

as essential to their proper treatment. We recognise that in so large an Institution there must be some devolution of the latter duty upon the subordinate Medical Staff, but the Medical Superintendent should still remain in full touch with all his patients, and be thoroughly conversant with the progress of every case. We must add also that there has not been on Dr. Philipps' part the strict observance of the requirements of the Lunacy Law which we regard as most important. We refer more particularly to the reception, as boarders, of persons undoubtedly insane, and who should have instead been admitted as duly certified patients in conformity with the provisions of the Act.

The recently revised Regulations of the Hospital, which will shortly be submitted for the sanction of the Secretary of State, contain a provision requiring the Medical Superintendent daily to visit all parts of the Institution and see every patient, the due observance of which requirement will, we trust, ensure the full and accurate personal knowledge and appropriate treatment of each case, and prevent the recurrence of such defects in administration as have been indicated in the course of our inquiries. All of which we submit to the Board.

(Signed) C. S. BAGOT, }  
 (Signed) F. NEEDHAM, } Commissioners in Lunacy.

October 30th, 1895.

[On the 14th Feb. the House of Commons took steps for procuring the public issue of the foregoing Report on the motion of Mr. John Ellis.—Ed.]

#### THE CERTIFICATE IN MENTAL NURSING: RECOGNITION OF THE VALUE OF TRAINED SERVICES.

At a meeting of the Committee of the Joint Counties Asylum, Carmarthen, in January last, it was decided that a bonus of £1 10s. should be added to the wages of every attendant in the service of the asylum who should pass the examination for the above Certificate, at the end of each completed year of service after taking the Certificate. The thirteen candidates successful at the examination last May were presented at a Quarterly Meeting with their Certificates, framed by the Committee's directions, and with the medals.

The plan of recognising by a pecuniary addition (varying in amount in different institutions) the value of trained services has been adopted already at several (a dozen or more) asylums.

#### MALE NURSES (TEMPERANCE) CO-OPERATION.

The report of this Association for the year 1895-6 shows that the average earnings of each member working throughout the year was £101 16s., after paying all expenses. This result, moreover, is arrived at not by excessive, but by moderate charges and a careful limitation of the costs of management, which in too many nursing institutes deprive the workers of a very large percentage of their earnings.

This Association therefore appears to be worthy of support, both by the medical profession and the best class of male nurses.

#### ASSOCIATION OF ASYLUM WORKERS.

We have been favoured with a copy of the Executive Committee's memorandum to asylum workers.

"The Association has been initiated under the most favourable auspices, and bids fair to become a National movement. The hope is justified that the *Asylum Workers' Association* will, at no distant date, hold a place in the public estimation and regard similar to that held by the *Hospital Nurses' Association*. The Association is fortunate in the many expressions of sympathy and goodwill it has already received from the official and general public.

"President:—Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson, M.D., F.R.S. Vice-Presidents:—The Lord Bishop of London, Cardinal Vaughan, C. S. Bagot, Esq. (Lunacy Commissioner), Dr. Needham (Lunacy Commissioner), Dr. Wallis (Lunacy

Commissioner), Dr. Nicolson (Lord Chancellor's Visitor, President Medico-Psychological Association), the Earl and Countess of Arran, Lord Henly, Lady Wm. Lennox, Sir Stuart Knill, Bart., LL.D. (Ex-Lord Mayor of London), Sir Wm. Broadbent, Bart., M.D., Members of the London County Council, Members of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, Infirmary Medical Superintendents, Asylum Medical Superintendents, the Rev. Henry Hawkins (Chaplain of the London County Asylum, Colney Hatch), Miss Emily Janes (Secretary, National Union of Women Workers.)

"Sir Benjamin Richardson in his address to the London meeting pointed out the chief objects of the Association:—1. To improve generally the status of asylum nurses and attendants. 2. To secure the sympathy and co-operation of all those interested in institutional work and efforts. 3. To provide a 'Home of Rest and Nursing' for those engaged in asylum work—no such Home being in existence.

"He went on to show how much asylum attendants had to bear, and what appalling duties often became their share of work in the human family; what a tax there was upon their energies, and how brief a period of existence, cheered by very little diversity or recreation, belonged to their lives. That was one point—to gain the sympathy of the public. It was for the interest of the insane that asylum attendants should have the highest position compatible with the work.

"In speaking of the 'Home of Rest' Sir Benjamin remarked that the institution is to be maintained by those for whose benefit it is called into existence. The need of repose and change is especially strong in those vocations which, like that of the asylum attendants, involve a constant strain on the nerves; and a permanent 'break down' will, in many cases, be averted if the 'Association of Asylum Workers' is able to carry out the plan of keeping up a place where tired workers among the insane may rest and recuperate.

"It is hoped that the 'Home of Rest' will be ready for the reception of asylum workers in the summer of 1896. It is proposed to rent and furnish a house or houses on the South Coast.

"There is reason to believe that this project will receive sympathetic consideration at the hands of the City Corporations. It is not anticipated that there will be any difficulty in maintaining the 'Home' after it has been established, the number of workers engaged in asylums being large enough to make it self-supporting.

"It is proposed to draw up and issue as occasion requires, a leaflet—'Asylum News'—setting forth the constitution of the Association, mode of election, tenure of office, with lists of members, notices, and other matters of common interest.

"The expenses attendant on the working of the Association will not be great; the subscription of ordinary members is therefore fixed at the nominal sum of 1s.

"The last census gives some 20,000 or more persons employed as male and female attendants in asylums. Assuming that one-fourth only are enrolled as members of the Association, this will give an annual income of £250.

"The Honorary Secretary (Dr. Walmsley, Metropolitan District Asylum, Dartford, Kent) requests that this matter may be brought to the knowledge of the staff of each asylum, and that the names of those desiring to join may be communicated to him."

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

##### *Re the Lancashire Asylums Board's Pension Scheme.*

FROM LANCASTRIAN.

Few will be found to congratulate the Lancashire Asylums Board on their recently formulated pension scheme.

It is to be hoped that the scheme is but a tentative one, as in its present form it is, in most respects, extremely imperfect.

Possibilities there are, truly, but certainties none. The earnest, faithful asylum official has been led to expect, after a period of from 20 to 30 years of difficult, often dangerous, and comparatively ill-paid service, a definite pension according to his service and record. It is well known that the promise of this