stress should be avoided under such conditions, as being injurious both to the mother and her offspring.

The example of the suffragettes is not to be taken as a criterion of the probable result of participation in politics by women in England. The outrageous conduct of the suffragettes is due in the main to the necessity of parties to yield to the fads of any persons who will make sufficient noise. The suffragettes act on a reasoned principle, and although their feminine emotionality carries them to greater lengths of misconduct than men would arrive at, it is not a proof that the general body of women would be so uncontrolled in their political action.

The trend of party politics, as a recent writer in the *Nineteenth Century* has ably demonstrated, is to engineer excitement in the constituencies so as to reduce them to the level of an emotional crowd. This tendency is likely to increase rather than to diminish, and the emotional stress of party politics will become greater to those taking part in it.

The medico-psychologists as such need not consider the right or wrong of giving votes to women, but it would seem that they should consider whether it is not advisable to direct public attention to the possible ill-results, and to raise the question whether young marriageable women and married women should not be shielded from this possible danger to the national health.

The Asylum Workers' Association.

The Annual Meeting of the above-named Association is principally noteworthy from the announcement of the retirement of Dr. Shuttleworth from the editorship of *Asylum News*. The services which Dr. Shuttleworth has rendered to the Association from its very incipiency are very great indeed; his aid not only conduced greatly to the success of the Association, but principally helped to guide its activities into the admirable channels in which they now run. The Association thus avoided taking the form of spurious unionism, which the chairman (Sir W. J. Collins) described as seeking to organise all employees against the authorities that employ them. This was the great danger in the infancy of the Association, and that it

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has been avoided is mainly due to Dr. Shuttleworth's foresight.

The report shows that the increase in membership has received a check, but this is probably temporary, and in all other respects the work of the year has been satisfactory.

The Homes of Rest Fund is in great need of increased support owing to the advance in the number of cases aided during the year. The subscription by the members of the Association of sixpence per year would satisfactorily meet the need, but some outside help would be very welcome.

Members of the Medico-Psychological Association would be doing good service in directing attention to this useful form of mutual self-help.

Statistics.

Statistics of lunacy have been compiled in English asylums over an extensive period, and should afford valuable material from which to draw conclusions in regard to insanity at the present and past periods. Hitherto, however, little decisive information has been derived from these statistics in regard to the character of the occurring lunacy and the results of treatment.

The recovery rate during the period in which the most important advances in treatment have been made shows no advance, but rather the reverse, although the death-rate has shown considerable diminution.

Is it possible that these statistics really point to the conclusion that while modern treatment preserves life, it fails in promoting mental recovery, or is this apparent anomaly due, as has been often suggested, to the different class of cases admitted to asylums in recent years?

Is it not possible by careful examination of the statistics to obtain some definite and reliable information in regard to the classes of insane persons admitted at the various periods, in regard to age, previous duration of insanity, causation and forms of insanity, etc., together with the results of treatment in these various classes?

Such analyses of the statistics have been made in one or two asylums, but to be satisfactory should be made on a much

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