character, was especially vigorous. The Educational Committee almost rivalled a Parliamentary Budget Committee in the duration of its *séances*.

The social side was as successful as the rest, and the many pleasantnesses of the meeting will long remain in the memory of those attending.

Nor was the meeting without its own special psychologic teaching. An eminent member, coming from a sick bed, almost from the operation table, took a leading part in all the work and enjoyment of the meeting, apparently with excellent results. His numerous friends witnessed with pleasure this forceful demonstration of the beneficent influence of the mind over the body.

Asylum Officers Superannuation Bill.

More progress has been made with this Bill than seemed probable when our note in the July number was penned. After a very thorough enquiry by the Select Committee of the House of Commons, who held eleven meetings and examined twelve witnesses (amongst the latter being Drs. Bower and Hayes Newington, specially representing the Association), a Report was unanimously agreed to, approving the main principles of the Bill, and recommending legislation on its lines forthwith. Certain alterations were made and additional clauses inserted, so that the Bill as revised by the Committee differed in several respects from that originally drafted by the Asylum Workers Association. The most important change was the provision enabling any officer or servant in the employment of an asylum authority at the commencement of the Act (if he so prefer) to contract out of it by giving notice within three months so as to remain subject to his old conditions of service and prospects of pension. The Bill, as amended by the Select Committee, had subsequently to be submitted to a Committee of the whole House, and at this stage it suffered some slight mutilation by a private member, who threatened otherwise to bar its progress. However, it was safely piloted through this peril, and passed its third reading in the House of Commons on August 26th. The tactful way in which Sir William Collins utilised every opportunity that offered for advancing the Bill commands the admiration and gratitude of all interested in its provisions.

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.55.231.746 Published online by Cambridge University Press

The next step was a deputation to the Lord Chancellor arranged by Dr. Shuttleworth at very short notice for September 1st. Notwithstanding the holiday season, ten representative members of the Parliamentary Committees of the Asylum Workers and the Medico-Psychological Associations waited upon his lordship, and were introduced by Sir John Jardine, M.P., K.C.I.E., and speeches were made commending the Bill to his favourable notice by Drs. Shuttleworth, Hayes Newington, and Bower. In reply, his lordship expressed his cordial sympathy with asylum workers in their arduous and trying duties, and said he was personally quite ready to support a measure for the improvement of their prospects, but it would be necessary for him to consult his colleagues in the Cabinet with regard to the Bill.

Owing to the House of Lords having adjourned for ten days some delay occurred in the communication of the Lord Chancellor's decision with regard to the Bill, which was to the effect that the Government, while promising general support, thought it better that an independent peer should take charge of it in the Upper House. Lord Monk-Bretton has been good enough to accept this responsibility, and the second reading of the Bill has now been set down for Thursday, October 7th.

At the time of writing it seems probable that there will be certain difficulties to surmount in the House of Lords, and it behoves everyone who wishes well for the Bill to use all available means to obtain the support of peers within his or her sphere of influence.

The Pentacost Dancers.

The *Review of Hypnotism* for July contains a notice of a meeting at Cardiff on the first of May last of a body claiming the above title. The meeting was in the Park Hotel and delegates from all parts of the Kingdom are said to have attended.

The meeting is summed up as a pandemonium of hysteric religion, the spectacle being more extraordinary than that of the dancing Dervishes.

Can any of our readers furnish a more detailed account of the sect and its meetings? The existence of such an organised body in the twentieth century, in the midst of our civilisation, is a phenomenon as surprising as extraordinary, and demands some scientific attention.

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.55.231.746 Published online by Cambridge University Press