It is never possible in the pages of the Journal to comment on every subject touched upon by the Commissioners in their Annual Report. We have, however, sufficiently indicated that the Sixty-eighth, and last, Report of the now deceased Board of Commissioners in Lunacy, is in no way inferior in interest or importance to its predecessors, but, on the contrary, is strongly indicative that the Board of Control has absorbed a body of men, fully alive to their grave responsibilities, and in good trim, not only to continue the work which has engaged them in the past, but to co-operate vigorously in the elucidation of those larger problems which face the newly constructed and enlarged authority.

Grants for Psychiatric Research.

AT the last meeting of the Council of the Medico-Psychological Association an application was made by the new Research Committee of the Association that grants should be made from its funds towards research work (on similar lines to those adopted in the case of the British Medical Association). The Council approved of the principle, and intimated their willingness to receive applications, each of which would be judged on its merits, and an award made accordingly.

The value of research work has up to this been greatly under-estimated; the view of its absolute necessity, if real progress is to be achieved, has hardly been seriously entertained. This is especially the case as regards psychiatry, and yet it is, perhaps, this department of medicine where it is most urgently needed. Some splendid work has been, and is being, accomplished by voluntary effort, but neither the profession nor the general public have any equitable right to appropriate to their own advantage the fruits of the industry of others in which they have taken no share. Every right-thinking person must, therefore, regard with the utmost satisfaction the action of the Council in sanctioning grants from the funds at their disposal for this most important object.

Original investigators, pioneers in research, are rare. They must be specially gifted with the faculty of imagination, capable of limning out the problems best worth considering, and of devising means and methods for their successful solution. They must be endowed with keen powers of observation and,

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at the same time, ability to interpret what they observe: the seeing eye and the understanding heart. But besides these gifts, which are those in which they specially surpass the mass of their fellows, they must pre-eminently possess those qualities which the Prime Minister, in his eloquent appeal to Parliament and to the nation for their support, material and moral, in the most difficult military crisis which this country has ever had to face, described as belonging to the "spiritual" side of our national character: as "ancient, inbred qualities of our race, qualities of self-mastery, self-sacrifice, patience, tenacity, the dominating sense of duty, unfailing faith, inflexible resolve." What language could better describe the principles which animate the souls of those who are engaged in a different kind of warfare—in the fight against our relentless enemies, disease and death; whose lives are spent in the endeavour to wrest from Nature her secrets, and to discover the source and origin of those malignant disorders which work havoc, and too often irremediable disaster, in the delicate framework of the human body; and not only in this, but in efforts, efforts which happily have often been crowned with success, to find a remedy against these insidious foes?

We cannot for a moment suppose that our small band of investigators are actuated by any mercenary motives. The excellent work they have already achieved without any expectation of material compensation is enough to dispose of such an assumption. As a class, there are probably few who are less influenced by the *auri sacra fames* which is the main incentive in many other departments of work. But everyone likes to know that honest work will meet with appreciation. And, nowadays, it is to be feared that the only appreciation which carries weight, at any rate with the general public, is that which is capable of being expressed in terms of hard cash. But, apart from any considerations of this kind, it is both just and fitting that work which is capable of benefiting humanity to so great an extent should be adequately compensated, and that every encouragement should be given to those who have special aptitude for pursuits of this kind to prosecute their studies under the assurance that their careers will not suffer while they are employing their talents in adding to our practical knowledge of disease, with, as a result, a diminution in the suffering of their fellow-men. The funds of the Association

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could hardly be employed for a more useful purpose, and the action of the Council is sure to have the hearty approval of the entire Association.

Part II.—Reviews.

Fifty-sixth Annual Report of the General Board of Commissioners in Lunacy for Scotland (being for the year 1913).

The first portion of the report gives the usual statistical information in regard to lunacy in Scotland. On January 1st, 1914, there were in Scotland, exclusive of insane persons maintained at home by their natural guardians, 19,346 insane persons of whom the General Board had official cognisance. Of these, 2,624 were maintained from private sources, 16,660 by parochial rates, and 62 at the expense of the State. Since January 1st, 1913, an increase of 158 had taken place. Of the grand total given above, there were resident in the Criminal Lunatic Department of Perth Prison 62 (an increase of 6 during the year), and in training schools for imbecile children 602 (an increase of 22); and these are classed as the *non-registered* lunatics. The *registered* lunatics —those resident in asylums (royal, district, private, and parochial), lunatic wards of poorhouses, and in private dwellings—were 18,682 in number; and in regard to them the following changes had taken place during the year 1913: (1) There was a total increase of 130, due to an increase in private patients by 27, and an increase of pauper patients by 103. (2) The total increase of 130 arose from an increase in the number in establishments by 208, and a decrease of the number in private dwellings by 78. (3) The increased number of 208 in establishments arose from an increase of 29 private patients, and an increase of 179 pauper patients. Of pauper patients in establishments, the average annual increase during the preceding five years was 199, and, therefore, the increase of 179 during the year 1913 has been less than the average annual increase of that quinquenniad. During the year 1913 decreases in the number of pauper lunatics occurred in 14 counties or urban areas, and increases in 20 counties or urban areas. The proportion per 100,000 of general population is for private lunatics 52, and for pauper lunatics 342, or a total of 394 for the two classes together.

Patients in asylums and lunatic wards of poorhouses.—In arriving at the number of persons admitted to these establishments, it is necessary to exclude the cases which mean merely a transfer from one establishment to another, the number of these during the year being 371. With this correction made, the number of patients admitted to establishments during 1913 was 3,682, (private 580, pauper 3,102). This is an increase of 213 above the previous year, and is the highest number of patients admitted in any single year to these establishments for the insane in Scotland. The proportion of the admission rate per 100,000 of the general population was 77·8. The number of patients

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