Justice stated that he noted a great change as to ideas as to prison treatment during the last few years, and never was the readiness to seek light from all quarters more marked than at present. It is remarkable that the discussion did not deal with responsibility and insanity, a question so often raised in connection with the treatment of criminals. The time is at hand when the present rule must be changed; the inequalities in administration resulting from the judge's answer in the McNaughten case are yearly becoming less marked, and should be swept aside by an authoratative reconsideration of the law in the light of later knowledge.

Assault on a Lunacy Commissioner.

The serious assault on Mr. Urmson, the Commissioner in Lunacy (from the effects of which we hope he has now thoroughly recovered), draws attention again to the dangers which beset those engaged in the supervision of the insane. The casualty list amongst medical superintendents quite recently has included our President-elect Dr. Wiglesworth, Dr. Moody, and many other well-known specialists; and in addition numerous attempts or hair-breadth escapes have passed without notice or record: they are in the day's work and nothing has been said of them.

The dangers thus incurred are borne willingly as a necessary price paid for the advantages in treatment in freeing the patients from restraint, and little is said of such occurrences from fear that they might be used as an argument by retrogressives; yet it is to be desired that some unobtrusive record could be made of these casualties for reference when questions arise of pay and pensions.

A certain amount of danger is unavoidable, but it is a point worthy of consideration whether the special risk which the Commissioners incur on counting the patients at their asylum inspections is not both avoidable and unnecessary. The Commissioner thus engaged has his attention largely occupied, and in this state is exposed to every lunatic who has a hatred of the authority that detains him or is liable to entertain delusions against a man who is apparently making notes against him in a book.

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The sympathy so widely felt for Mr. Urmson, however, needed no enhancement from the fact that his injury was incurred under such conditions, and if his injury leads to saving the Commission from exposure to similar danger in the future we may congratulate him both on his recovery and on his not having suffered in vain.

Stone Asylum.

The City of London Asylum at Stone has recently had very important additions and alterations, testifying at once to the liberality and enlightenment of the City Corporation.

A very handsome detached chapel, a new female hospital, a fine recreation hall, a laundry block, new baths, laboratory, mortuary, electric lighting, etc., have been provided, involving a total outlay of sixty-eight thousand pounds.

The formal dedication of the chapel by the Bishop of Rochester, on the occasion of an official visit by the Lord Mayor and Members of the Corporation, was attended by a great number of members of this Association. The inspection of the new buildings and the speeches at the luncheon afterwards should be the means of still further enlisting the interest of the Corporation in the care of the insane. Dr. White is to be congratulated on having charge of such an admirably organised institution as the present Stone Asylum.

Lunacy (England) Bill.

The Lunacy Bill, of which mention was made at the opening of the Parliamentary session, had not been brought before the House of Lords by the third week of June. Doubt may therefore be entertained whether it will really be produced this year.

If this hardy perennial has not blossomed so late in the season, even in the favouring warmth of the upper conservatory, it can scarcely be expected to be passed to the cooler temperature of the lower house with any expectation of producing fruit.

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