ASYLUM WORKERS' ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Meeting of this Association was held on May 14th. Sir James Crichton-Browne presided, and delivered an eloquent and sympathetic address, which dealt fully with the aims and activities of the Association.

A detailed report of the year's work was presented to the meeting; appended is an abstract of this Report:

"The roll of Members has increased from 2890 in December, 1898, to 3006 at the end of 1899, this number including 61 life members and 37 associate members; 1010 new members were elected during 1899; and had all old subscriptions been renewed, the Association would by this time approach 4000.

"Representatives of thirty-one Asylums (in England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, and the Colonies) not previously represented, had joined the Association during 1899; and recently members had been elected from the Royal Edinburgh and Royal Glasgow Asylums. Reservists on active service had been retained on the roll without payment of subscription for the present year.

"The Financial Statement shows that the aggregate receipts for 1899 amounted to £256 10*s.*, as compared with £254 7*s.* 9*d.* during 1898. The advance in receipts would have been larger but that the collecting cards for Home of Rest Fund brought in only £26 1*s.*, as compared with £61 19*s.* 6*d.* in 1898. The credit balance at end of 1899 amounted to £143 2*s.* 4*d.*, against £137 14*s.* 3*d.* at end of 1898.

"Nine cases had received grants from the Home of Rest Fund, which was assuming much of the character of a mutual benefit society, being mainly supported by Asylum Workers themselves, though contributions from others were welcome.

"Impending lunacy legislation had engaged the anxious attention of the Executive, and every effort had been made to obtain the introduction of a clause providing for assured pensions for Asylum Workers.

"The Association is to be congratulated on the willingness of Sir James Crichton-Browne, M.D., F.R.S., to undertake for a third year the office of President.

"The Executive Committee desire to place on record their keen appreciation of the continued services of the Honorary Secretary, Dr. Shuttleworth, to whom the growth of the Association is largely due, and of the valuable aid of Mr. J. B. W. Wilson as Assistant Secretary."

PARLIAMENTARY NEWS.

LUNACY LABORATORIES.—*29th March.*

In reply to Sir J. A. Pease, Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said that he had no information to lead him to believe that the research for which the laboratories might be established would involve necessity for licences or certificates. He promised to consult the Lunacy Commissioners on the subject.

RATING OF INSTITUTIONS FOR IMBECILES.—*2nd May.*

On a Bill being introduced to exempt from poor and other local rates all registered institutions for the care of idiots and imbeciles, Mr. T. W. RUSSELL said that it would be necessary to have an inquiry by a Select Committee before arriving at a conclusion. In the inquiry hospitals would be included. The Bill was withdrawn.

MEDICAL OFFICERS AND THE CERTIFICATION OF LUNATICS.—*5th April.*

Sir MANCHERJEE BHOWNAGGREE asked the President of the Local Government Board whether he received from the Bethnal Green Board of Guardians a communication to the effect that gratuities had been paid on a large scale to relieving officers by medical officers in respect of the certification of lunatics, as well as by certain metropolitan licensed houses; and whether he intended taking any steps to prevent a repetition of such practices.

Mr. CHAPLIN replied: The facts are as stated in the question. I have communicated with the Lunacy Commissioners, and I find that they have cautioned the

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