

not be made known. We may not succeed, but we can at least do our best, and attain the relief of knowing that the responsibility for the evil does not rest upon those who have done their best to remedy it. I beg to move--

(1) That, whereas the confinement of persons in lunatic asylums of nationality foreign to their own places such persons in a position of peculiar and exceptional hardship, it is, in the opinion of this Association, extremely desirable that arrangements should be made between this and other nations for the transference of such persons to the country to which they belong. (2) That a copy of the foregoing resolution be forwarded to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (with an explanatory note).

Dr. HACK TUKE seconded the motion, saying that in travelling in France and Germany he had seen some of the disadvantages under which English patients in foreign asylums laboured, and he could endorse what Dr. Mercier had said. Undoubtedly, however, the evil was much greater in regard to foreign patients in English asylums.

Dr. RAYNER said that he could endorse what Dr. Mercier had said respecting foreign lunatics in English asylums, and there could be no doubt that their condition militated against their recovery. He had mentioned this fact in one of his annual reports. The proportion of foreign lunatics at Hanwell was double what it ought to be, which might be partly due to the want of recoveries, partly to the natural attraction which a large town like London had for insane persons of a roving disposition, and partly also to the indifference to the shipment of lunatics to this country. In New Zealand, Australia, and elsewhere very stringent rules were made to prevent shipment of lunatics. In England there were no rules, and as a consequence we get more for our share. Having regard to this, he doubted whether they would find that the proportion of Englishmen in foreign asylums did bear such a proportion to the number of Englishmen scattered over the face of the earth, because foreign countries took care to get rid of English lunatics. The subject was of great importance, and he thought that Dr. Mercier's proposals should be adopted, both from a scientific and a politico-economical point of view.

The motion was carried unanimously.

The proceedings then terminated, and the members afterwards dined together at the Holborn Restaurant.

Correspondence.

To the Editors of "THE JOURNAL OF MENTAL SCIENCE."

GENTLEMEN,—If Dr. Huggard's criticisms of my Definition of Insanity are left unanswered, it may perhaps give rise to the impression that I regard them as unanswerable, but at the same time they exhibit so complete, fundamental, and far-reaching a misapprehension of my position that I despair of being able to deal with them within the limits of a letter, and must leave the matter over until I can deal with it at such length and with such completeness as will not, I trust, leave room for further mistake.

I would point out, however, that while in his first criticism Dr. Huggard attributes to me words that I never used, he gives, in his second criticism, to the words I did use, a meaning widely different from that in which they were employed by me. When I speak of the environment as a "term," it is, as is clearly laid down in the page from which Dr. Huggard quotes, as the term of a relation—as "one of the terms between which the relation subsists." Dr. Huggard deals with it as if I used it in the sense of a logical term—a distortion of meaning which partakes of the nature of a pun.

Yours truly,
CHAS. MERCIER.

April 10.