with lunacy as to give them the power of initiative which we have a right to expect from the members of a supervising body.

A barrister of 40 or 50 years, called upon to inspect and report on the condition and discipline of the Channel Fleet, would not be in a more false position than that in which some former members of the Lunacy Commission have been placed.

The innate respect for the law in Englishmen could alone have enabled them to pass through their period of inspectorial infancy without censorious criticism from the experienced officers whom they were supposed to supervise and instruct.

The Lunacy Commission, it may be asserted without fear of contradiction from those in this or any other country who have knowledge of lunacy, does not need any additional legal strength, but it does need a very considerable increase in its medical element. The existing legal staff could quite well discharge their duties without stirring beyond the precincts of Westminster, except in the rare cases in which a legal question is raised by a patient necessitating a legal visit. The lunatic, in fact, is not a criminal, but a sick person, and requires to be treated, not by legal but by medical knowledge. Until this is fully recognised and acted on, lunacy matters will continue to be unsatisfactory, and the position of the Lunacy Commission will be exposed to ever increasing attack.

Lunacy Acts Amendment Bill.

The "Lunacy Acts Amendment Bill," presented to the House of Commons by Sir John Batty Tuke, states in its preamble that its object is "to authorize the London County Council to provide Receiving Houses for the reception of persons mentally afflicted or alleged to be of unsound mind, and to authorize the detention of such persons in such houses and for other purposes connected therewith."

It is also proposed that these receiving houses "should be available for the treatment of out-patients," that they should be under the supervision of the Commissioners in Lunacy and conducted in accordance with the law regulating county asylums.

The objects thus stated are in accordance with those views in regard to the treatment of incipient insanity which were

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carried out by the late Dr. Manning in Australia, and have been advocated by the Medico-Psychological Association for many years past, and are deserving of the heartiest support. Whether they will be carried out in an economical and efficient manner remains to be seen, but there is such great advantage to be reaped from them that it would more than counterbalance very considerable economic errors.

This Bill will have the fullest consideration of the Parliamentary Committee, and comment on the details is therefore unnecessary. It is, however, desirable to remind our readers that in past years attempts have been made to establish so-called hospitals for mental diseases under the direction of physicians whose experience had been in neurology and not in morbid psychology. The clauses relating to the appointment of medical officers give no direct enlightenment on this point, but the fact that the institutions are under the supervision of the Commissioners in Lunacy and under the laws applying to County Asylums is probably a sufficient safeguard against any renewal of this attempted exploitation.

The President-Elect.

In the report of the proceedings of the quarterly meeting at York omission was made of the election of the new President-elect, necessitated by the retirement (and subsequent death) of Sir John Sibbald, whose portrait we publish with this issue of the Journal.

Dr. Outterson Wood, who was unanimously elected to the vacancy thus created, has long worked for the Association in many ways, and in thus filling the breach has added another important service to the long list already standing to his credit.

The Horton Scandal.

This well-worn topic appears to be assuming the character of a hardy perennial in our pages, although in the records of the London County Council it seems to have put on a cryptogamic character, since a careful search has not discovered the

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