Poor of the Hackney Union, and their general relieving officer, Julius Bernard Frost, for alleged false imprisonment in having forcibly removed him from his house to the workhouse infirmary, and having detained him there as a dangerous lunatic. The defendants pleaded that the steps taken with regard to the removal of the plaintiff were taken in good faith, and in discharge of their duties under the Lunacy Act, 1890. It was alleged that on October 14th, 1896, the plaintiff, who was then living with his wife in Hackney, quarrelled with her, and took down a picture from the wall and tore it up. The wife, who was very angry, said, "You are mad," and went out of the house and complained to the police, who referred her to Mr. Fenton, relieving officer of the district. It was said that she told Mr. Fenton that her husband was out of his mind, that he talked of committing suicide, and had threatened to kill her and the children. Fenton then sent for the defendant Frost, the relieving officer, and appointed under the Lunacy Act of 1891 to deal with lunacy cases. Section 20 of the Lunacy Act of 1890 gives authority to the relieving officer to remove dangerous lunatics to the workhouse, but provides that no such person shall be detained for more than three days, and "before the expiration of that time the constable, relieving officer, or overseer shall take such proceedings with regard to the alleged lunatic as are required by this Act." The plaintiff's case was that on October 14th, while he was sitting at supper, two men came to his house and forcibly removed him to the workhouse infirmary, where he was confined in the padded room, and made to put on workhouse clothing. He was detained at the workhouse till October 19th, when he was taken before a magistrate, who, on hearing the medical evidence, at once discharged him. The plaintiff's wife, when she was called as a witness, denied that she told Fenton that her husband was a lunatic, but that he was ill. She admitted, however, in cross-examination, that she told Fenton that her husband had threatened to commit suicide and to "do" for her and the children. Mr. Justice Hawkins held that there was no case against the guardians, and judgment was entered in their favour. The jury, however, found a verdict for the plaintiff for £25, as against Frost, on the ground that he did not exercise reasonable care to satisfy himself that the plaintiff was a dangerous lunatic, but they could not agree as to whether the defendant was "honestly satisfied" as to the truth of the information which he acted upon. Mr. Justice Hawkins, upon this finding of the jury, entered judgment for the plaintiff, but stayed execution until the parties had gone to the Court of Appeal.

After hearing arguments Lord Justice Smith, in giving judgment, said that in his opinion there was ample evidence communicated to Frost to lead him to the conclusion that the plaintiff was deemed to be a lunatic, or alleged to be a lunatic, at the time in question. He thought that the verdict of the jury must be set aside, and judgment entered for the defendant. The other Lords Justices concurred, and the appeal was accordingly allowed with costs.

THE CAIRO ASYLUM.

We are glad to observe, from Lord Cromer's report for last year, that Dr. Warnock's services will be retained in the interests of the insane at Cairo. The temporary appointment has been made permanent. A number of patients are now brought by their friends for treatment, whereas they were formerly brought by the police. Lord Cromer refers in detail to the difficulty of providing accommodation for the large number of patients requiring asylum care, and the financial burden imposed upon the State. He says that, although local taxation has been willingly borne, the purposes for which the money was raised were such as could be readily appreciated—*e. g.* the construction of roads. He doubts if this appreciation would extend to taxation for such objects as sanitation and the care of the insane.

Lord Cromer's report is a document reflecting the highest honour on the men

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who have worked such a marvellous change in Egypt. Every department is emerging from the chaos which so long reigned supreme.

ASYLUM WORKERS' ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Meeting of this Association was held on the 28th March under the presidency of Sir James Crichton-Browne, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S., Lord Chancellor's Visitor. The audience, including (amongst others) Mrs. Creighton, wife of the Bishop of London, Mrs. Langdon-Down, Miss Honnor Morten, L.S.B., Dr. David Nicolson, C.B. (Lord Chancellor's Visitor), Mr. Bagot, Commissioner in Lunacy, Mr. F. D. Mocatta, the Rev. H. Hawkins, Drs. Alexander, Bower, Cassidy, Chambers, Elkins, Haslett, Gardiner Hill, P. Langdon-Down, Neil, Stilwell, Savage, and Outterson Wood. Miss Crouchley, Miss Warren, and other asylum matrons were present.

The President gave an eloquent and interesting address on the objects of the Association, especially dwelling on the misrepresentations recently made in regard to the training of asylum nurses.

The report of the Committee showed that the membership of the Association had risen from 2013 to 2534 during the past year (1897), and stated that an employment bureau (for male attendants only), under the auspices of the Association, had been established at 10, Thayer Street, Manchester Square, W.

The accounts showed a satisfactory balance at the end of the year.

MALE NURSES' (TEMPERANCE) CO-OPERATION.

The annual report of this co-operative society shows that it has continued to thrive during the present year.

The staff, it is reported, has considerably increased during the year, yet the average earnings per man, after paying all expenses, have been a little over £102.

The Sick Fund established last year has been drawn on only to the extent of 8½*d.* per member.

The report affirms that the tendency to employ male nurses for male cases is increasing, and that applications are being received from provincial hospitals for young men with asylum experience for employment in the male wards and about the hospital.

The co-operative principle is steadily growing in many directions, and it is satisfactory to note the success of it in this particular form.

THE UNFORTUNATE MIDDLE CLASSES.*

"Passing reference was made at the last meeting of the City Council to a deficiency in our lunatic asylum system which is deserving of much more attention than it has hitherto received. This is the provision of accommodation for lunatics of the middle or lower middle class, to form a connecting link between the existing pauper institutions and the private retreats where the fees are such as can only be paid by people in comparatively affluent circumstances. We are wont to indulge, not without reason, in a good deal of self-satisfaction at the reforms which the present century has wrought in the treatment of the insane. A hundred years ago the attitude of the community towards those of its members who were mentally infirm was one of wanton savagery; to-day local authorities are held responsible by the State for the proper care and efficient medical treatment of all such lunatics as cannot be satisfactorily provided for by their friends.

* From the *Birmingham Daily Post*, May 12th, 1898.

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