arising out of the Parliamentary grant of 4s. per head per week for every pauper patient maintained in an asylum has in some counties contributed to increase the number in these institutions by the removal thereto of many patients who but for such inducement would have been retained in workhouses." So again Mr. Sclater-Booth, in his 16th report of the Visitors of the Haywards Heath Asylum, writes:—"There are 43 more patients in this asylum than there were a year ago. In any enquiry into the causes which may have contributed to this increase the Committee consider that the action of the Government in making an allowance of 4s. per week to the several unions for every pauper lunatic in the asylum ought not to be lost sight of."

The opportunity to which the Chancellor of the Exchequer looked of placing this 4s. tentative grant towards the county lunacy expenditure on a sound and permanent basis is offered in this County Government Bill. The suggestion I venture to offer is that the amount of the grant instead of going to the union guardians be paid by the Treasury to the new County Boards, to be applied to the payment of two important items in the county asylum maintenance rate—viz., the salaries, wages, and pensions, which now average under 3s. per week; and, secondly, the repairs, alterations, and future extensions of the fabric, which the remaining shilling of the 4s. grant would amply cover. The several unions would thus receive a permanent reduction of 3s. a week on the asylum maintenance rate, which would then average from 6s. to 7s., while the county rate would be directly relieved of the large sums yearly spent on repair, alteration, and enlargement of the asylum fabric. Thus, when the original cost of construction extended under the Act of 1845 to 30 years is once paid off, the care and treatment of the insane poor would no longer be a yearly item in the county expenditure, and the unions would have their lunatics treated and cured for the small charge of 7s. per week. So altered and applied, the Government grant of 4s. from the Consolidated Fund would be a direct and permanent relief to the county expenditure, and the needless crowding of the asylum wards with chronic and imbecile cases would cease.

Should this proposal find favour with the Government and the House, I would add one further suggestion, which would moreover meet the views of the important deputation of the Medico-Psychological Association which last week had an interview with Mr. Sclater-Booth. According to my proposal the salaries, wages, and pensions of the staff of the county Asylums would be defrayed from the 4s. grant from the Consolidated Fund. Following the analogy of the Prisons Bill (as also of the Poor Law administration) I would suggest that the Government, as represented by the Lunacy Commissioners, should control the appointment and discharge of their officers and servants by the Lunacy Committee of the new County Boards, as also the grant of superannuation pensions under the Lunacy Acts. The fixity of tenure—especially as regards the medical superintendent—of office which this control of the Lunacy Commissioners would imply can hardly be over-rated in its influence on the well being and good management of the county asylum. Again, the fears expressed by the deputation of the Medico-Psychological Association as to their superannuation allowance would be allayed by my proposal to transfer this charge from the asylum union rate to the grant from the Consolidated Fund.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

C. LOCKHART ROBERTSON.

Athenæum Club, March 9.

TEARLESS MADNESS.

As an example of the rubbish that passes current in even Medical Journals for Medico-Psychological facts, we quote the following annotation:—

"One of the most curious facts connected with madness is the utter absence of tears amidst the insane. Whatever the form of madness, tears are conspicuous by their absence, as much in the depression of melancholia, or the excitement of

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mania, as in the utter apathy of dementia. If a patient in a lunatic asylum be discovered in tears, it will be found that it is either a patient commencing to recover, or an emotional outbreak in an epileptic who is scarcely truly insane; while actually insane patients appear to have lost the power of weeping: it is only returning reason which can once more unloose the fountains of their tears. Even when a lunatic is telling one in fervid language how she has been deprived of her children, or the outrages that have been perpetrated on herself, her eye is never even moist. The ready gush of tears which accompanies the plaint of the sane woman contrasts with the dry-eyed appeal of the lunatic. It would, indeed, seem that tears give relief to feelings which when pent up lead to madness. It is one of the privileges of reason to be able to weep. Amidst all the misery of the insane, they can find no relief in tears."—"Brit. Med. Journ.," Dec. 15, 1877.

UNIVERSITY LECTURERS ON MENTAL DISEASES.

The Scottish Universities Commission has just issued its Report, and among the recommendations one is that Lectureships on Mental Diseases should be instituted in the Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Aberdeen Universities.

THE LATE MR. GEO. P. BACON.

We have heard with much regret of the death of Mr. G. P. Bacon, of Lewes, who has since 1868 printed this Journal. His connection with the Journal was not merely commercial, for he took a personal interest in doing the best he could for it, and spared no pains to bring it out punctually and in a way to satisfy the Members. As a man of education and literary ability he had an interest in producing the Journal in the best form, and his co-operation was always appreciated by the successive Editors. He was widely known and greatly esteemed.

Appointments.

ATKINS, R., M.D., C.M., has been appointed Resident Medical Superintendent of the Waterford District Lunatic Asylum, vice Connolly, deceased.

BROWN, J. J., M.B., F.R.C.P.Ed., has been appointed Medical Superintendent of the Fife and Kinross District Lunatic Asylum, Cupar, vice Fraser, appointed a Deputy Commissioner of Lunacy in Scotland.

CRADDOCK, F. H., B.A., M.R.C.S.E., L.S.A.L., has been promoted to be Senior Assistant Medical Officer and Deputy Superintendent of the Worcester County and City Lunatic Asylum, Powick, vice Cooke, appointed Superintendent of the Wiltshire Lunatic Asylum.

COOKE, E. M., M.B., M.R.C.S.E, has been appointed Medical Superintendent of the Wilts County Lunatic Asylum, Devizes.

GRIFFITH, J. De Burgh, B.A., M.B., M.Ch., has been appointed an Assistant Medical Officer to the Worcester County Asylum, vice Craddock, promoted.

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