fear and compulsion, and not from hypnotism. The reliability of the hypnotism, however, in a case where there is such an intense motive for deception, needs accurate investigation. A cinematographic and phonographic record of the hypnotic story, reproduced at a month's interval, and without intermediate rehearsal, would probably go far to throw light on the question.

The Reorganisation of the Association.

It is unnecessary to refer at length to the new articles and bye-laws which have been adopted by the Association at the special meetings held in November and December. The Association is indebted to the Rules Committee for much arduous work, and to Mr. Wigan, the solicitor, for his careful and sound advice throughout these tedious proceedings. We believe that the constitution of the Association is now so framed as to progress with the evolution of the Society, and trust that it will be long suitable to an augmenting Association.

Lunacy Reform in Melbourne.

In the July number of this JOURNAL we referred briefly to the wrong done to Dr. Beattie Smith, and it is evident from the Melbourne newspapers that the incident has caused very severe comments on the Central Administration of the Victorian Asylums. We have already given a narrative of the events which led to Dr. Beattie Smith's removal from the post which he filled so well. The *Argus*, one of the leading papers of Australia, characterises the inquiry as a "Gilbertian arrangement," but it has its tragic side when the interests of the insane are considered. Radical changes have been recommended by the official visitors of the metropolitan asylums. The construction of Kew Asylum and the continuous overcrowding, rendering classification ineffective, are subjected to serious remarks. It is stated that an insufficiency of medical officers, nurses, and attendants adds greatly to the difficulties of management. We cannot find space to give all the details of

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this report, but we note that it is recommended that the superintendent of each asylum should be responsible, and should act under the direction of a Board having complete control of the whole department. The *Argus* of August 1st reports that a deputation of nearly one hundred waited on Mr. Murray, the chief secretary, whose deplorable procedure throughout this affair has been the cause of so much evil. The deputation included prominent business men, clergymen, medical men, and others of standing and repute. It was introduced by the Lord Mayor, who advocated radical reform. The Bishop of Melbourne and many others generally corroborated the opinions of the official visitors in no restrained fashion. The upshot is that Mr. Murray has undertaken to present a Lunacy Bill to the Colonial Parliament, ungraciously enough, but still unable to withstand the popular demand. So far, so good; but Dr. Beattie Smith is still relegated to a position which he has not merited after so many years of conscientious service.

The Council of the Association have remitted these matters to committees—the maltreatment of Dr. Beattie Smith to a special committee of their number, and the proposed reform in the colonial lunacy law to the Parliamentary Committee. We trust that they will report their findings in due course.

IRISH ASYLUMS CONFERENCE.

An interesting meeting was held on November 25th and 26th in Dublin. It was designated a Conference of Asylum Committees, and consisted of selected members of those bodies, together with the medical superintendents of the district asylums or their deputies. The conference was promoted by the Committee of the Richmond Asylum (asylum for the Dublin district), and met at that institution. The attendance was large, the committees and the superintendents being well represented. Among the delegates from the former bodies were several clergymen. The Irish Local Government Act under which Asylum Committees are constituted permits county

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