The Lunacy Acts Amendment Bill.

At the commencement of the Parliamentary Session it was generally expected that this Bill, which has been so long under discussion, would become law. This expectation was confirmed when it passed through the House of Lords without any serious opposition. The business in the House of Commons, however, effectually interfered with its ever getting into Committee, and the Government found it necessary to discharge it with many other Bills. An opportunity is, therefore, once more afforded by the delay for the Parliamentary Committee of the Association to press upon the Legislature the importance of the amendments which it is desired to introduce in the interests of the insane, and, in some instances, those of medical men engaged in lunacy practice, whether in or outside the walls of asylums.

British Medical Association, Psychology Section.

The meeting of this Section at Glasgow in August, under the presidency of Dr. Howden, the Superintendent of the Montrose Asylum, was a very successful one, and was well attended from first to last. A brief report of it will be found under "Notes and News," and some, if not all, of the papers read will appear in this Journal as the space at our command allows.

Apart from the meetings of the Section, the principal attraction to alienists was the Royal Asylum at Gartnavel, the physician superintendent of which hospitably entertained a large number of members at the Grand Hotel on the first day of the meeting of the British Medical Association, and on a subsequent occasion invited them to the institution, where a luncheon, provided by the Directors in one of the wards, and presided over by Dr. Yellowlees, preceded the inspection of the institution. It is a striking characteristic of this asylum that, although erected between forty and fifty years ago, the architecture of the building externally, and its internal arrangements, leave little to be desired in appearance or construction. For this great credit is due to Dr. Hutcheson, the then superintendent, and to Mr. Wilson, the architect. It is also noteworthy that the early reports of the Glasgow Royal Asylum, in the beginning of the century, exhibit very enlightened views in regard to the requirements of the insane, and their moral and physical treatment, showing that occupations, amusements, and ample liberty were

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.34.147.418 Published online by Cambridge University Press