look upon it as that gloomy hole in the marshes which it has been described to be; it is really one of the finest buildings in London, and it stands on a splendid site. I do not say that it would not be a great deal better that the patients should be in the country, but do not let us have anything like a "cock and bull story" about it; let gentlemen go down and see it for themselves; they only need go a distance of three quarters of a mile for the purpose. I really do not believe there are better wards anywhere.

Dr. Robertson.—Surely you are joking.

Dr. Monro.—Of course Dr. Robertson puts that down to my ignorance. I know many county asylums, and I do not think that any of the wards are better than those in Bethlehem. At any rate, do not let us put forward utterly erroneous statements; let us have the exact truth, and let the

question be a fair and open one. I may have a little prejudice in favour of the place with which my family has been associated for 130 years. And then, again, I cannot help thinking that a great hospital of this kind ought to be in the metropolis. No doubt there are many arguments on the other side. Dr. Conolly mentioned one—that it is impossible to get up a school of medicine at Bethlehem—the same applies to St. Luke's. But do you think that you will get up a school of medicine more easily fifty-six, sixty, or eighty miles out of London, than in London itself? Many persons will say that it is owing to the want of energy on the part of the medical officers, or something of that sort. Be it so; but do not let us imagine that we should get up a great school of medicine at Hayward's Heath better than we should get it up in the middle of London. It should be remembered that most of the patients we receive in these large hospitals are acute cases, many of them coming from the country; and if you have this institution at a distance from London, in three out of four cases a second journey will be required. Dr. Stevens, who, I regret, is not here on the present occasion, one of the medical officers of St. Luke's, wrote some time since to the 'Times,' strongly in favour of the removal of Bethlehem Hospital; and there he virtually stated that the new Bethlehem would not be fit for acute cases; because, he said, "as soon as you have instituted the new hospital in the country, you can send your acute cases to the other London Hospital, St. Luke's." That pretty clearly indicated what his opinion was of the result. I believe that if the new Bethlehem Hospital goes far into the country, it must necessitate a second journey for many cases in which it would not be advisable, and it would put a medical school out of our reach still further than heretofore. There are, no doubt, great advantages in an institution of this kind in the country. I would not say a word against that scheme; the only question which is on my mind is, whether we should compel the governors of Bethlehem to remove. But whatever we do, let us do it in the words of soberness and truth.

Dr. Conolly.—It appears to me that my excellent friends on the other side of the table imagine that Dr. Robertson has written a challenge, instead of a resolution, and means to call the governors out in succession. (Laughter.) Really the resolution appears to me as temperately worded as it can be. It merely points out, in the gentlest language, certain advantages that we think should be kept in view, and might be obtained. First, let me say, I do not think there has ever been any intention of removing Bethlehem Hospital to any distance from London greater than ten or eleven miles, which, in these days of railway travelling, is nothing. As regards the convenience of patients, there will be no difficulty whatever in such a distance, nor would there be in reference to a medical school. Many years ago there was a kind of medical school at Hanwell, and there was no difficulty in bringing pupils down. I believe Dr. Monro did me the honour to attend that course, and I dare say he did not find it difficult or fatiguing to attend. And here let me say that I think there is no object more important than the adoption of means which will give to medical men the opportunity of studying mental disorders. It is most strange, and it will hereafter be referred to as a thing unaccountable and incredible, that the only diseases for which there is no medical instruction in England are those comprehended in that class of disorders so very ably set forth in the address of the President on the present occasion. When there are vacancies in institutions of this kind, they are generally filled up by gentlemen who profess that they know nothing of them before they go there, and there can be no doubt that many cases are mismanaged in consequence. In Scotland there are means of obtaining education in these matters, as there are in other countries, in France particularly; and I do think that until you can have a regular

psychological school established in England, from which educated men can go, bearing certificates to show that they have really studied and are conversant with mental disorders, and in which some kind of practical education can be given to male and female attendants, you will go on perpetually struggling with difficulties, and never overcome them, or make any sure progress in asylum management. Every one who has anything to do with insane patients in asylums knows that attendants are very often the torment of the physician's life, constantly counteracting all that he wishes to do, and that this arises from the want of a system of instruction for those who are to carry his intentions into practical effect. I certainly think that Bethlehem is one of the institutions which ought to provide that kind of instruction, and I have no doubt that the day will come when at St. Luke's it will also be found equally practicable and equally useful.

Dr. Duncan.—As far as I understood the controversy, it appeared to me that there was a simple difference of opinion as to the money to be paid by the governors of St. Thomas's Hospital to the governors of Bethlehem. If that be so, it appears to me to be an extremely delicate thing for an Association of this kind to interfere with the trustees of a public fund, who ought to be left untrammelled in the exercise of their judgment as to the amount of money they will take for the building they are giving up. At the same time I am not aware that there will be any difficulty in passing such a resolution as that which has been proposed. The question is a very important one, both in reference to the provision of better accommodation for middle-class patients, and also placing the institution at a reasonable distance from the metropolis. I went through the hospital when Dr. Wood was there, and I confess the descriptions given in the newspapers about it do not bear out my recollections of the place.

Dr. Tuke.—In justice to my friend Dr. Robertson, I may be allowed to read a quotation from the speech of Lord Shaftesbury, in which he gives the opinion of the Commissioners in Lunacy, who, I presume, are competent judges as to the state of Bethlehem Hospital. My friends on the other side have considered that there was a want of truth in Dr. Robertson's description of Bethlehem as a dreary, desolate, depressing place. Dr. Robertson talked about Lambeth marshes. Now, we admit, they are to some extent drained; still Bethlehem Hospital does not certainly stand on a hill. This is the opinion of the Commissioners, as quoted by Lord Shaftesbury:—“We also take exception to the present construction of the building. We maintain that it is most unfit for the purpose. In harmony with the principles now entertained, such buildings should be cheerful, open to the sun, and with nothing to depress the spirits. Without moral treatment medical treatment will often fail, and moral treatment alone will often succeed without medical treatment. This building was constructed at a time when strait waistcoats were in vogue, and every patient was immured in a gloomy cell. Though not intended for a prison, it was constructed upon the same principles as a prison.” His lordship then says:—“A most important objection to Bethlehem Hospital, as a place for the treatment and cure of insanity, remains to be noticed, viz., the unfitness, according to modern opinions, of the building, in respect to its construction and arrangements. The general aspect of the hospital, externally and internally, notwithstanding the efforts made within the last few years to enliven the long corridors and day-rooms, cannot but exercise a depressing influence upon the inmates, whose means of out-door exercise are so limited and inadequate. The Commissioners, in the case of asylums for pauper lunatics, would never sanction plans upon the principle of Bethlehem Hospital.” I fully endorse these opinions; and I think Dr. Robertson has not expressed his own views only, but those of the best and most competent judges, in almost their own words. At the same time no

one can doubt the great improvement that has been manifested in the recent treatment at Bethlehem within the last few years. This we owe entirely to Dr. Hood; and if, in addition to the other benefits he has conferred, he could remove the building to the country, he would have left nothing to be desired. I believe that this Association would do well to pass unanimously a vote in favour of the removal of Bethlehem Hospital a few miles out of town, where the patients can receive all the advantages of the country. I think we shall be doing service to humanity if by our vote we can assist in this matter, by bringing some pressure to bear on the governors of the hospital. I believe they will listen to our opinion; at all events, the expression of it will be another blow upon the wedge already driven in by the Commissioners in Lunacy.

Dr. Wood.—There is one matter on which Dr. Conolly has spoken, and on which no one is so competent to express an opinion—I mean with reference to a medical school. I had the good fortune to attend his lectures at Hanwell, and derived great profit from them; but there are not many Dr. Conollys. Besides, we were then provided with the inducement of a capital luncheon. (Laughter.) The governors of Bethlehem have all along attempted to establish a medical school, but they have not had a Dr. Conolly to assist them, and that, no doubt, has been one great cause of failure. At one time the examining body required a certificate of attendance at lectures on hospital practice, and we then had a very respectable class of pupils at Bethlehem. Those regulations have ceased to be enforced, and there is now no inducement whatever for a medical student, who has plenty of other work to do, to go out of his ordinary bent to attend lectures upon that subject, and I am afraid there would be still less inducement if he had to travel even eight or ten miles to hear them. It is not discreditable to Bethlehem that they have not had a medical school. It is no fault of theirs. They have been willing to do all they could to attract medical students, and they have failed from causes quite independent of the position and state of the hospital. With regard to its removal, I am not at all sure that even in its present position, if the governors would open their doors, it might not do as much good as if it were in the country. Supposing there are a good number of patients—say 400—we may presume that half of those would be female patients who do not know much about the use of the plough or the spade. Their occupations, therefore, would be pretty much the same in London or in the country; and even with regard to the male part, I think there are few belonging to the class of patients for whom such accommodation is required who know much about ploughing or spading. They are persons very much the same class as we receive for a small payment at St. Luke's—professional people, small tradesmen, officers of the army and navy, and persons who occupy good positions, but live upon very small means, and who can afford little or nothing out of the income of one member of the family. Many of these persons have not been accustomed to a country life. I do not think there is any man who more thoroughly enjoys country life than I do. It is the greatest enjoyment I know, to be at liberty to go and bask in the sunshine in a country place, where I hear nothing but the sounds of birds, so that I thoroughly enter into the feeling of those who would give the insane the benefit and quiet of the country; but I think there is a danger on the other side that we lose sight of. There is a monotony about a country life. In London and its immediate neighbourhood there are many opportunities of amusing, especially the male part of the population, which do not exist in the country; and I should fear that the class of patients who ought to be in Bethlehem might get into a dreamy, monotonous kind of existence. There is really no object in going out for pic-nics where the people are living in a state of pic-nic. They have no

opportunity of going sight-seeing, and their life must be necessarily one of a monotonous character. I think that in the treatment of insanity a little novelty is of more use than physic. I have not much faith in medicine, but I have a great deal in the idea of making people happy; and there is nothing like a little change and diversion for that purpose, which you cannot get so well in the country as in and near London. The question of cost, I think, is one which we should not meddle with; and respecting the other question, as to the advantages of a London or a suburban and a country life, they are, I think, more nearly balanced than those who have hitherto given their minds to the subject are disposed to think.

Dr. Stewart said that there was a middle-class asylum in Dublin situated in some respects similarly to Bethlehem, and containing 140 patients. Some years ago the Government inspectors found that a large sum of money—twenty or forty thousand pounds—had been accumulated, and they proposed that a hospital should be built out of the city. On examination, however, it was found that in this hospital, in the heart of the city, where there was very little ground for exercise, there was less mortality than in any of the county asylums. That result was so startling that nothing further had been said about the question of removal.

Dr. George Robinson suggested the passing a resolution assenting the propriety, as a general principle, of asylums being situated in the country.

Dr. Maudsley.—It appears to me that the question resolves itself into this—whether a hospital for mental diseases, in the midst of a large town, is a hospital for that purpose. Does it not become rather a prison? Intercourse with nature and plenty of employment on land—are not these absolutely necessary in the treatment of mental diseases? I think it must be an extremely discouraging thing for *Dr. Conolly*, towards the end of a long life spent in warring with barbarism, that we should be discussing these simple principles—whether it is not better for the recovery of mental health that there should be intercourse with nature and plenty of room for occupation, or whether the patients should be confined in a large town. A “hospital” for mental diseases so situated is surely miscalled.

The motion was then put, and carried *nem. con.*

Dr. Tuke proposed that a copy of the resolution be forwarded to the Commissioners of Lunacy, to Sir George Grey, and to the committee of Bethlehem Hospital.

Dr. Wood said he supposed the object was to operate upon the governors of Bethlehem Hospital, and not the Commissioners of Lunacy.

Dr. Robertson said that he had small hope of operating upon the governors of Bethlehem. His desire was simply to bear his testimony to the public.

The resolution having been seconded, was unanimously adopted.

On the motion of *Dr. Robertson*, a vote of thanks was unanimously passed to the President, for his conduct in the chair.

Dr. Tuke proposed a vote of thanks to the College of Physicians for allowing the Association the use of its hall for the purposes of the meeting.

The President.—I have great pleasure in seconding that motion. There is one circumstance which I omitted to mention in my address, that is, my deep regret at not having been able to attend the meetings of this Association for some years, a circumstance which arises simply from there being in Edinburgh a school of medicine where the subject of insanity is taught. I have now an excellent class attending my lectures, and Professor Laycock has also good classes.* I do not see why there should not also be classes for the same purpose in London. The students do not hesitate to come two

* The numbers on Professor Laycock's class-roll were 44 in 1862, and 26 in 1863.

miles out of town to our lectures; so that if Bethlehem Hospital were a little removed from London, you might have a clinical school there, as well as other advantages.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

The proceedings then terminated.

ANNUAL DINNER.

The annual dinner of the Association was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, Dr. Skae, President, in the chair. There was a numerous attendance of members. Among the guests were Dr. Bucknill and Dr. Hood, honorary members of the Association; Dr. Webster, Dr. Russell Reynolds, and Dr. Charles Skae.

In accordance with the instructions of the Association, a copy of the resolutions of the meeting relative to the removal of Bethlehem Hospital was forwarded to the Commissioners in Lunacy, and the subjoined letter of acknowledgment was received by the Honorary Secretary.

LETTER FROM THE COMMISSIONERS IN LUNACY.

19, WHITEHALL PLACE, S.W.;

July 17th, 1863.

Sir,—I am desired by the Commissioners in Lunacy to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, and the accompanying copy of a resolution passed at a meeting of the Association of Medical Officers of Asylums and Hospitals for the Insane, in reference to the removal of Bethlehem Hospital, and I am to add that the Commissioners have learnt the view of the Association on this subject with much satisfaction.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. C. SPRING RICE, *Secretary.*

DR. TUCKER.
