proceeds of a bazaar as the commencing capital, which was supplemented by a donation of £100 from a generous member of the Board, who has ever since been an annual subscriber of two guineas to the honorary fund. Very few parties connected with the Asylum became members of the Club, partly because the premiums were high in proportion to their wages, but principally because if they left the Asylum they ceased to belong to the Club, and only three-fourths of their money would be returned. The capital of the Club became so augmented by accumulation, that last year the Board were enabled to re-arrange the rules upon very advantageous terms, with the proviso that the Club must be limited to 18 members until the capital is still further increased. Unless the annuity payable at the age of 65 years has been commenced, all the money paid by any member is *returnable* at any time, less benefits received, and if death should occur the money is payable to the executor or nearest relative, so that the Club acts as a savings' bank without interest as well as an insurance society, providing for sickness and old age. The pension is doubled out of the honorary fund if the parties have been members for a period of ten years and have paid the full premiums. Ten members may be admitted, and pay only three-fourths of the premiums, thus rendering the payments easy; but the pension is not doubled out of the honorary fund as when the full premiums are paid.

It is very desirable that some such club should be provided in all voluntary institutions or private asylums, and the wages should be sufficiently high to allow of the premiums being paid without difficulty. The certainty of having provision during sickness and in old age would relieve anxiety and encourage cheerful service. Pensions are granted in borough and county asylums after a certain length of service, and similar provision is needed for other asylums.

---

## "AFTER CARE" ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting for 1883 of the "Association for the After Care of Poor and Friendless Female Convalescents on leaving Asylums for the Insane" was held on 5th July at 20, Eaton Place, by kind permission of Lord Cottesloe.

There were present the Earl of Shaftesbury (President), in the chair, Lord Cottesloe, Dr. D. Hack Tuke, Dr. Claye Shaw, Dr. Edgar Sheppard, Dr. Seward, Miss Fremantle, Miss A. Gladstone, Mrs. Ellis Cameron, and others.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, the Rev. H. HAWKINS, Hon. Sec., read the report of the past year, in which some cases relieved were noted. Particular mention was made of the formation of an "After Care Ladies' *Working Society*," for the assistance, by grants of clothing, of indigent convalescents. The foundress of the Society is Mrs. Richardson, Parkwood House, Whetstone.

Dr. T. C. SHAW, Hon. Treasurer, gave an account of the financial position of the Association. Its funds were slender, but whatever good had been effected had been accomplished almost without resort to the money in hand.

Mrs. ELLIS-CAMERON gave a short address, indicating ways in which the work of the Association might be expanded, and expressed willingness to continue temporarily to hold the office of Secretary of the Ladies' Committee, and to receive periodical meetings at her house.

The Earl of SHAFTESBURY spoke words of encouragement with respect to the genuine need of such an Association, and to its ultimate acceptance, and he also referred to his association for 53 years with lunacy work.

Dr. D. HACK TUKE, Dr. EDGAR SHEPPARD, and Dr. SEWARD addressed the meeting.

Thanks were proposed to the Earl of Shaftesbury and Lord Cottesloe, and the meeting separated.

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.29.127.455 Published online by Cambridge University Press