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.

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"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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