meeting on the subject, but as yet nothing definite has been decided.

The onus of making the necessary provision of homes will almost inevitably fall on the County Councils, since the subsidy of ten shillings and sixpence per week provided from Government sources is apparently not enough to stimulate charitable effort in this direction.

Only three homes at present exist. The Victoria Home, near Bristol, accommodates about sixty persons, but when completed it will have room for several hundreds. The St. Joseph's Home at Ashford, Middlesex, is reserved for Roman Catholics only. The third is at Duxhurst, where Lady Henry Somerset has given up a small portion of her industrial homes: this, however, is not as yet available, the regulations of the Home Office not having been complied with. Practically, therefore, the provision is almost *nil.*

Considerable time must necessarily elapse before the County Councils, even at their most rapid rate of procedure, can organise homes, if, indeed, they undertake the duty, and do not leave to the Government the task of meeting the necessity arising from this legislation. Probably some of the Members of Parliament who were active in support of the new Act will not be content to let it remain a dead letter. Up to the present time, however, the London County Council has the credit of having at least considered what is best to be done, and we must patiently await the action that may result from that consideration.

The Brabazon Scheme in Asylums.

We publish in this number an account of the introduction for the first time of the Brabazon scheme into an asylum for the insane. For information upon the nature and aim of this enterprise we need only refer our readers to the article in question. Hitherto the scheme has been in working in workhouses and infirmaries only, but the Brabazon ladies are evidently prepared to carry their enterprise into the more difficult sphere of asylums. In order to attain the realisation of the conception from which this scheme originates, we require idle people,

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.45.190.572 Published online by Cambridge University Press

without initiative, or with undeveloped ability (though it may be limited ability) to work; raw material to be done up into fancy articles, and the money to purchase the same; teachers, able, free, and willing to teach, and to entertain also. Now the class of individual required is common in most asylums, though in point of tractability he or she compares ill with the relatively docile *clientèle* hitherto attached by the Brabazon ladies. A grant of money to purchase material for the work in contemplation would probably be obtained from most asylum committees, especially as it would at any rate be in some measure repaid by the sale of articles produced.

An average asylum will supply the first two requisites for the successful working of the scheme in question, but the third requirement it could not supply; and the failure of the institution is the opportunity of such a society as the Brabazon. In certain hospitals for the insane, and in private asylums, ladies have been, and still are, employed as nurses; but although this plan has the merit of introducing a refining influence, it is not the same thing at all as that under consideration: they have not the time, nor are they all specially qualified to teach some particular kind of work, as are the ladies of a Brabazon committee. Provided the work be carried on with the sympathy and accord of the asylum officials, as doubtless it would be, we see no objection to the Brabazon scheme in these institutions. At any rate, for our pauper asylums the plan would appear to be well worthy of an extended trial.

We are informed that this scheme has been at work in one of the Irish asylums for about six months, and has worked very well indeed. The superintendent does not regard it as a substitute for ordinary industrial work, but as a useful supplement. To some degree he thinks that it aids in maintaining or resuscitating the æsthetic faculties which are apt to rust in asylums, and he reports that he has found distinct benefit from the patients being brought into pleasant contact with kindly and interested persons outside. Perhaps the education of such persons in what can be done by and for the insane is also an advantage.

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.45.190.572 Published online by Cambridge University Press