doubt does not render those who are responsible for their treatment liable to penalties intended to protect the interests of lunatics, and not to harm those who are not yet, but may become, insane.

"The rest of the Bill is machinery for effectively carrying out the main object."—*Copy of Introductory Memorandum.*

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LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

Voluntary Boarders at the Maudsley Hospital.

The Asylums and Mental Deficiency Committee of the London County Council, on July 14th, recommended the Council to pass the following resolution:

"That application be made to Parliament in the session of 1915 for authority to make the Maudsley Hospital available for the reception and treatment as voluntary boarders of persons suffering from mental infirmity, upon such terms and conditions as the visiting committee may think fit; and to enable the County Council, or any board of guardians in the County of London—if they think fit—to defray the whole or part of the expenses of maintenance in the hospital of such voluntary boarders."

The Committee pointed out that although the Lunacy Act, 1890, provided that a person not certifiably insane might submit himself to treatment for incipient insanity by entering as a voluntary boarder a licensed house or registered hospital, voluntary boarders could not be received in a county asylum, even by payment. It was extremely desirable that there should be power to permit voluntary in-patients to be received for treatment in the Maudsley Hospital, and the Board of Control, which had been informally approached, concurred in this view. As the Maudsley Hospital would be a county asylum for the purposes of the Lunacy Acts special powers would be required. The method proposed would be more simple and satisfactory in regard to cost of maintenance than the alternative of treating the patient after admission as a pauper, and calling upon the board of guardians to pay for him. The Committee could not say at this stage what the cost of provision for voluntary boarders was likely to be, but if a poor patient by early treatment could be saved from the necessity of certification as insane, and from compulsory detention in a county asylum, some saving in the total cost of lunacy administration should result.

The Council passed the resolution—(*British Medical Journal*, July 18th, 1914).

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

Honorary Degree of LL.D. conferred on Dr. Mott.

Amongst those who received the honorary degree of LL.D. at the graduation ceremonial on July 3rd, was Frederick Walter Mott, M.D., Pathologist to the London County Asylums.

In presenting Dr. Mott, the Dean of the Faculty of Laws said: "It is my privilege to present next an acknowledged leader and guide of medical opinion in the great and growing department of psychiatry, one who is held in equal honour on both sides of the Border. A graduate of London with the highest distinction, Dr. Mott served a long apprenticeship to general medicine as physician to Charing Cross Hospital, and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1897 in recognition of his valuable researches on the comparative anatomy and physiology of the brain and spinal cord. For the past seventeen years he has held the post of pathologist to the London County Asylums, and has devoted his energies to a department which he has made peculiarly his own—the pathology of the brain and mental disease. To take but a few examples of his original investigations in this field, he has demonstrated that syphilis is the essential cause of general paralysis of the insane and locomotor

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