hopes already expressed, that it may be of real use and help to asylum workers, and may be successful in avoiding the difficulties which usually beset a young publication.

The objects of the Association are briefly stated, as the improvement of the status of asylum nurses and attendants; to secure the sympathy and co-operation of those interested in institutional work; and, lastly, to provide Homes of Rest for those engaged in asylums.

Homes of Rest would be very useful without doubt, although some may assert that the Asylum Committees already deal liberally with their sick attendants. One difficulty in connection with the establishment of such homes would result from the wide area over which the members of the Association are scattered, rendering the cost of travel somewhat expensive.

The names of a considerable number of County Asylum Superintendents are printed as supporting the Association, but their names are rather conspicuous by their absence from the list of the Executive Committee. It would be interesting to know if this is an intentional arrangement and the reasons if that is really the case.

The financial statement is satisfactory, showing a balance of nearly a hundred pounds in hand and a membership of two thousand. We do not learn whether the *News* is to be monthly or quarterly, but we note that it is printed and published at the Lancaster County Asylum through the generosity of Dr. Cassidy.

No information is given as to the limitation of membership; whether an attendant is eligible the moment he (or she) is engaged in an asylum, or whether the membership continues after leaving asylum service; whether indeed the Association exercises or professes to exercise any power of selection, or whether every employé of an asylum, however little experienced in the care of the insane, is, by the fact of his employment, entitled to membership. These and many other enquiries that suggest themselves will probably receive solution in the coming numbers of the *Asylum News*, to which we shall assuredly look forward with interest.

Sanitary Science Scholarship at Claybury.

All alienist physicians will rejoice at the decision of the Technical Education Board of the London County Council to give a scholarship in Sanitary Science, tenable in the Patho-

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logical Laboratory at Claybury for one year, and renewable for a second or even third year. The scholar to devote the whole of his time "to the study of the working and effects of preventable, social, and industrial causes of insanity."

We hail with delight this additional evidence of the recognition by this County Council of its responsibility in regard to the insane as extending beyond the mere provision of buildings for detention.

The direction of the scholar's work is an evidence, too, that the Board (and Council) has recognised the fact that the most important and urgent objective is the prevention of insanity. If this objective be kept in view, we may hope that important advances in the early treatment of mental disease will follow at no very distant date. The need of such advances we cannot too loudly or too frequently reiterate. Too many cases are admitted to asylums, after months or years of incipiency, in a hopeless state, and some observers, we fear, are too ready to conclude that they were hopeless from the beginning. This pessimism does not fortunately tally with experience of other diseases, or with the observations of those who have opportunities of dealing with incipient stages of this disease.

The direction of the scholar's work has no doubt been greatly determined by the recommendations of Dr. Mott, who suggested the following subjects:—

1. The relation of alcohol, syphilis, and infectious diseases to mental degeneration, especially general paralysis of the insane.
2. Puerperal mania and its relation to infective agencies.
3. The causation of epidemic dysenteric ulceration in the insane and its prevention.
4. The influence of noxious trades, *e.g.*, poisoning by lead, etc.
5. The chemical changes occurring in the brain as indicating the causes of its degeneration.

The example set by the London County Council in establishing a pathological laboratory and encouraging research will, we trust, be followed in other parts of the country; and although it is not in the power of every county to do the same, yet by several combining the result might be obtained.

The new divisions of the Association would be giving a striking proof of their usefulness by striving to obtain the

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establishment of such an institution as that of Claybury within each of their areas.

We must again repeat our admiration of the public spirit and advanced views, in this matter, of the London County Council.

Mental Disease Out-Patients.

We have pleasure in drawing attention to the fact that an out-patient department for mental disease has now been established for upwards of two years at Sheffield, under Dr. Crochley Clapham.

Dr. Clapham reports that it has been successful in attracting a considerable number of patients, in a fair proportion of whom he believes that the necessity for asylum treatment has been avoided, therein confirming the experience of a similar department at St. Thomas' Hospital.

Dr. Clapham is also of opinion that his department has exemplified the greater readiness of such patients to be associated in treatment with other diseases rather than to attend as out-patients to an asylum or lunatic hospital. Those patients who will go to the latter are mostly cases who have been in-patients or are already qualified to become so.

That Dr. Clapham may soon be imitated in other large towns is a wish that will occur to everyone interested in the prevention of insanity.

The Registration of Mental Nurses.

The Royal British Nurses' Association has of late passed through stormy times. It is hardly our province to discuss the difficulties that have arisen, but we must enter with interest into the proposal of Dr. Outterson Wood that mental nurses should be admitted to registration and membership of that Association. Apparent misunderstanding and gross misrepresentation have been in the air. The old, old story of the inferiority of asylum nurses has been retold; the echoes of the bad old times have been re-echoed; the iniquity of Dr. Woods' insidious arguments has been laid bare in the columns of *The Hospital*. It would seem that the work of the Medico-Psychological Association and its most active members for the last decade is as naught. The Handbook, the Educational Committee, the Registrar are but figments of a depraved imagination. Ignorance cries aloud in the market-place, naked and unabashed!

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