which has embodied in law what humane men were striving to accomplish in their own practice and endeavouring to induce others to pursue.

An exceptional toast welcomed to the dinner the visitors from Europe, and America, and Canada. Professor Lasègue replied in appropriate terms. The members of the Association would have been glad to hear all their guests from other countries, but this was, unfortunately, found to be impossible for want of time, and therefore, at the risk of seeming invidious, only one was called upon to respond as the spokesman for the rest. On such an occasion it was felt that the term Foreigner was itself foreign to the feelings in every one's mind, and the quotation from one of Charcot's works made at the time in proposing this toast, may be repeated here: "Nobody ought to forget that Science belongs to no nation, and is the property of no race."

The "Prosperity of the Association" was duly honoured, and there certainly appears every reason for prophesying a fulfilment of the hopes expressed at the dinner for its future progress. Its watchword may be said to be "Forward" in three principal directions—in combined clinical and pathological observation; in the moral and pharmaceutic treatment of insanity; in specializing the provision suited for individual cases and particular classes of the community, *i.e.* securing the discriminative care and control of the insane, mentally and socially. These, once more to avail ourselves of the well-worn phraseology of Irish legislation, may constitute the three "F's" of the Medico-Psychological Association.

The International Medical Congress.

Had the denizen of another world regarded the Metropolis during the first week of August, he might have been puzzled to divine the cause of the extraordinary influx of strangers, the running to and fro, the babel of tongues in Pall Mall, and the throng in St. James's Hall. Had he been formerly a dweller on our globe, and an inhabitant of our island, he would certainly have concluded that our shores had been only too successfully invaded by a foreign foe, and that the English capital was at their mercy. As he might not have learnt that Peace hath her victories as well as War, the last thing he would have surmised to account for the scene on which he gazed, would have been an International Medical Congress.

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.27.119.403 Published online by Cambridge University Press

Every lover of his kind, every one who wishes to see the rivalry of nations diverted from the diabolical study of the best means of destroying each other to the lessening of disease and suffering in the world, must rejoice that the development of our race has reached the point at which such international fraternization is possible, and now that the Congress of 1881 has become part of history, must also rejoice that it has proved a complete success, thanks to the various office-holders who have so laboriously worked at their several posts of duty, from the President, Sir James Paget, and the Honorary Secretary, Mr. (now Sir William) Mac Cormac, downwards, or rather on all sides. To suppose that the deliberations of 3,210 medical men, holding 119 meetings (sitting 293 times), along with 464 written or spoken communications, will not accelerate the growth of medicine, would be an insult to the learned men who thus congregated and delivered themselves of their opinions.

The attendance of members in the section for Mental Diseases was highly satisfactory, and compared favourably with some others. The interest was sustained to the last. Dr. Lockhart Robertson fulfilled his office of President with the courtesy and ability to be expected from him, and his Address contained a large amount of information on English asylums, which was calculated to be useful to foreigners visiting our country. The Secretaries, Drs. Gasquet and Savage, were indefatigable in their attention.

It was much regretted that the time at the disposal of the Section was disproportionate to the number of subjects to be discussed and the papers prepared. Several highly important questions in the programme, which might have been debated with the greatest advantage, were never taken up at all. Most to be regretted of all was the circumstance that the communication from Dr. Ashe on General Paralysis, the discussion of which was looked forward to with special interest, and on which Irish psychologists came prepared to give valuable information on the seeming comparative immunity of their countrymen from the disease, was passed over. We cannot be surprised that this untoward circumstance caused much and general dissatisfaction. The collapse of Dr. Beard's demonstration was, under the circumstances, inevitable, but when Professor Preyer had given up his return to Germany at great inconvenience, in order to attend it and discuss the question, and when he, Dr. Braid, and many others assembled at the appointed place, it is greatly to be regretted that no responsible person was

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.27.119.403 Published online by Cambridge University Press

present to ask the Professor to speak himself, and give the results of his latest researches in hypnotism. Those who assembled would then have felt repaid for their trouble in coming. However, it is useless to cry over spilt milk, and we refer our readers to the abstracts of the papers read or taken as read, prepared by their authors for the Section, and the discussion upon them. (See Notes and News, No. 2).

---

*Suggestions and Reasons for Seeking, in a New Form, Statistics of the Causation of Insanity by Intemperance.**

1. The importance of this subject is demonstrated by the amount of discussion, and therefore a sure basis for argument should be procured.
2. Existing statistics are insufficient, because they do not attempt to dissociate and analyze the relations between Insanity and Intemperance.
3. There is no attempt to show whether Intemperance is combined with any other agent.
4. Existing statistics approach the subject from the insanity aspect; that is to say, they only show that out of a given number of cases Intemperance is assigned, whereas to obtain a satisfactory result, the endeavour should be to show how many cases have been caused by Intemperance, and in what manner this has been done.
5. The statistics now proposed to be obtained will afford an opportunity of analysing types of causation and types of results, and will also provide for individual cases being worked out.
6. They will also be in such form as to reach Private Asylums, the numbers in which are so small as not to afford any very useful statistics in the ordinary way.

PRINCIPLES ON WHICH IT IS PROPOSED TO ASK THE ASSOCIATION TO ADOPT THESE TABLES *(for one year only).*

1. The Association is far reaching, and covers more ground than any other body, such as a Lunacy Board, and by its authority can give more weight to the inquiry than any private individual can hope to bring to bear.

* This communication was prepared by Dr. Newington for the Statistical Committee of the Association. It was decided to have it printed in the Journal, in order that it might come under the notice of the members, and receive the attention which it so manifestly deserves.—[EDS.]

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.27.119.403 Published online by Cambridge University Press