Clouston, of Edinburgh, proposed "The Guests," which was acknowledged by Dr. Purcell; while "The Health of the President" was drunk on the proposition of his predecessor in office, Dr. Conolly Norman.—The Reception Committee had their successful efforts to promote the comfort and convenience of the members appreciatively acknowledged, reply being made by Dr. Hayes Newington; after which the ex-President acknowledged the toast of his health, proposed by Dr. Swain.

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE.

NEW REGULATIONS FOR THE NURSING CERTIFICATE.

At a recent meeting of this Committee, some important additions were made to the Regulations for the admission of candidates to the Examination for the Nursing Certificate. The new regulations are as follows:—

1. "Any person who possesses a certificate of competence in nursing from a hospital or infirmary connected with a medical school and having a system of training nurses, may be admitted to the examination for the Nursing Certificate of this Association after a residence of one year in an asylum; *provided* that such candidate conform to all the regulations for admission to such examination, save only in the matter of length of residence in an asylum."

2. "In cases of an exceptional character, in which a person who has had a large experience of nursing the insane, but has been unable through no fault of his or her own to comply precisely with the regulations governing the admission of candidates to the examination for the Nursing Certificate, application may be made to the Registrar to lay the circumstances of any such case before the Council, which may in its discretion order that such candidate be admitted to the examination; *provided* that every such application be accompanied by a recommendaton from a member of the Association, and by evidence that the applicant has had experience of nursing in an asylum."

The intention of the first of these regulations is obvious. The second was framed to meet those cases of worthy and efficient attendants who have had experience of nursing in institutions for the insane, but who had left such institutions and taken to private nursing before the scheme of training drawn up by the Association was instituted. It would also enable attendants to present themselves for examination who are unable to comply in all respects with the regulations, owing to the fact that the authorities of the asylum in which they are employed do not offer them the opportunity of so doing.

GASKELL PRIZE.

Among other matters considered by the Educational Committee, was the dearth of candidates for the Gaskell Prize. It is a matter of regret that in several years there has been no candidate for this valuable and highly honourable distinction. Feeling sure that there are many assistant medical officers of sufficient ability and industry to compete for this prize, the Committee have come to the conclusion that available candidates are deterred by the comprehensive and undetailed character of the syllabus. A new syllabus will, therefore, be issued indicating more precisely the subjects in which candidates will be examined. The standard of the examination will not be lowered, but intending candidates will have a clearer definition of the field of knowledge that they will be required to cultivate.

POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL PRIZES.

The non-awarding of the Gaskell Prize upon several occasions has left a fund in the hands of the Trustees which may, under the terms of the Trust, be applied to the granting of additional prizes. If this were done, the assistant medical officers of our asylums would certainly have no lack of inducement to apply themselves to that scientific study of the subject of their specialty which they are sometimes accused of neglecting.

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.41.175.750 Published online by Cambridge University Press