Mr. Hine's name and memory, as part of the Association, are preserved to us in the person of his son, who is with the R.A.M.C. on bacterial work. Mr. T. G. M. Hine has been a member for ten years.

Asylums built by Mr. Hine: London County—Claybury, Bexley, Horton, Long Grove; Gateshead, Hampshire (second asylum), Hertfordshire, Kesteven, Merthyr, Sunderland, Surrey (Netherne), Sussex Cent. (Hellingly), Swansea, Worcestershire (Barnsley):

Several other asylums were added to or altered by Mr. Hine, *e.g.*, Dorset, Cotford, Moulsford, St. Albans, Wilts, Leicester.

BALLINASLOE ASYLUM.

THE Inspectors' report on certain occurrences which took place in the above asylum, as published in the April number of the Journal, has led to a rather anomalous condition of things, as will be seen from the following extract from the pages of the daily Press:

BALLINASLOE ASYLUM INQUIRY.

Dr. T. J. Considine and Dr. Wm. Dawson, Lunacy Inspectors, attended at Ballinasloe Asylum to hold an inquiry as the result of a report which they had made as to the treatment of some patients in the institution.

Dr. Comyn, solicitor, said he had advised his clients, the Matron and the staff, to decline to give evidence. The Court of Inquiry should be an independent tribunal.

Dr. Considine said the inquiry was called for by the Asylum Committee, and they had power to hold it. Those who declined to be examined did so at their peril.

Dr. Kirwan, R.M.S., was first called, and said on the advice of his solicitor he declined to give evidence.

The Matron and the other members of the staff did likewise.

Dr. Ada English, Acting R.M.S., said she was told when taking up the position that it was not her duty to visit the female side. She agreed with the Inspectors' report. She did not remember giving permission to put the patients to sleep on straw.

Dr. Murnane said he saw the patients lying on straw, but he gave no permission for its use. He never knew that the patients were naked.

This concluded the inquiry.

CORRESPONDENCE.

ROYAL MEDICAL BENEVOLENT FUND.

To the Editor of THE JOURNAL OF MENTAL SCIENCE.

DEAR SIR,—The Royal Medical Benevolent Fund, the great Benevolent Society of the medical profession, is sorely in want of money now.

Though in ordinary times the medical profession supports its own poor, in these war times this is no longer possible. At the May meeting the Committee had a balance of only £17 in hand, and at the June meeting was faced with a deficit of £16. The demands were heavy and had to be met, and this could only be done by withdrawing £500 from the bank.

As the direct outcome of the war, not only are the ordinary cases of poverty greatly increased in number, but an entirely new class of case has arisen urgently requiring relief, in which without actual poverty there is great temporary distress, distress, however, which it is hoped will relieve itself soon after the war is over and the doctors serving return to their civil duties.

At the outbreak of war the medical profession responded freely to the Nation's call. The Territorial Medical Officers were at once called out, and other medical men volunteered. Both alike had to leave their practice at very short notice, and often without being able to make adequate provision for its continuance and maintenance during their absence. Their pay went but little way to supply the loss which their absence entailed, for the working expenses of the practice could

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.62.258.651 Published online by Cambridge University Press