Visiting Justices and Courts of Quarter Sessions, and which is to be transferred to the County Financial or Administrative Boards. Dr. MANLEY, in supporting the resolution, quoted the report of a Select Committee of Parliament, in April last, on the Police Superannuation Fund. That Select Committee was in favour of adopting the principle that the claim to a certain pension, after a certain number of years' service, should be recognised as a right; the pension to be calculated upon a scale rising, by fiftieths of the wages or salary, at a varying rate, in different successive terms of service years. It was recommended by the Select Committee that, after fifteen years' service, any member of the police retiring upon a medical certificate of infirmity should have a claim to such pension; but that after twenty-five years' service any one should have a right to it without that condition. The medical superintendents of lunatic asylums ought to be treated as well as police constables. After some conversation to this effect, the resolution was passed.

A deputation was subsequently chosen to seek an interview with the President of the Local Government Board next day.

Before the meeting separated, Dr. HACK TUKE brought under notice another part of the Bill, which gave the County Boards power to establish special asylums for the imbecile or idiot children of the poor, similar to that established at Clapton, under the Metropolitan Asylums Act. His object was that this should not be regarded as Poor-Law parochial relief, as there were many respectable artisans and others who ought not to be looked upon as paupers, and who might be glad to pay what they could afford towards the maintenance of an idiot child in such an asylum, though it was erected at the cost of the poor rate. He moved a resolution, which was seconded by Dr. Adams, and was agreed to, that this opinion should be expressed by the Association. This concluded the business of the meeting.

On the next day (Thursday, the 28th), the deputation waited upon Mr. Sclater-Booth, at the Office of the Local Government Board, in Whitehall.

DEPUTATION TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.

On Thursday, the 28th February, 1878, a deputation composed of members of the Medico-Psychological Association waited on the Right Honourable Sclater Booth, M.P., in reference to the "County Boards Bill." Among those present were Colonel Ireland Blackburne, Dr. Rogers, Dr. Adams, Dr. Lindsay, Dr. Stocker, Dr. Manley, Dr. Hack Tuke, Dr. Bucknill, and Dr. Rhys Williams.

Colonel IRELAND BLACKBURNE, in introducing the deputation, said: I have much pleasure in introducing to you, sir, the gentlemen whose names have been laid before you, and who constitute the deputation from the Medico-Psychological Association. Without any further preface, I may say that they desire to lay before you certain things in connection with some of the clauses in the "Local Boards Bill," which is to be submitted to Parliament for its consideration.

Dr. MANLEY—As one of the deputation of the Medico-Psychological Association, I have been requested to call your attention to the first resolution passed at a special general meeting of the Association, to which I have the honour to belong, on this important question. The resolution is as follows:—"That County Asylums in common with Prisons and Police be exempted from the operations of the County Government Bill." They think further, that if it has been considered necessary to exclude prisons from the Bill now under consideration, there is at least the same reason why asylums should be exempted from its operation; the patients being, in fact, *quasi* prisoners during their residence in the asylum. I beg you will permit me to mention some reasons why it appears to this Association that County Asylums and their staffs should

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remain under the same control as at present—at least, until there is a revision and consolidation of the Lunacy Acts. They think so because under it English County Asylums have obtained a position for good, which has not been reached by similar institutions in any other country. That many of the persons now holding superior offices in them have devoted their time, from very early years, to the subject of insanity and the treatment of the insane, and that in doing so they have served in other asylums than those to which they are at present attached, and are, therefore, not local officers merely. On the contrary, they are virtually as much servants of the State as soldiers who have served in the colonies, in India, or at home; or as sailors who have done duty under the flag in the Pacific, the Mediterranean, or with the Channel Fleet. From the mere nature of their duties they are daily subject to personal injury from those over whom they have charge. Many officers and servants in discharging their duties have been seriously injured. There was one instance I well remember. It was the case of a former patient of mine, who was coming down south with the avowed purpose of murdering the surgeon or myself, or both of us, if he could. Even without suffering any personal violence, the duties in themselves are anxious and onerous, the consequence being that the mental, together with the physical wear and tear to those living with the insane are something enormous. So great, indeed, are they, that not a few of the persons so engaged have broken down themselves and become totally incapable of continuing in their various offices. A great, if not *the* great, inducement to persons to seek employment in asylums is the prospect of the pension to which they are entitled, under certain conditions under the Lunacy Act. Those conditions were at first twenty years' service, and the age of the recipients to be 50 years. On a subsequent revision, however, the period of service was reduced to fifteen years—a fact which clearly showed that the Legislature was fully cognisant of the depressive influences of asylum life. There is another point to which I wish to call your attention, and it is, I think, a not unimportant one, when taking this question into consideration. It is that in consideration of an impending pension the salaries and emoluments have been smaller than they would have been under other considerations. In conclusion, I may be allowed to state there are many officers and servants in County Asylums who have served for twenty-five years and upwards, and who are at the present time entitled under the terms of the Act to pensions, and I say it with great respect—not speaking of our own case, or personally—they can scarcely have confidence that they will receive the same consideration from a Board whose members change every year, as is contemplated by the Bill, as they would from a permanent Board constituted as the Court of Quarter Sessions is, of magistrates under whom they have worked for a series of years, and to whom the affairs of the asylum and the conduct of the staff have been reported year after year by a committee of themselves, and who have had the management of the Establishment. I would again repeat, therefore, if there is any necessity to exclude prisons and police from the operation of the Bill, there are equally good grounds, if not better, for doing the same by asylums.

Dr. BUCKNILL—I have the honour to read to you the second resolution come to by this Association. Before I do so, however, I may mention that this Association is a most important body, not only as regards its numbers, but also with respect to its influence and knowledge. It comprises 400 members and more, all of whom are medical men of more or less eminence in this country, in fact in the United Kingdom, who are engaged in the treatment of the insane. A meeting of this Association was held last Wednesday for the express purpose of considering this Bill—the Local Government Bill. At that deliberation they came to the conclusion that some alterations should be made in it for the purpose of making it a just measure. And after much consideration had been bestowed upon the subject, the following resolution, which I shall now have the honour of reading to you, was unanimously come to:—"If this alteration in the Bill be

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not made, that the powers of the new elective members of the Administrative Boards be restricted to the financial affairs of the County Asylums, the general management of such asylums being left in the hands of the Visiting Justices." I, bringing that resolution under your notice, am not going to waste your time with a description of the working of the County Asylums, nor with the character of the treatment and management of the patients in them, because in all those subjects I know you have great and varied experience. Neither need I weary your attention by recalling to your mind the great differences in the treatment which is resorted to in asylums, and that which is carried on in prisons and union houses. The necessity for treating lunatics is not voluntary, but still when certain unhappy portions of the community are afflicted with such a grave and great misfortune, they must be properly cared for, which they certainly always have been under the existing state of things. The present Act nominates the magistracy to look after the treatment of the insane, and under their *régime* I do not think the public has been duped in the matter. For my own part, I can speak of such things with certainty, because my experience extends over a period of 35 years. I then say, without fear of any contradiction that can be substantiated, from my knowledge of County Asylums in England, and my knowledge of similar institutions in most civilised countries, that there is nothing to be compared with the general high level of the treatment of the insane in this country in any other. That is well worthy of consideration, and it is a satisfactory state of things, which has been brought about in a great measure by the liberality and humanity of the Justices of the Peace. It strikes us forcibly that this Bill gives powers to the Guardians never before asked for, let alone granted. It seems to us exceedingly inconsistent. I hope, therefore, I may be permitted to make another suggestion. It has been said that the reason for giving the Guardians powers by this Bill over the expenditure is that the ratepayers' money shall be looked after. If such really be the case, why should they not have the same powers with respect to prisons? Surely, there is not such a small sum expended on them every year as to render the taxpayers entirely oblivious of the benefits to be derived from a sharp look out as to the expenditure of the money in that direction. Be that as it may, however, the whole of the expenditure with regard to asylums—if the Bill for their future regulation, which is now being considered, becomes law—will be in the hands of the newly-elected Guardians. That we consider unjust and inexpedient. In many parts of the country the men will be chosen for their well-known parsimony and dislike to any kind of expenditure, no matter how necessary. The consequence of that will be the Visiting Justices will be driven out of the field, and as a matter of course the lunatics will suffer. Even supposing the Justices were not got rid of entirely, still it is quite possible, or even highly probable, that they would not readily amalgamate with such a body of men as usually constitute a Board of Guradians. Here, again, the patients would suffer even to almost as great an extent as if they were entirely under the control of the Guardians. That, I hope, will never be the case, as it would be a matter much to be deplored, not only by the humane public, but by the poor and helpless patients themselves.

Dr. ROGERS—The duty entrusted to me is to make known to you, sir, the contents of another resolution bearing upon the same subject to which the two gentlemen who have already spoken have alluded. It is as follows :—" That in view of the power of granting superannuation allowances being transferred from the Committees of County Asylums and Justices of Quarter Sessions to the new County Government Boards, the officers of asylums shall have the right to pensions after a fixed term of service, this right not to interfere with the existing permissive pensions." My position in addressing you appears to me to be somewhat invidious, but you will readily understand, as a Chairman of Visiting Justices for many years, the feelings which would induce a man in my position to address you. I was in her Majesty's service for some considerable time, and you may be certain that I paid some attention to the question of

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retiring pensions and allowances. In the Acts of Parliament 1852-3, and subsequently confirmed—

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD—They are not touched by this Bill.

Dr. ROGERS—Oh! but the opposition to these pensions under those Acts always came from the Board of Guardians. There was a case I well remember, and with your permission I will just relate it in order to show with what liberality the Guardians treat gentlemen when about to retire. It was a case of superannuating the Superintendent of the Lancaster Asylum. Mr. Broadhurst was the gentleman's name. He was elected in 1842 as an assistant-surgeon at a small salary, which increased by small yearly additions, until it amounted to £400 per annum. Within only the last eleven years it was increased by £200, though it must be stated Mr. Broadhurst was fed in the Asylum, and had apartments during the previous time. In 1849 Mr. Gaskell resigned, upon which the gentleman already alluded to was elected at £400 a year, a sum which was increased in 1859 to £450, and since 1864 down to the time he retired he was getting £600 per annum. Mr. Broadhurst was not able to save anything out of his smaller salaries, but he did a little when he got his maximum, as he was a frugal man. He sustained, also, a heavy loss in the death of two of his children and the illness of his wife. Still, notwithstanding all that, the committee, consisting of 30 magistrates, only granted £300 a year pension, instead of two-thirds of his salary. That was a nice reward after 34 years' service, and that state of things had been entirely brought about by the opposition of the Guardians. If such a case were possible when the Guardians had comparatively little to say in such questions, what might we expect to witness when they would be almost supreme in those questions touching the disbursement of funds? In order that officers might get fair play we thought that in this Bill a clause might be inserted in order that the superannuations under it might, to some extent, be made analogous to those of the police; also that it might be claimed as a right, and not subject to be given at discretion. In our county there has been no superannuation, I am bound to say, which has been proposed by the justices which has not been granted, but still they have been in many cases most strenuously opposed, which shows the spirit in which they look upon all such grants. I think it is extremely hard in any body of men to have it to say that their pensions originated with a Board of Guardians, which savours somewhat of a pauper allowance. We all feel somewhat anxious with reference to this question, more especially those who have almost served out their time, as we are extremely anxious to know what our future is likely to be. In a word, we wait to be informed whether the ground is to be cut from under our feet or not?

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE SCLATER BOOTH, in reply—I must say that the observations of the last speaker answer the observations made by the previous one, because he found that the liberal conduct of the Visiting Justices was somewhat held in check by the action taken by the Guardians. About the Guardians I do not think you have much to say, or will have any cause of complaint in the future if they and the Justices properly carry out their respective duties. It is perfectly true, as has been stated, that the ratepayers have been very liberal, and given large pensions at the suggestion of the magistrates to their retiring officers, whether over Lunatic Asylums or other institutions; but, still, when I am bringing in a Bill with the avowed object of giving the ratepayers more direct control over these institutions than they have at present, through the medium of the Guardians—I cannot prevent them by any side issue having control over the pensions to be distributed. It appears to me that the magistrates have exercised a very liberal policy in the management of the County Asylums, and I admit fully all that has been said about the good management of these asylums. And, further, I think there is nothing more creditable to our civilization that can be conceived than the good way in which those institutions have been conducted and the results obtained. But when, as I said before, a Bill is introduced for the benefit of the county ratepayers and then to exclude them would be, gentlemen,

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really something which I could not undertake to bring before Parliament. The ratepayers are deeply interested in this question. If not so much in the mere construction of asylums, certainly they are in their cheap, and at the same time efficient, working and maintenance. I think you have not given full credit to the wisdom which is sure to govern the administration of the magistrates, and I would give far too little credit to the medical superintendence of the asylums if I said they were not able to take care of themselves. Between you, you have the general management of those places, and you will have the same power, should this Bill become law, under the Commissioners in Lunacy. All that remains, in fact, as it was before. The composition of the Visiting Committee will doubtless be changed, but I am not prepared to say for a single moment that it will have the evil effect which some of you gentlemen seem to think it will. I am inclined to think that matters will go on pretty much as they have before – namely, as far as I can gather, to the general satisfaction of all parties. It will be some satisfaction, however, to the ratepayers to know that their representatives are present at the meetings when their money is disbursed for the purpose of seeing that it is expended in an economical way. That surely is no objection to the Bill. It has been said that the Guardians will prove worse managers than the magistrates. That may turn out to be the case in some instances, but I am not prepared to admit that it will be so all round. In the metropolis there are two Imbecile Institutions, which are managed by 60 persons, of whom 45 are guardians representing the different unions of London. Out of that number one-fourth are nominated by this Board, and they all work exceedingly well together. The economical administration of these institutions is remarkable. In saying that, however, I do not wish to be understood for a single moment that I wish to see a parsimonious economy prevail throughout the whole country—for I would not on any account have the efficiency of any institution or system rendered abortive or crippled by being illiberal. I may state, however, that there is great discontent throughout the whole of the country in connection with the Lunatic Asylums, which has necessitated a change in the constitution of the management; but I do not think any one or anything will suffer from the slight but necessary change which has been sketched. I think the Pauper Lunatic Acts are amply powerful enough to counteract any tendency to bring about such radical change as you appear to contemplate. No one, though, can doubt that these committees of Visiting Justices could have exercised a more rigid economy than they did if they had been differently managed and constituted. I cannot see that there is any need for special clauses to be introduced into the Bill to save those clauses which you think endangered, and in fact I cannot put one in it of myself. If, on the other hand, any of you should think a clause is necessary, and will draw one up, no doubt it will have great weight, and I may promise it shall have the best consideration. I do not think it would be good to add to the stringency of that part of the Bill relating to the retiring allowances and pensions. We profess to amend and deepen the Lunatic Acts, and I think it will be wrong to touch this Bill. In fact I could not undertake to do it.

Vote of thanks to Right Hon. Sclater-Booth for his courtesy.

QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

A Quarterly Meeting of the Medico-Psychological Association was held at the Royal College of Physicians, Queen Street, Edinburgh, on Friday, 2nd November. Amongst those present were Drs. Jamieson (Aberdeen), Tuke (Edinburgh), Clouston (Morningside), McIntosh (Murthly), Ireland (Larbert), Rorie (Dundee), Howden (Montrose), Wallace (Greenock), Cameron (Lochgilphead), Anderson (Rosewell), Grierson (Melrose), Sanderson (Musselburgh),

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