We have recently obtained a photograph of a letter written by the Dean to Eaton Stannard, then—1735—Recorder of the City of Dublin, setting forth his intention to found St. Patrick's Hospital. This letter, written ten years before his death, is a truly characteristic one, and you may all see a photograph of it here to-day. The original letter was recently sold in London for £150, and its price to-day is over 300 guineas.

In 1740 Swift wrote:

"He gave the little wealth he had,
To build a house for fools, or mad,
And showed, by one satiric touch,
No nation wanted it so much."

As time is short I cannot do better than state something of the working of this hospital. Founded in 1745, it was the first mental hospital founded in Ireland, and for many years the only one, the Government not having established any public mental or district hospital for mental disease. It was not until 1815 that Grangegorman Mental Hospital, the parent of all the district mental hospitals in Ireland, was erected.

Swift stated, with prophetic foresight, that if a hospital extended from here to the Phœnix Park, there would be always more applicants for admission than there would be room for. This prophecy, in its partial fulfilment, explains the extension which your Excellency is here to open to-day. The Governors have found extension necessary, owing to the larger number of voluntary patients coming forward for treatment. This voluntary coming forward is due to the fact that the old idea—of there being a difference between disease of the brain and nervous system and that of the other organs of the body—is becoming dissipated, and there is a more rational outlook on the causation and treatment of mental diseases.

The Governors of this hospital have provided us with the means of carrying out every modern therapeutic method for the alleviation and cure of all forms of mental disease, and the recovery-rate, for the past thirty years, has never fallen below 50% on our admissions. This figure does not include many who have been so far relieved as to live at home with their relatives, and it has been arrived at notwithstanding that many incurable patients have—from charitable reasons—been admitted, who could not be safely cared for outside the hospital wards without grave danger to themselves or society, and therefore demanded immediate care and treatment. That the work of the hospital is appreciated is proved by the fact that patients are daily admitted from all parts of Ireland, North and South (for insanity has no boundary, though sanity may have!), and that there have been more patients admitted during the past ten years than were admitted in the previous fifty years of the hospital's existence.

Your Excellency will, I trust, have time to see portraits of Swift, Stella and Vanessa, of Dr. Robert Emmet (the father of the patriot), our first Physician and Treasurer, and one of the original Governors, Swift's escritoire, where the travels of Gulliver may have been penned, together with a marble bust recently acquired and said to have belonged to Mrs. Delany at Delville, Glasnevin, and a number of seats from the old Irish House of Parliament.

The GOVERNOR-GENERAL then declared the new wing opened amid loud applause. Attended by his A.D.C., Lieutenant Wall, and various officials and a large party of distinguished visitors, he inspected the new buildings, and afterwards was shown by Dr. Leeper portraits and letters of Swift and various documents and articles of interest. J. R. L.

BALLINASLOE MENTAL HOSPITAL.

At the meeting of the Ballinasloe Mental Hospital Committee held on November 10, 1930, Dr. John Mills, the Resident Medical Superintendent, again showed the mettle for which he is well known, especially when principles are at stake.

The occasion was a complaint that a resolution passed at a former meeting ordering that older men should be promoted had not been carried out.

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The following extract from *The Connaught Sentinel* forms piquant reading:

"Mr. Finnerty: We seem to attach very great importance to the M.P. certificate here. At the same time we must not forget that there are men here with long service whose terms of appointment here as attendants did not include the passing of this certificate test, and whose hours of duty thirty years ago precluded them from attending the lectures. These men should not be passed over in case of promotion, and preference given to juniors with a few years' service who have passed the test. These men have given the best years of their lives here, and they are still at the bottom of the ladder.

"Dr. Mills: There are only three men who are affected. One has had thirty years' service, another came here in 1902, the last in 1904.—Chairman: These men have given us considerable service and they have also considerable experience.—Dr. Mills: To work an institution like this on the principle of seniority would be hopeless. I won't do it, and if the Committee wishes to take the matter out of my hands they are quite at liberty to do so. I selected the most competent men for the job. I have been giving lectures here since 1898, and these men never sat, listened or attempted to attend any of the lectures. I won't budge an inch in the matter of the importance I attach to these certificates and lectures, and I leave the matter in your hands.

"Mr. Nolan: Juniors got the jobs over the heads of seniors.—Mr. Corbett: These older attendants are recognized by the Nursing Council as being qualified and are registered as such. Are we going to recognize that?—Mr. Lynch: It should not go out from us that we depreciate the importance of this certificate. Attendants themselves recognize that, but some of those elderly attendants came into our service when there was no certificate, and they are the victims of the system here, not of their own actions.

* * * *

"Chairman: To put the thing plainly, Are these three men any good, Doctor? (Laughter.)—Dr. Mills: One is no good, the second is mediocre, and the third is lazy. (Renewed laughter.)—Chairman: Now, you have it all, and that ends that."

J. R. Lord.

Sir MARRIOTT COOKE.

Sir Marriott Cooke, K.B.E., M.B., whose office as Commissioner of the Board of Control terminated on the coming into operation of the Mental Treatment Act on December 31 last, was entertained at dinner by his former colleagues on January 26 at the Café Royal (London). It may be recalled that Sir Marriott, joining the Lunacy Commission in 1898, became, in 1913, a Commissioner of the Board of Control, of which he was Chairman during the years 1916–18, and continued as an unpaid Commissioner after his retirement in 1921. The object of the dinner was to mark the affectionate esteem in which his late colleagues hold him, and their sense of his devotion to the cause of those suffering from mental disorders during his many years of public service—a period which, including the years spent as Medical Superintendent of the Mental Hospitals at Devizes and Powick, extended to fifty-six years.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editors of the 'Journal of Mental Science.'

Sirs,—I have read with great interest the article on "Some Observations on the Ætiology of Dementia Præcox," with special reference to the Parsees of India, by Lt.-Col. Jagoe Shaw, M.D., I.M.S. (retd.), published in your Journal of July, 1930.

A certain amount of time has elapsed between the publication of the article and

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