full of interest—we recall him as the first editor of this journal, as physician to the Devon Asylum, as Lord Chancellor's visitor, but his circle of influence was far wider than the specialty, and tardy honours were paid to him who conceived the idea of the Volunteers and gave impetus to his conception by starting the 1st Battalion of the Devon regiment in 1852.

A glance at the list of Presidents warns us to desist from these brief notes. The honourable roll is complete, and we have now a presentation of them as they lived. We would welcome personal and literary reminiscences of them from those who know.

Scientific Research Work in Asylums.

The Commissioners in Lunacy, in the supplement to their report for 1908, have added an account of the clinical and pathological investigations carried on in asylums and asylum laboratories.

During the year under review the summary of work thus recorded proves that an important amount of original investigation of a very high character has been produced from these sources, and is an evidence of the considerable proportion of scientific workers in the specialty.

This new departure will act as a much-needed stimulus to the progress of scientific work in asylums, the results of which will, without doubt, appear in the summaries of succeeding years. The Commissioners in Lunacy are to be congratulated on having adopted a procedure which will certainly produce very beneficial results.

The benefit, however, will not only consist in an added impetus to scientific investigation, but will strengthen the standing of the Lunacy Commission both in professional and popular estimation. Recent Royal Commissions have demonstrated how much valuable information can be obtained on any given subject in a comparatively short period, and the public will expect that a permanent Commission should yield still more important results.

The Lunacy Commission in the past, mainly by reason of its numerical inadequacy to the work thrown upon it, has been too much limited in its inquiries to the mere care and custody,

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the bricks and mortar, bread and butter, water and drain aspects of insanity. These are of great importance and of absolute necessity in dealing with the evil results of our faulty civilisation, but there are larger and more important areas of work beyond these.

Modern benevolence, however, while not neglecting the end products of our social errors, is turning its attention more and more to their prevention. The Lunacy Commission will, no doubt, not be content to stimulate the study of disease from the point of view of treatment, but will doubtlessly also urge an inquiry into the actual modes of production of insanity. To this end a much more thorough investigation of causation is absolutely necessary, in order to instruct the public in regard to the means necessary for the reduction of the mass of insanity which constitutes so great a blot on our civilisation. The teaching of the means necessary for the prevention of insanity should indeed constitute an important, if not primary aim, of the Commission, and we hail with satisfaction the evidence in the present report that scientific research in future will not be without official recognition and encouragement.

Report of the Commission on the Care and Control of the Feeble-minded.

The report of the Royal Commission, which was appointed in 1904, has at last been issued, after a laborious and voluminous investigation. The Minutes of Evidence will soon be given to the public, vols. i and ii relating to England and Wales, vol. iii relating to Scotland and Ireland, on the original reference, vol. iv relating to England on the extended reference, vol. v appendix papers, vol. vi on medical investigations, and vol. vii on the visit of certain commissioners to America.

The original reference to the Commission was:

"To consider the existing methods of dealing with idiots and epileptics, and with imbecile, feeble-minded, or defective persons not certified under the Lunacy Laws; and, in view of the hardship or danger resulting to such persons and the community from insufficient provision for their care, training and control, to report as to the amendments in the law or other

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