which ought to, and at present so frequently do, exist between the patients and those who have charge of them."

The revised Bill (issued Feb. 25) is very slightly altered, and in no instance are the clauses to which exception has been taken, expunged or modified.

County Councils and Pensions.

It is premature to forecast or discuss the probable action of the new County Councils, to whose care the county asylums are being transferred. Time alone will show the effect of the change.

We subjoin, however, the following remarks made by Dr. Murray Lindsay in the current annual report of the Derby Asylum, as being germane to the subject, in regard to which so many medical superintendents of asylums feel so deep an interest :—

"As the question of pensions has of late attracted considerable public attention—and perhaps there is no question upon which more erroneous ideas prevail—it may be of interest to rate-payers and others to know some important facts connected with the pensions granted to the officials of this asylum, which are taken from a summary recently prepared.

"The asylum has been in operation over 37 years; the total number pensioned has been 23; the average length of service nearly 23 years; average age on retirement 57 years; number of pensioners deceased 12, being more than half the total, and 11 are still living; the average length of service of the 11 surviving pensioners is 25 years, whilst the average duration of pension enjoyed by the 12 deceased was six years.

"Proportion of pension to (salary or wages and allowances) the total value of office.

Maximum of two-thirds	1
Nearly two-thirds	1
Slightly over a half	3
One-half	5
Under one-half	8
Less than a third	3
About a fourth	2
Total number pensioned	23

"These facts and figures speak for themselves, and are surely sufficient evidence that the magistrates, whilst simply performing a statutory duty in accordance with the Lunacy Acts,

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by doing an act of justice to deserving and more or less broken down or worn out officials, and at the same time carrying out a sound and wise policy, have certainly not erred on the side of extravagance.

"In connection with this subject, it is important to record a resolution passed by the Committee of Visitors at their meeting on 5th May, when there were present Sir Henry F. Every, Bart. (in the chair), Sir William Evans, Bart., C. E. Newton, Esq., A. F. Hurt, Esq., W. C. Haslam, Esq., G. W. Peach, Esq., and B. Scott Currey, Esq. 'That in the opinion of the Committee it is desirable that all existing officers of asylums should have an assured right to a pension on a scale not lower than that provided by the rules relating to Her Majesty's Civil Service.'

"This resolution is precisely similar to resolutions passed by the Committees of Visitors of the West Riding Asylum, Wakefield, and the South Yorkshire Asylum, Wadsley, Sheffield, on 26th and 30th April last.

"When the pension question comes before the new County Councils, no doubt the claims of existing officers, as distinct from future entrants, will be carefully considered in accordance with the letter and spirit of sections 119 and 120 of the Local Government Act, 1888. In their consideration of this question, as affecting future entrants on asylum service, some assistance may perhaps be obtained from a perusal of the second report of the Royal Commission on Civil Establishments, 1888, which goes fully into the pension question, and contains some valuable recommendations, all in the direction of economy. Mr. E. S. Norris, M.P., has given notice to introduce a Bill in the House of Commons enabling County Councils to guarantee superannuation allowances to officers and servants in their employment, by providing a fund out of deductions from their salaries and wages. In considering the pension question, it is only right and just to weigh carefully and give special attention to the stronger claims of medical officers and attendants who are brought more immediately and constantly in contact with the patients, having more anxious and trying duties, and being exposed to greater risks, compared with other officers and servants whose duties are not so arduous or so trying. This is a point too apt to be overlooked. The asylum service, being more arduous and more trying than any other public service, deserves special consideration in the matter of pension, with regard to age on retirement, length of service entitling to pension, and proportion or amount of superannuation allowance."

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