THE AFTER-CARE ASSOCIATION.

THIS Association, whose objects are to assist cases discharged recovered from asylums for the insane, has just held two important meetings. (1) On July 4th, at All Saints' Vicarage, Highgate, by the kind invitation of the vicar and Mrs. Hawkins. The chair was taken by the Hon. John Mansfield (Lord Chancellor's Visitor in Lunacy). The meeting was addressed by Mr. Stanley Keith, Mrs. Sikes and Mr. Thornhill Roxby. There was a large attendance, a good collection made, and several new members enrolled. (2) On July 8th, at Cane Hill, by the kind invitation of Sir James and Lady Moody. The chair was taken by Sir James Moody. The meeting was addressed by Sir George Savage, M.D., Dr. Percy Smith and Mr. Thornhill Roxby. There was again a very good attendance, much interest being shown in the work of the Association, and a useful addition to the funds obtained. A vote of thanks to the host and hostess was proposed by Dr. Campbell, and seconded by Dr. Pasmore, to which the chairman suitably replied.

This charity is the only one of the kind in Great Britain, and assists cases from all parts of the country.

ASYLUM WORKERS' ASSOCIATION.

ABSTRACT FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1912.

THE Central Executive Committee beg to submit their Annual Report for 1912. The Asylum Workers' Association has, since 1895, laboured "to raise the *status* of asylum attendants and nurses, and to promote their general welfare" by all legitimate means, at the same time striving to impress its members with a due sense of the beneficent character of their calling, differentiating them from the mere mechanical worker. Ministering, as they do, to the needs of the most afflicted class of their fellow countrymen, they are rendering a national service, in return for which they merit every consideration at the hands of the public authorities, and the recognition of this by Parliament in the passing of the Asylums Officers' Superannuation Act of 1909 was the first evidence of the awakening of the national conscience to its obligations to asylum workers. The concessions then made were as considerable as could be obtained under the exigencies of Parliamentary procedure in the case of a private member's Bill, and the position of asylum workers generally throughout the three Kingdoms was thereby made more satisfactory and definite with reference to pensions than ever had been the case before. In order to secure this consummation, which even Government measures had previously failed to carry into law, it proved necessary to compromise with formidable, if unreasonable, opposition during the passage of the Bill through the two Houses, and unfortunately some of the points originally provided for had to be relinquished on the principle that "half a loaf is better than no bread." An attempt is now being made to remedy these unavoidable defects, and there is no justification for the allegations made that the A.W.A. is insensible to the remaining grievances of the rank and file in asylum service, for which the Executive Committee is always eager to grasp any opportunity of obtaining redress. We regret to have to record for the first time for several years a falling off from our membership, which at the end of 1912 stood at 4,310. There are, however, cheering signs of returning allegiance on the part of several asylum constituencies, many former members who withdrew having applied for readmission in 1913.

CONVALESCENT FUND.

Grants of £2 10*s*. were made from this fund to twenty-eight cases (against twenty-seven in 1911), including the extra grant or £1 1*s*. under special circumstances.

These grants have been fairly well distributed throughout the United Kingdom, it being remembered that since June, 1912, the Irish Division have had a separate fund under their own control, £25 having been paid over by the Central Executive Committee to the Divisional Treasurer as a nest-egg. Considering that the Con-

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