acknowledgment of the unvarying courtesy, ability, and zeal with which he discharged the duties of Treasurer of the Association for a period of 31 years."

Dr. PAUL, who was enthusiastically received, said—Mr. President and gentlemen, I assure you I rise under great difficulties, being quite overwhelmed by the very kind remarks that have been made by my old friend and so cordially responded to by you all. It has been for a long period of my life a great pleasure to serve the Association in any way I could for its good. I hope as long as I still am spared I may yet be able, perhaps, in some little way to do something to forward its welfare. I congratulate the Association heartily upon the position it has now reached, which is very important, very different from what it was when I first knew it. We have gone on from small beginnings to be a large and liberal society. I am sorry I am not able to express my thoughts as I should like. However, I can say that I accept with gratitude this splendid bowl and magnificent address, which I really do not deserve. It will be a great pleasure to my family to receive this token at my hands from you; I hope they will cherish it for many years to come, and that it may become an heirloom to be handed down for generations. I feel most grateful to you. I assure you it is one of the proudest moments of my life. I beg to return my thanks to the President and to you all for the cordial and almost affectionate manner you have extended towards me.

The PRESIDENT then delivered his address, and, on the following day, the scientific transactions of the Association were resumed, as indicated in Part I. of this number of the Journal.

THE ANNUAL DINNER.

On Friday evening, July 26th, the annual dinner of the Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain and Ireland took place in the Whitehall Rooms, Hotel Metropole, London, David Nicolson, Esq., M.D., President, in the chair.—The loyal toasts having been duly honoured, the President proposed "The Navy, Army, and Auxiliary Forces," to which Major Macbean (in the absence of Sir Frederick Middleton) and Dr. Paul (ex-Treasurer) responded.—To the toast of "The Legal Administration," proposed by Dr. Yellowlees, of Glasgow, Sir John Bridge first replied, followed by Kenelm Digby, Esq., and Dr. Needham.—In proposing the toast of "The Medico-Psychological Association," the Right Hon. the Speaker of the House of Commons expressed regret that the task should have been committed to the hands of one who until recently had been unfamiliar with the objects of the Association, its work and aspirations. He had spent his life in a profession which had often been accused of regarding questions of insanity from quite an opposite direction to that from which it was regarded by the medical profession. When questions of crime and lunacy both arose in a case, the habit of the lawyer was, perhaps, first to consider that a breach of the law had been committed and to throw the burthen entirely upon the person charged of showing that he was an irresponsible person; whereas the natural tendency of a doctor, who knew the state of the patient and saw that there were some symptoms of eccentricity or other signs of mental disease about him, would rather be to stand up for the patient and throw the burthen of proving responsibility upon those who were seeking to convict him. But in the course of the last century, thanks to the exertions of gentlemen like those present, enormous steps had been taken in the right—that was in the humane—direction in the treatment of criminal lunatics. Improvement in the treatment and the condition of lunatics was an object towards which much had been done, and for which a good deal might yet be done.—In responding to the toast, the President said it was a great comfort to them that the Association was able to make such a good show of creditable and satisfactory achievements. And with regard to the future, he was glad to say they had had during their meetings illustration of the capacity of the rising members of their specialty for taking up the work that had been handed to them. The work they had done was most creditable and encouraging.—To the toast of "Kindred Societies," proposed by Dr. Savage, reply was made by Dr. Blandford; Dr.

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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.

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