the magnificent gardens at Hole Park, and Col. Barham had kindly invited them to tea. Members would no doubt wish to extend their thanks to all those he had mentioned.

The vote of thanks was carried by acclamation.

The PRESIDENT said he also wished to mention that a great deal of the success of the meetings was due to the Treasurer, who was a great organizer. He, the President, had been away a great deal, and Dr. Smith had done a wonderful amount of work for him.

Dr. Smith was also thanked by acclamation.

THE DINNER.

The Annual Dinner of the Association took place at the Royal Pavilion Hotel, Folkestone, the President occupying the Chair, and the guests included The Lord Bishop of Dover (the Rt. Rev. A. C. W. Rose), Sir George Chrystal, *K.C.B.* (Ministry of Health), Sir Laurence Brock, *C.B.* (Chairman of the Board of Control), Alderman Stainer, (representing the Mayor of Folkestone), Lt.-Col. J. A. Purefoy Robinson (Chairman, Chartham Mental Hospital Committee), Rutley Mowll, Esq. (Coroner for East Kent), Miss Ruth Darwin (senior Commissioner of the Board of Control), P. Barter, Esq. (Secretary, Board of Control), C. F. Nicholson, Esq. (Town Clerk, Folkestone), Dr. Helgi Tómasson (of Reykjavik, Iceland), Dr. Austin Priestman (Medical Officer of Health for Folkestone), Dr. H. Wacher (Senior Hon. Physician, Kent and Canterbury Hospital), Mr. A. B. Beresford-Jones (Surgeon, Kent and Canterbury Hospital), Mr. T. A. Clarke, (Surgeon in Charge Ear, Nose and Throat Dept., Kent and Canterbury Hospital), Mr. J. A. Pringle, (Hon. Ophthalmic Surgeon, Kent and Canterbury Hospital), Mr. P. S. C. Sutcliffe, (Hon. Dental Surgeon, Kent and Canterbury Hospital), Mr. and Mrs. A. Cressall, Mr. and Mrs. W. Colthup (Chairman, Finance Committee, Chartham), and the Editors of the *Kentish Express* and *Kent Messenger*.

The PRESIDENT submitted the toast " His Majesty the King ", and it was loyally honoured.

Dr. J. H. MACDONALD, in proposing the toast of " H.M. MINISTRY OF HEALTH ", said he was comforted by the thought that it needed no oratory to commend itself to the present gathering to ensure its cordial acceptance. But he had a confession which he thought he ought to make. When, ten days ago, he returned home after a not too successful day's fishing, a telephone message was awaiting him somewhat to the following effect : " If coming to the dinner will you propose the health of the Minister ? " In Scotland, when speaking of " the minister " one thought of the clergyman of the district. Only two days before that he had been present at a wedding, at which he had the privilege of proposing the toast of the health of the clergyman who officiated ; and he thought his task at this dinner to-night would be easy, firstly because he now knew what to say about the clergy, secondly because, not being as regular an attender at church, as he ought to be, he was glad to seize any opportunity whereby he might gain the good opinion of his spiritual guides. But in the morning he found a confirmatory telegram before him, and it was not the health of the Minister, but the health of the Ministry he had to propose. (Laughter.)

Why should the immediate Past-President ask a Scotsman to propose the toast of the Ministry of Health, seeing that in Scotland there was no Ministry of Health, but only a Department of Health, acting under the Secretary of State for Scotland ? And he said, " Can it be that my English colleagues, or rather my colleagues in England—(Laughter)—want me to fire off some of their bullets ? " Therefore when he arrived at his hotel yesterday morning he said to Dr. Worth, " What do you want me to say ? " He replied, "Anything you like ". That made his job much easier.

It was appropriate, in a body like this, keenly interested as the members of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association were in the mental health of the people, and therefore in their physical health and all that pertained to the comfort, pleasure and good living of the people, that an occasion like the present one should be seized to propose the health of the Ministry of Health. It would be needless for him even to recapitulate the great achievements which had been carried out in the past few decades by the Ministry of Health and the very wise legislation which it had projected. It would be futile, and yet he could not do less than allude to such matters as the prolongation of the expectation of life which certainly had occurred in the last

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few decades, the great success which has been achieved in the combat against tuberculosis, all that had been done for infant welfare, and the success of the fight against infant mortality and in furtherance of maternal care. One could not help being impressed by the great achievements which had taken place in the lifetime of those present. Neither could anyone help being impressed by the vigorous way in which the Minstry of Health was tackling the urgent problems of the present day.

He could also mention other matters linked up with the work of the Ministry of Health, such as those concerned with housing schemes, the clearance of slum areas, and better accommodation for the displaced families from those areas, ensuring proper sanitary conditions. Again, there was that difficult question of health in the factories and in the workshops. There was an increasing penetration of the medical psychologist into the industrial fields. Altogether there was much to impress one in the splendid work which the Ministry had done and was still doing. It was said by some that we were not an Ar nation ; he did not know whether there was any real foundation for that statement or not, but he was sure that many of those present felt disappointed when they saw competitors from foreign countries coming here and carrying off our prizes in athletics, and this gave rise to the question whether in these matters we still stood where we once did. All the same, he believed there was no reason for thinking that degeneration was creeping in amongst us. He thought the explanation was that our standard had been so high that foreign countries had felt it was well worth emulating, and had tried to attain to the standard which we had enjoyed so long.

He would like to speak of the Association's special department of activity, that of mental health. He was glad to think that they still had, in both Scotland and England, a Board of Control, which he was sure must be most helpful to the Minister, and was certainly helpful to those who were engaged specially in its services. He understood that in Ireland, too, there were special bodies, though they were departments of other Ministries.

What he specially wanted to say was that members of the Association felt that they as psychiatrists engaged in any part of the work of mental health were greatly indebted to the initiative, the direction, guidance and advice they obtained from the Board of Control, and he felt, and hoped, that the Ministry of Health itself would look upon the Board of Control in the same way as members looked upon the Ministry of Health—for advice. When Socialists told him about socialism and Marxism, he told them that the only Marxism in this world which was worth talking about was mental health. That meant an enormous lot. All that the Ministry of Health was doing for the people meant so much to members of the Association that the latter wished that Ministry every success.

One thing he wished to say, not in criticism, but by way of personal opinion, was that in the last two decades much had been heard about rationalization and concentration. He feared, from his Scottish experience, that rationalization could be carried to such an extent that it could be unduly " rational " ; and that was one of the difficulties which members had to contend against.

Of course the Ministry of Health, however efficient it might be, had to depend on the local authorities, to a large extent, for carrying out what the Ministry would like to do ; and he thought that many of the difficulties seen to occur were due to the fact that those local authorities, on their part, did not do what the Ministry of Health would like them to do. He thought it would be good if the Board of Control, the Ministry of Health and the Departments of Health in Ireland had a little more power given to them to see that the decisions arrived at by them were forced on the local people.

He understood he was to have had the pleasure of associating this toast with the Minister of Health himself, but Sir Kingsley Wood could not be present ; still, it was a pleasing thought that he had been good enough to accept the Honorary Membership of the Association. (Applause.) He was a great acquisition, and he was delighted that Sir Kingsley had seen his way to accept it. But, fortunately, the Association had with it the Permanent Secretary of that Ministry. It was a characteristic of Ministers that they came and went, and there was always a permanent feature needed, which constituted a guiding influence, and that guiding influence was now Sir George Chrystal. (Applause.) When reflecting on the great amount of mental illness with which Sir George had had to deal among ex-service men, it could not be said that he came as a stranger in the present company nor to its work, and it was a pleasure to welcome him to-night. He wished Sir George long life and ability to carry on for many years yet. Some remembered with pleasure the name of Sir George's father, a Professor of Mathematics in Edinburgh University. (Applause.)

He would like Sir George to convey to the Minister the regrets of this company that he was unable to be present, and ask Sir Kingsley to accept the Association's very best wishes. He asked the company to rise and drink to " The Ministry of Health ", coupled with the name of Sir George Chrystal.

The toast was warmly responded to.

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Sir GEORGE CHRYSTAL, *K.C.B.* (Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health), in reply, said that before attempting to perform the duty which had been laid upon him to-night, he wished to convey to the assembled company a message from the Minister of Health. Sir Kingsley Wood wished him to say how deeply he regretted that, for the second time since he took his present office, he had been prevented from attending the Association's dinner—on the present occasion because of the pressure of parliamentary business, which, as those present were probably aware, was particularly severe at the present moment. Sir Kingsley, as Dr. MacDonald had reminded the company, was an Honorary Member of the Association, and he took the greatest interest in its proceedings; and he frequently visited the institutions with which so many of those present were concerned. He knew, as the speaker also knew, how important it was that there should be a co-ordinating organization such as this, bringing together eminent consultants, medical superintendents and medical officers of the mental institutions throughout the country, keeping all the members abreast of the latest developments of the speciality, encouraging research and the work of the younger people, and even — if he might venture to say so — keeping psychiatry in its proper place in the main majestic stream of the development of medical art and science, and preventing it from drifting into a sort of sterile particularism which all would regret. Therefore Sir Kingsley Wood asked the speaker to convey to this company his most cordial greetings, and his best wishes for continued success in the organization which was doing so much; and his assurance that among his multitudinous responsibilities there was none which he regarded with more personal concern than the mental health services for which he was responsible to Parliament.

Speaking for himself, Sir George said he wished first to thank Dr. MacDonald for the kind things he said about him, and those thanks he extended to his hearers for the cordial way in which they had received them. He confessed he received with some initial trepidation the Association's kind invitation to take part in these proceedings. It was only a year ago—at a time when, he was rather amused to think, he was as completely ignorant and innocent of local government as the mass of his fellow countrymen, and no ignorance could be more complete, or innocence more unqualified—a year ago almost to the day that this Association was entertaining his distinguished predecessor, Sir Arthur Robinson, a man eminent even among the most eminent public servants of our time. He could not speak with a fraction of Sir Arthur's authority, or with a tithe of his experience. And yet, apart from the indulgence to a beginner which he would expect from the Association's charming hospitality, there might be some mitigating circumstances which excused his inflicting on the gathering a few observations of his own.

One of these concerned the very nature of the mantle which had fallen upon him. It was, as Dr. MacDonald said, appropriate that, failing the presence of the Minister himself, the Secretary of the Ministry of Health should be here on an occasion such as this. He was not vain enough to think he could get across the spoken word, but he could scarcely be so inarticulate as to fail to convey to those present that those at the Ministry of Health regarded the mental health service as an integral and honoured part of the public health organization. Competent as the Board of Control was under his old friend and colleague, Sir Laurence Brock and the Commissioners, among whom were many old friends of his own, and complete as that autonomy was, he wished to assure his hearers that the Ministry were in the most intimate and personal contact with the Board of Control. It was not merely parliamentary or dynastic union, though that existed; it was also a union founded upon constant consultation about major and minor policy, and, like all good alliances and good friendships, it was almost entirely uneventful and absolutely continuous. (Hear, hear.)

Another circumstance which gave him some confidence to-night was one on which Dr. MacDonald touched when proposing this toast. He was intensely interested to learn that the new President of the Association had joined his own old department, the Ministry of Pensions, where he spent sixteen of the happiest years of his life, and a little more than half his whole official career. While he was there he thought that almost every problem known to every branch of medical and surgical science—except obstetrics, to which he was serving an interesting but wholly theoretical apprenticeship—every problem, almost, which affected mind and body in one way or another came before him. But in all the work he had to do there he could not remember anything of greater interest than the reports which came to him from time to time from the Chairman's predecessors on the mental condition of the pensioners. He would be most interested, hereafter, to hear Dr. Collins's impressions of his new department; he would have a flock which was of somewhat imposing dimensions. He noticed that the cases of insanity had declined a little from the 6,000 which they had come to regard as the static figure in his own time. Dr. Collins would have about 600 cases of neurasthenia, and nearly 300 difficult epileptics to look after. He did not know what Dr. Collins would think of the judgments of entitlement which had placed these cases under his control; he would probably think they were fairly generous, but he hoped that gentleman would be able, as a result of his experience, to

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confirm the claim which he, the speaker, made to-night, that the Ministry of Pensions, having about 6,000 mental cases in public mental hospitals up and down the country, always used such influence as it had—the influence at any rate of a large customer—on the side of improved conditions and progressive methods. He thought Dr. Collins would find his new work interesting; at any rate the speaker thought they would join with him in congratulating the Ministry of Pensions on having secured his services; and he could not give Dr. Collins a better wish than that he would be as happy in the Ministry as the speaker had been. (Applause.) After prolonged experience which he had of that work, which gave him glimpses of that strange territory of definite abnormality, and that other, almost stranger debatable land which lay between the night and the daytime of the spirit, after all those years he did not think he would ever find himself an unsympathetic member—or might he be bold enough to say a stranger member—of any company of psychiatrists. To-night, therefore, he could not feel himself anything but at home among colleagues and friends of whose problems he had learned at least something, and whose difficulties he had been able to appreciate with the profoundest interest and the deepest sympathy. The company could imagine how his interest in these matters had been quickened by the necessarily wider angle from which he could now view these problems at the Ministry of Health. While no one could fail, or should fail, to recognize the immensity of the task which still lay before them and before this country in developing the mental health services, he did not think it was altogether out of place, on a festive occasion of this kind, to recognize with thankfulness, not with complacency, the immense progress that had already been made. In 1841, which was the birth-year of the Association, he supposed that the practice of the speciality was only just emerging—if indeed it had emerged at all—from the savagery of the clinical methods which were applied, for instance, to the tragic case of George III. Public sentiment in those days was in a state of superstitious brutality, which had always struck him as being almost as horrible as insanity itself. Even seventy years later—in 1910—there were no services for the mentally deficient in this country at all. Some pioneer work had been done, and it came under the Home Office, of which he was a junior member. It was not until three years later that the country had the first Mental Deficiency Act. That also he remembered very well, because he had a humble part in helping Secretary McKenna to get this measure to deal with mental deficiency through the House of Commons. He very well remembered the floods of nonsense which were talked; the sacred principle of the "liberty of the subject" was invoked to persuade those responsible to agree that the only correct principle was—and he hoped the Bishop of Dover would pardon the expression—to allow everyone to go to Hell in his own way, and take as many people with him as he could. He felt bound to say that some of the advocates of this measure were so tedious that the Bill was nearly lost, i.e., it was nearly lost because of the advocacy of those who supported it. However, the Bill was passed. And what did one find? To-day 117,000 defectives were under varying degrees of control and supervision and occupational training was provided. On January 1 this year 192 occupational centres and classes and 4,000 places were on the register. They could claim that they were on a line which was leading towards some kind of rational idea of humanity and civilization. (Applause.)

He was thankful to say the same was true of the advances which had been made on the older road of progress in the treatment of mental disorder. He did not propose to deluge the gathering with figures, but one or two which he would like to give were very striking. During 1935—the latest period available—30% of the direct admissions to mental hospitals were made without certification. That, he considered, was an extremely interesting figure, seeing that the corresponding one for the year before was only 20%. In other words, there had been an increase of 10% in this during the last twelve months. He thought that to be a fact of immense significance, and he considered that its significance was underscored by the fact that the 134 out-patient clinics of which Sir Arthur Robinson spoke last year at the Association's dinner had now been increased to over 150. He thought he would be well entitled to dwell on those results, full of achievement, full of promise for the future; but he thought the company would prefer that he should say something on another aspect of the matter.

What was the lesson of all this progress, and all this promise of conquests still to come? Surely it was this: That if this specialism had emerged from the stage of magic and empiricism during the 80 or 90 years of the life of this Association—and pre-eminently during the last 20 or 30 years—if it had reached the status of a body which was progressing and advancing scientific doctrine, as he believed it had, it was because its leaders had followed the methods which had been followed in all other branches of medicine. The Association had taken the old way, the only way, the way of Aristotle and Harvey, the way of Pasteur, the way of Lister; it had used the way of application of man's unconquerable mind with patience, perseverance, sometimes with heroism, and in the modern spirit of objectivity to a vast complex of stubborn facts which had begun to give way to the organized genius of humanity. As a gathering of scientific people, they were saying to themselves, Who is this audacious person who releases upon us the obvious platitude of the unity of all medical science? But there was something more to it

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than that: it had highly practical applications: "*Sanitatis sanitatum omnia sanitas.*" When Disraeli said that, he showed more than his usual flash of prophetic insight, for what he was pointing to was this: that the philosophic and scientific concept of medicine led straight to the administrative concept of the unity, the indivisibility of public health. He would like to take a practical example, because this higher synthesis was a very practical thing indeed. He sometimes heard criticisms concerning the Board of Control; he heard one recently about the out-patient clinics for mental trouble, and he thought he heard an echo of it in Dr. MacDonald's speech in proposing the toast. One was told that the Ministry—or in this case the Board—should do this, or should insist upon that; and the Board, or the Ministry, was reproached because it did not do this or that, or did not insist on this or that being done. Yet no one less than he himself would deprecate frank, free, severe or fair criticism; it was one of the conditions of progress in all departments of human affairs. He thought their critics would be more effective sometimes if they were to call to mind the fact that we were governed by "the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and this present Parliament assembled", and that the things which people wanted the Board or the Ministry to do and which they wished those bodies to insist on having done were usually, in the last analysis or in the first analysis, matters of finance, in other words, matters of rates and taxes; and that—in the matter of rates at least—in respect of health services the Authority was the chosen instrument of Parliament. There were no dictators, either at the Ministry of Health or at the Board of Control; in fact with every measure that was passed which dealt with the mental health services, those bodies became less dictatorial every day. Was there really any cause to regret that? He thought there was not. Personally he was a bureaucrat, and proud of it, but he was also one of those who believed that successful bureaucracy, or at any rate a long continuance of its success, was not possible without the support of the public opinion of the country which was voiced in its elective and representative bodies. After all, was it not really one of the doctrines of the Association's own specialism that almost no price, short of delirium and disaster, was too great to pay for the autonomy of the human spirit, which the gentlemen present, in their hospital wards and consulting-rooms, were seeking to restore, to preserve or to maintain? Was not the same thing true of the body politic—that almost no price was too great to pay for the free institutions, not only under which we lived, but which were developing every day? That was why he was a great admirer of that great statute the Local Government Act of 1929, and if Dr. MacDonald or any of the speaker's other friends present still felt wistfully inclined towards a medical dictatorship, might he suggest that even those Acts of Parliament had done something for the medico-psychological specialism? Therefore there was no need for anyone to repine too much. The Act of 1929 had almost liberated these medical gentlemen from the tendons of the Poor Law; and the Act of 1930 had placed a new weapon in their hands. He thought that even if medical men did feel some repining against the exaggerated constitutionality of the age in which we live, the only course—because he did not think the engine would be reversed in this particular—was to accept these limitations, and see what could be done with accepting all these disabilities to advance the cause which they all had so much at heart. Some day it would be necessary to codify what used to be the law of lunacy. He did not propose to commit his Minister to any rash adventure, and therefore he would not even conjecture, but he did not think he was being indiscreet when he said he hoped it would be soon, and that at the Ministry some preliminary work had already been done, which, he was sorry to say, did not seem to show that they had over-estimated the difficulties which were likely to attend on that high enterprise. However, he expressed the hope that it would be done in his, the speaker's, own time, and that it would be done with the Association's help and co-operation and collaboration. He hoped it would be done in the spirit of what he had referred to as the unity of the public health service. He fully realized that this was a topic which possessed a controversial side. Perhaps it was owing to the temerity of his race that he had gone so far on the road that this particular *logos* was leading him, but he wished to put to the Association how important it might be that when the time arrived to consider the exact ways in which the mental health services would have to be administered in the future, they should not be too careful to insist upon things which were not really essential to usefulness or happiness. Owing, no doubt, to the special nature of the responsibilities of members of the Association, medical and legal, and owing also to a series of historical accidents, the local administration of the mental health services stood in rather an exceptional position, and it was natural that practitioners of this speciality should be careful to preserve anything which was really necessary in order to enable them to discharge their peculiar liabilities and responsibilities. No one who knew anything about the subject would quarrel with that. Sir Arthur Robinson had had some wise words to say to the Association on that subject at the dinner last year. He, the speaker, would not follow him on that ground, as he had not Sir Arthur's authority nor his experience; but he hoped that when the time arrived for further legislation on this subject, the help of the Association would be forthcoming

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for the solution of a problem which was becoming more urgent every day. Because not only was the present law clogged—as laws did become clogged in sixty years—with all sorts of obsolete provisions, but it was in many respects at variance with the best practice of the present time. He believed that at this moment, in the minds and consciences of fellow citizens and the body which represented them, there was a mighty impulse towards the progress of public health, a great disposition to progress in comparison with which what had already been achieved would pale into insignificance. His last word would be : " Don't let us sacrifice that immense alliance, that almost certain victory in the cause we have at heart by insisting on matters which are not really of the first importance, which are matters of form rather than matters of substance."

In conclusion he wished once again to thank the Association for its most kind hospitality, to wish the President all prosperity and success in his year of office, and success to the Association in the years still to come. (Cheers.)

Dr. NOEL SERGEANT, in submitting the toast of " THE VISITORS ", said the dinner had not its full savour because the Association had hoped that the gathering would have included the Mayor of Folkestone. In Folkestone a dinner without the Mayor of the town could not be said to be a complete dinner. It was true that Alderman Stainer was present, not only as Alderman Stainer, which was an honour, but also as representing the Mayor, who was at present, unfortunately, on a bed of sickness, but who was anxious to have a representative at the dinner. He, the speaker, would therefore couple the toast with the name of the Mayor, for he was present in spirit. With the toast also he coupled the name of the Bishop of Dover, and that of Col. Purefoy Robinson. Those last mentioned were at any rate on the list ; but all the other guests were, in a way, more important, for those honoured people had an influence on and could convey a message to the public ; and the great need of the Association was to get into direct contact with the public, and that was often very difficult.

There were all kinds of people present at this function ; for instance, there was Sir Laurence Brock, also Mr. Barter and Miss Darwin ; he mentioned them together, for they belonged to the Board of Control, and they came to visit the Association clothed in authority. He had already put in some dirty work with Mr. Barter. Sir Laurence Brock was an extraordinarily human individual ; he had even visited some of the members in a very human way, and that had been extraordinarily interesting and gratifying. Miss Darwin bore a very honoured name, and members of the Association were very pleased to see her there, because he, and many others, attached great importance to the ministrations of women in their work. In a man the attributes which led to success did not lead to good nursing ; the man was not likely to put up with weaknesses, whereas a woman had an inexhaustible store of patience when it was a matter of sickness and distress. Women were very important in the work which medical psychologists were doing. He could illustrate his meaning by repeating a story which was probably known to most. A small boy was asked what he knew about Darwin's theory of evolution, and he wrote as his answer, " Both man and woman sprang from the ape but woman sprang farther". (Laughter.) There was also present Mr. Rutley Mowll, a coroner. It was probably generally known that when a man died in a mental hospital his death could not be certified in the ordinary way ; the coroner must be notified of the death. The ordinary public, when they heard of a coroner being notified, always felt that there had been dirty work at the cross-roads, and hence that, seeing the number of such notifications, there must be a good deal of this dirty work in hospitals. Our coroners were to a large extent responsible for educating a certain number of people that such was not the case. He pleaded for a feeling of special tolerance to coroners. In the case of a suicide in a private family, everyone seemed anxious to convey expressions of sympathy, but if a suicide occurred in the case of a patient who was under proper supervision and care, everyone seemed suspicious that there must have been something gravely wrong, and hence that an exhaustive inquiry must be held. Coroners could do much to correct that erroneous idea. Medical officers of mental hospitals were accustomed to being responsible for the death of their patients, but he had been in the unfortunate position of being thought responsible for the death of the husband of a patient. Someone, it appeared, had explained that the man had committed suicide because of the unloving attitude of the wicked " mad doctor " who was looking after his wife, and he, the speaker, was summoned back from his holiday to attend the inquest because of the death of that husband over whom he had had no control. It showed that if one once gave a dog a bad name, one might just as well hang him.

There were also various doctors present, ordinary doctors, not " mad doctors " and a few words should be said about them. He said that because in the medico-psychological speciality an effort had been made to place those in the speciality and their work on an equality with those in other branches of medicine, and who represented other hospitals. Medical psychologists should not claim equality with other doctors ; they should leave the latter to claim equality with medical psychologists. There were present distinguished surgeons who would remove a

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liver or a kidney satisfactorily, and he would say that a good " vet." who had practised on one's dog might do the same thing ; but when one came to deal with the human mind, one soon found that was a much more important and more difficult matter. It was well known what appalling competition there was to get on to a surgical staff, so that anyone who won through to such a post must be a very good man. In the past the competition for posts at mental hospitals was not so severe. That did not alter the fact that while the individual medical psychologist might be a poor thing, the work he did was very superior work, and he derived a certain amount of virtue from a consciousness of that fact. He was talking of a doctor who had had a brilliant career at Edinburgh—and those present might know that there were more brilliant careers at Edinburgh than at any other university—and the remark made was one of disappointment that he had " drifted into lunacy " ; and that represented a largely-held view among doctors, which the Association ought to correct.

He had met many visitors and they were all nice ; doubtless those he had not met were equally nice. Many had claims to personal distinction. Lawyers he had mentioned lightly in passing ; they bobbed up in every sphere—commissioners, justices of the peace, in fact they could not be kept down. They could be of great help to those practising this speciality, because the latter acted in close collaboration with them. The doctors dealt with the persons of people, and lawyers dealt with the affairs of people ; and it was impossible adequately to care for the person without making considerable inroads into the estate of the person. (Laughter.)

There was also the ordinary layman. There were Mr. and Mrs. Cressall, who were friends of Dr. Collins. He, the speaker, asked what was Mr. Cressall's position in Folkestone, and he was told in reply, " He is Folkestone ". Col. Purefoy Robinson was, of course, very important ; he was the Chairman of the Chartham Visiting Committee, and so represented their employers, and represented also the public, and, as he had already said, it was the public they wanted to get into touch with. Dr. Collins had been very fortunate in his Chairman, just as the Chairman had been very fortunate in Dr. Collins. He noticed that Col. Barham was not present, at which he was disappointed, as he had a beautiful place, which he opened to the public on certain occasions in aid of the nursing funds, and he had kindly asked the Association to go there on Saturday. They were the most beautiful gardens the speaker had seen. Present also was the Secretary of the Deal Golf Club. Golf was even more important than psychiatry. Referring to lawyers, Lord Dunedin had said that the great lawyer was the man who minimized the discrepancy between law and equity ; and that Dr. Sergeant thought was a very good definition. He would supplement that by saying that a great commissioner was one who minimized the discrepancy between legality and humanity.

There was also present Alderman Pettman, who for some years was Mayor of Margate. The speaker envied that gentleman greatly ; he made Margate more or less free to brides, and kissed all the brides. (Laughter.) Sir George Chrystal had already spoken. Dr. and Mrs. Tómasson had come from abroad ; they were specially good people ; like themselves, they were psychiatrists, and so were guests in a class by themselves.

He was anxious to pay tribute to the *Kent Messenger* and *Kentish Express*. He welcomed the Press to the dinner ; he would welcome them more if their representatives would come and see the " mad doctors " engaged in their nefarious work.

He had now put his foot into it sufficiently badly, and he would say again that the toast was " The Visitors ", coupled with the names of the Mayor of Folkestone, the Lord Bishop of Dover, and Col. Purefoy Robinson.

The toast was cordially pledged.

Alderman J. E. W. Stainer, *J.P.*, in responding to the toast, said that when he received a message inviting him to dine with the Association that night, he received it with some trepidation. Those other visitors, those who were not members of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association, would agree with him that it was a rather formidable thing to meet one psychiatrist, but to meet such gentlemen in the mass was a staggering thing indeed. However, after listening to the admirable speech of Dr. Noel Sergeant in proposing the toast of the Visitors, all his fears had disappeared, for he was sure that gentleman had made every guest at the tables feel at home in the midst of this assembly.

Dr. Sergeant had been so kind as to mention that he, the speaker, was acting as substitute for the Mayor. It was a matter of great regret to him that the Mayor was too ill to come. As an old Folkestonian and a resident in the town in which lived one of England's most famous medical men, he was pleased indeed to come to a gathering of a medical society and extend a cordial welcome on its visit to Folkestone. Dr. Sergeant talked about people in such positions as the Mayor and himself who represented the public, and remarked that the public " hang upon our words ". The Mayor of a borough was only a justice of the peace in a petty sessional court, but the words " hang upon our words " might in higher courts bear a rather sinister meaning ! A story had been told about a judge and a clergyman. The judge said that

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when people were hanged they did carry out his sentence, but when the clergyman condemned people to the next world they did not take much notice of what he said!

This Royal Medico-Psychological Association was one, he was sure, which commanded the admiration of all public authorities. Its members were interested in research, and that research was for the public good, and he was very pleased indeed to have been accorded the honour of an invitation to this table, and to hear of the illustrious work which the Society was carrying on. He wished it every success in the future in its great endeavour.

The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Dover also responded. He said he found himself rising on this occasion in a rather unusual, he could almost say unnatural position. When he was a small boy he learned "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner", and some of the words ran:

> "It is an ancient mariner,
> and he stoppeth one of three."

When he looked at his programme to-night he saw that, so far from stopping one of three in this toast, encouragement seemed to have been given to the lot. It was a perfect avalanche. He had always felt slightly nervous of speaking on occasions when, intermingled with the toasts, there were musical items, for there was always the possibility of hearing sung, "Strike, strike the liar". (Laughter.) He was permitted to be one of three who were allowed to thank the Association for this very pleasant evening. One of the three had already done his bit. There were not an unlimited number of ways of saying the same thing. He was reminded of an old clergyman who found himself, as he grew older, less and less capable of speaking twice every Sunday to his parishioners. He accordingly went to one of the iniquitous agencies which existed and asked them to supply him with two typewritten sermons, one for morning, one for evening, over a period. After six months he concluded that it was an expensive procedure, and so he reduced it to one each week. This one he preached in the morning with his teeth in, and in the evening he preached the same sermon with his teeth out. (Laughter.) As he listened to the Deputy-Mayor speaking he wished it was possible to perform the same trick. For physical reasons he could not do so, as, for some reason, his teeth were his own. It was a case of "everyone for himself, and the Devil take the hindmost". There were eight speeches on the programme, and twice since he entered the room he had been taken by members and reminded by them of a certain tremendous evening on the East Coast when the company did not rise from their seats at dinner until one o'clock in the morning. He, the speaker, had a clergyman friend who was marrying a couple, and at the end of the service the man came and said, "I am very sorry; I am out of work, and am unable to pay the marriage fee"; then a bright look came over his face and he said, "But if you will take me down to your cellar I will tell you how to fix your gas meter so that it won't register". (Laughter.)

There had been a number of speeches, and he was one of three, and he thought the best way he could return thanks and earn the appreciation of the company was to follow the guests who said how grateful they were for the Association's hospitality, and then stop the meter from registering the gas. (Applause.)

The third respondent to the toast was Lieut.-Col. J. A. Purefoy Robinson, *D.S.O.* He said there was a man who, like himself, was a poor speaker, and he got into the habit of beginning with the words, "When I was asked to make a speech to-night I wished I had never been born". On one occasion, having delivered himself of the customary preliminary he paused, and a voice from the back was heard, "Well, it can't be helped now; get on with it".

To "get on with it", he wished cordially to thank Dr. Noel Sergeant for the kind way in which he proposed this toast, and the fellow guests for the way in which they had received it. It gave those in East Kent, particularly those who were members of the Sub-Committee of Visitors to Chartham Hospital, especial pleasure to be present at this function under the presidency of Dr. Collins, as they did appreciate and were grateful for the great work he had done for those unfortunate patients who were suffering from mental disorder at Chartham. That institution and the Council were more than sorry to lose him, but there was one thing which, at least to Dr. Collins, was a compensation, namely, that he was going to look after the ex-service men. They were men for whom, he was sure, all had the greatest sympathy. In most cases those who suffered most in the war were among the best men. Probably the best were killed, but of the others the ones who had the hardest time were those who came forward at once without waiting to be conscripted. No doubt large numbers of those poor fellows were still suffering from the results of the war, and were more than grateful for what was being done for them, in the mental hospitals and outside them. There existed such agencies as the Ex-Service Welfare

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Association; he received their representative a few days ago, and he was very glad to note in their report a high appreciation of what was being done for them by the mental hospitals of the country. He would merely conclude with the words, "Thank you very much for the pleasant evening we have had, and for the way in which you have received us". (Applause.)

Sir LAURENCE BROCK, *C.B.*, in proposing the toast of "THE ROYAL MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION", said he had to ask the indulgence of the company, as he was speaking to a very important toast in circumstances of peculiar difficulty. It was not because he was going in to bat ninth wicket down, but because he had come straight from attending the funeral of his oldest and dearest friend. Death had suddenly snapped a friendship which, for the past thirty years, had meant a very great deal in his life. It would be understood that, in those circumstances, it had been impossible for him to think of what he had to say to-night, and he was sure his hearers would bear with him if he did not feel able to do justice to the importance of this toast. He was not in the mood to decorate his speech, such as it was, with any of those pleasantries, or any of those studied "impromptus", which normally relieved after-dinner speaking, and he would gladly have been relieved of the task, but he was reluctant to leave his task unfulfilled, and he did not want it to be felt that he, or the Board of Control, were wanting in appreciation of the work which the Royal Medico-Psychological Association was doing and had done. He was present to-night because he felt so strongly the value of the work of this Association, and that for two reasons: first because it helped to keep alive an interest in the science and art of medicine among the younger men. The danger of any institutional service was that it was so fatally easy to go on doing routine work which must be done each day. Because one was doing a reasonable amount of work there might be a tendency to feel that one was doing all that needed to be done. It was because this Association maintained an interest in the science of medicine and in study that it was so especially valuable to the younger men in the service.

The second reason why he valued the work of the Association so much was that he felt it was to the doctors that one must look for the education and enlightenment of public opinion. So far as material things were concerned, there was not a great deal to complain of. In the main, their buildings, their mental hospital fabrics, would compare very favourably with any he had seen in other countries. He thought the Service had the best body of nurses to be found anywhere in Europe. (Applause.) Among their doctors were many sincere and earnest workers. But all those present probably knew that the great majority of our public mental hospitals were seriously under-staffed. Visiting Committees could appreciate the need of good buildings; they could appreciate the need for taking care of the patients, but they did not and could not appreciate what could be done in a hospital which was adequately staffed, or what might be achieved if there were resources for study and research such as there really should be. (Applause.) It was not possible for any central department to do much to educate public opinion; it rested with the doctors, the leaders in their speciality, the leaders in this branch of the profession, to teach the public what could and what ought to be achieved. It was because he so much appreciated not only what members of the Association had done in the past, but also what might be accomplished, that he had every confidence and the greatest pleasure in asking the assembled company to drink to the toast of "The Royal Medico-Psychological Association", coupled with the name of its President, Dr. Collins. (Applause.)

The toast was cordially honoured.

The PRESIDENT, in responding to the toast, said he felt it to be a very great honour to stand and reply on behalf of the Association. He wished first, and particularly, to thank Sir Laurence Brock for having come to the dinner to show, as he had so well indicated, that the Board of Control did appreciate the work which the Association was carrying on. The Association was out to help in every possible way, and it had always found the Board willing to co-operate in every way they could.

Members had had to listen to him for some time earlier in the day, therefore he did not propose to detain the company long, especially as the hour was late. But he wished to say that the Association was progressing; it was very proud of itself, and it meant to give all possible opportunities to the younger men, and, in return, he hoped the younger men would appreciate the Association. He repeated his thanks.

ENTERTAINMENTS.

The entertainments kindly provided for members and guests during the meeting are enumerated on p. 21 of the supplement, under the heading of "Votes of Thanks".

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