The dispassionate and fair-minded judgment which he has always brought to bear in the conduct of the Journal has been of the utmost value during a period in which, owing to the rapid extension of the power and influence of the Association, there have been so many opportunities demanding the exercise of this faculty.

The scientific character of the Journal, sustained throughout his connection with it, has been largely due to his indefatigable efforts in procuring the best matter available for its pages, and to his scientific acumen, based on a comprehensive appreciation of psychiatry in its widest sense.

The genial sympathy, courtesy, and consideration which Dr. Chambers has shown at all times to those with whom he has come in contact are an additional source of regret at his retirement from the Journal, especially to those who have been most closely associated with him.

The Medico-Psychological Association, which calls for so much arduous work and services from so many of its members, is indebted to Dr. Chambers as deeply as to any of those who have borne, or still bear, the burden of voluntary office, or who devote themselves otherwise to its cause—the advancement of psychiatry in all its aspects.

Treasury Grant for Psychiatrical Research.

In the minutes of the Quarterly Meeting, held in May last, it is recorded that a letter had been received by the Secretary from the Board of Control, intimating that a sum of £1,500 had been granted by the Treasury for the purpose of research into the causes and treatment of mental disease and mental defect; and at the same time inviting suggestions from the Association as to the best way in which this grant could be utilised.

Research work, on the whole, does not receive enthusiastic encouragement from either Governments or people—who have benefited, and are largely benefiting, by labour of this kind, accomplished through the meritorious and unselfish endeavours of the pioneers of science in various departments—and enlightened action such as this on the part of the Government is a genuine sample of "rare and refreshing fruit" to those who have been looking for a change to occur in the attitude of

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almost practical indifference towards the progress of science which, even in this age of progress, has characterised to a large extent the mind of the public generally. We use the term practical advisedly, for, no doubt, the public do interest themselves considerably in scientific discoveries, even welcome them; information regarding them is disseminated, their importance emphasised, the discoverers eulogised in newspapers or popular lectures, but there it ends. Only in comparatively rare instances are any active measures taken for the promotion or endowment of scientific investigation. There are, happily, some few notable exceptions, amongst which Lord Iveagh's princely donation of a quarter of a million to the Lister Institute, and the more recent generous gift of the Misses Lawrence of £4000, to the Royal Society for the furtherance of research deserve honourable mention. This action on the part of the Government is gratifying for more reasons than one. In the first place, and before all, we hail it as an indication that the State is recognising more and more the necessity for, and the importance of, medical research, and, in this instance particularly, of its value in the department of psychiatry. For the past half-century or more, thanks to the leaders in the work of sanitary reform, the securing and maintaining of the *corpus sanum* has received a vast amount of attention, and many measures having that object in view have taken their place among the statutes of the realm. Nor can we complain of any neglect of the insane mind in recent times. The palatial buildings which have been, and are being, erected for the accommodation of the insane, the liberal ménage which is provided for them, the vast improvement in nursing arrangements, and, in many asylums, the very up-to-date medical and surgical equipment which has been instituted: all this testifies to the enhanced and very practical interest which is now generally taken in the welfare of the mentally afflicted. And it is excellent in its way, and a subject for congratulation. Still, when all is said that can be said, all this valuable and philanthropic organisation, involving, as it does, a huge expenditure, is really, as regards the greater part of it, a case of shutting the door after the steed has been stolen. In our institutions we do what we can to cure insanity, or, at any rate, to give our patients an opportunity for recovery. But what is wanted far more is, to

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prevent insanity. Now to prevent the occurrence of an evil we must ascertain its cause. When that is discovered, but not till then, can we expect a remedy to be forthcoming. The study of the causation of disease is always a difficult and intricate subject. And especially is this the case as regards the causation of insanity. It requires ability of no mean order, special intellectual training, technical dexterity, industry, perseverance, enthusiasm, self-sacrifice to bring about a successful result. Only a comparatively few are properly qualified to undertake research work; and it is only by long-continued, laborious research that a problem of this kind can ever be solved. Hitherto we have not been without ardent volunteers, the advanced guard, in this department of medicine, who have done, and are doing, invaluable work in this direction; and there are some who think that voluntary and gratuitous service is always superior to state-aided work. That may be, but it is a reflection which does not bring much consolation to those who for the best part of a lifetime devote themselves to work of a very toilsome and unremunerative nature, without the prospect of practical recognition or reward. As a glaring example of the utter disregard of the just claims of investigators in the cause of humanity we may mention the case of Sir Ronald Ross, which was recently made the subject of a question in the House of Commons. As is known to most people, Sir Ronald Ross devoted many years of his life to research work as to the nature of malaria, the outcome of which has been to place within our power the means of preventing this disease; and in so doing has proved himself a benefactor, not merely of his own countrymen, but of the whole human race. Yet, when he had the courage to present a petition asking for some compensation for the professional loss he had sustained during such protracted investigations, it was met with a blank refusal, the only ground for this being, as stated by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that such a course "was not in accordance with modern usage." However, this grant for psychiatrical research is a substantial acknowledgment on the part of the Government that work of this kind is deserving of State recognition. Is there anything more important for the individual than that his standard of mental health should be maintained? Is there anything more deplorable than the ruin of an intellect? And, if this is true in the case of an individual, how much more is

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mental stability essential, vitally so, to the very existence of a nation! Does not mental deterioration or degeneration, if at all widespread, spell national decay?

The principle of applying public funds for purposes of psychiatrical research has been admitted, and the outlay sanctioned for years past, and in not a few asylums the expense of scientific investigation has been defrayed out of maintenance. But for this, the valuable pathological work which has been done at Claybury, Cardiff, Wakefield and other places could not have been carried out. By giving this special grant from the Treasury the Government has, so to speak, set its seal on, and given its approval to, the principle underlying such expenditure. We are grateful for its recognition of the national importance of the study of psychiatry, and trust that this first grant is the earnest and harbinger of liberal support in the future.

It is also gratifying to the Association that the Board of Control has asked for its co-operation, as to the best way in which the grant can be utilised. Our Association has attained the respectable age of 73 years, and since its birth has been doing work, not only for psychiatric medicine, but in a quiet way, though none the less powerful, for the well-being of the public generally. Its expert knowledge has been, and always will be, at the disposal of the legislature in projected measures of social reform, in addition to lunacy matters, such as the better care of defectives and degenerates of all kinds and the education of children. No less willing and hearty will be the assistance given in response to the invitation of the Board of Control in the important matter of the most profitable directions psychiatric research can be forwarded.

[*An "Occasional" on the Annual Meeting is held over till the next number.*]

Part II.—Epitome of Current Literature.

1. Physiological Psychology.

Psychic Research in the Animal Field (*Am. Jour. Psychol., Jan.* 1914). *Sanford, E.C.*

During recent years, the claims made for "thinking" horses—especially "Der Kluge Hans," of Berlin, and the Elberfeld stallions—have greatly exercised psychologists, especially in Germany. Four theories have been put forward to explain the achievements of these animals: (1) the horse can think for himself; (2) the horse cannot

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