and before the decision was given he asked for time to look more fully into the subject.

Mr. Justice Manisty said that that was done away with. If there was any doubt about it, it was unnecessary for him to make an order. The defendant would have his proper costs. His lordship was strongly of opinion, however, as he had said before, that something ought to be done to meet the case of medical gentlemen sued under circumstances such as these.

Judgment was then entered with costs in the case of each of the defendants.

The importance of the result of this case can scarcely be over-estimated. It is one in which, fortunately, no aspersion can be thrown upon the character of the defendant, and an opportunity has occurred, of which the Judge happily availed himself, of pointing out to the legislature the necessity for there being clauses in any Lunacy Bill which may be introduced, protecting members of our profession from such unjustifiable actions as that of "Hughes v. Langmore and others."

The After-Care Association.

As an important stage has been reached in the history of "The After-Care Association," in the appointment of a paid Secretary, we think it advisable to place on record a brief retrospective sketch of its past proceedings, from its foundation, seven years ago, to the present time. For this we are indebted to the Rev. H. Hawkins, the chaplain to the Colney Hatch Asylum, whose unflagging interest and untiring efforts in the promotion of the objects of this Association, with very little to encourage, and much to depress, the energies of an honorary secretary, deserve special recognition, and can best be appreciated by those who, like ourselves, have watched the proceedings of the Association from its commencement.

A Retrospect of the History of "The After-Care Association," 1879-1886.

1879.—The first meeting of "The After-Care Association" was held on the 5th June, 1879, at the house of Dr. Bucknill. Amongst those present were Drs. Bucknill, Lockhart Robertson, Hack Tuke, and W. G. Marshall. A paper on the subject of the "'After-Care' of Poor and Friendless Female Convalescents on leaving Asylums for the Insane" was read by the Rev. H. Hawkins. This paper was afterwards printed in the "Journal of Mental Science." It was moved by Dr. Lockhart Robertson, and seconded by Dr. Hack Tuke,

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.32.140.535 Published online by Cambridge University Press

"That this meeting do form itself into an Association." Dr. Bucknill was invited to take the office of President, and the Rev. H. Hawkins that of Hon. Secretary. Shortly afterwards a ladies' meeting was held at Mrs. Müller's, 86, Portland Place, when Miss Cons consented to accept the office, temporarily, of co-Secretary.—On 27th November of the same year another meeting was held at Dr. Bucknill's, at which a letter was read from the Earl of Shaftesbury, in which occur the words: "Your letter entitled 'After-Care' has deeply interested me. The subject has long been on my mind. . . . Tell my friend Dr. Bucknill that I shall be happy to serve under his presidency in so good a cause." It was proposed by Dr. Savage, and seconded by Dr. Claye Shaw, "That the object of this Association is to facilitate the readmission of female convalescents from lunatic asylums into social and domestic life." The annual subscription was fixed at five shillings, and Dr. Claye Shaw accepted the office of Treasurer. The annual meeting of the Association was appointed to be held on the first Thursday in July, at 3 p.m.—At the close of the year, Lord Shaftesbury accepted the office of President of the Society.

1880.—The anniversary meeting was held at Dr. Bucknill's. Amongst those present were Lady Frederick Cavendish, Miss Agnes Cotton, and Miss Cons. Dr. Bucknill, at the close of his year of office, retired from the chairmanship, and Mr. W. G. Marshall was appointed in his place. Announcement was made of Lord Shaftesbury's consent to act as President.

1881.—July 7th. The annual meeting was held at Dr. (Sir) Andrew Clark's, Cavendish Square; the Earl of Shaftesbury presided. Drs. Andrew Clark, Lockhart Robertson, Bucknill, Mickley, &c., were present; and of ladies, Lady Lyttelton, Brabazon, Frederick Cavendish, Mrs. Gladstone, &c. Among the speakers were Drs. Lockhart Robertson, Bucknill, and Andrew Clark, who enforced the importance of "After-Care" as a frequent condition of complete restoration to health.

1882.—The anniversary meeting of 1882 was held at 30, Cavendish Square, by the kind permission of Dr. Ogle. The Earl of Shaftesbury presided. Dr. D. Hack Tuke, Dr. Shaw, &c., were present; and of ladies, Mrs. Gladstone, Lady Lyttelton, Lady Cotton, and many others. Lord Shaftesbury and Dr. Hack Tuke called attention to the need of some *house* or *room* in which the Association's business could be transacted.

1883.—Lord Cottesloe received the Association at their annual meeting in 1883 at Eaton Place. The President dwelt upon the desirableness of making the work known, and the difficulty of awakening interest. He stated his belief that the "After-Care" Society was required to supply *a real want*, and that it was a "seed-plot," from which, in time, good results would spring.

1884.—In the following year the annual meeting was held at Lord Brabazon's, who, though absent from home, placed a room at the dis-

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posal of the Association. This meeting was memorable, as being the last occasion when Lord Shaftesbury (who had presided at the annual meetings since 1881) was in the chair. Earlier in the year his secretary wrote: "I am directed by his Lordship to say that he is decidedly in favour of a 'Home' for friendless female convalescents on leaving lunatic asylums." At the meeting, the Hon. Secretary stated that among more than 200 existing Convalescent Homes not one was specially designed and available for mental convalescents. The President remarked that he considered a "Home" a necessity, and did not see how such a resort could be dispensed with.—In the autumn of this year a meeting was convened at the Mansion House, when (in the Lord Mayor's absence) Dr. Norman Kerr was in the chair. This gathering was due to Mrs. Ellis Cameron, Hon. Sec. of Ladies' Committee, who also arranged a bazaar at the Kensington Town Hall in May, 1885, which resulted in £100 being added to the "After-Care" account.

1885.—Bethlem Royal Hospital, by the kind arrangement of Dr. G. H. Savage, received the annual meeting in July of the same year; Dr. Ogle presided (a message having been received from Lord Shaftesbury that he should be unable to attend). A letter was read from Sir W. H. Wyatt, Chairman of the Colney Hatch Asylum Committee of Visitors, in which he said, "The effort to promote an 'After-Care' Home has my sincere sympathy." At this meeting a resolution with respect to a "Home" was carried, to the effect "That the time has now arrived for taking steps for the commencement of actual work without further delay."—In October an adjourned meeting was held at Bethlem Hospital, the Treasurer, A. J. Copeland, Esq., being in the chair, when it was proposed by Dr. Norman Kerr, and seconded by Dr. Hack Tuke, "That the Committee be authorized to take steps to raise funds for the equipment, &c., of the projected Home." It was further resolved that Lord Brabazon be requested to accept the office of President in succession to the late Earl of Shaftesbury. The Association's invitation having been referred to Lord Brabazon, his lordship made his acceptance conditional upon a *preliminary* satisfactory report of the accounts by his lordship's own auditor, and upon subsequent reports being periodically rendered.

1886.—At a meeting, also at Bethlem Hospital, held at the beginning of 1886, Lord Brabazon's conditions were respectfully accepted, and subsequently his lordship intimated that it would give him pleasure to undertake the presidency. His actuary, Mr. Gerard Van de Linde, had previously reported a balance of about £271 to be standing at the Association's bankers, Union Bank of London, Argyll Place, W. The Hon. Secretary had, for several successive years, pressed on the attention of the Association the necessity of appointing a secretary who could devote due time to the business of "After-Care," which his own occupations prevented him from doing. —The yearly meeting was held at Lord Brabazon's, 83, Lancaster

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Gate, his lordship presiding. He remarked that Lord Shaftesbury's interest in "After-Care" had influenced him to undertake the work as a "legacy." A resolution was carried "That the Committee be authorized to employ a paid secretary to carry on the work of the Society;" and a communication was read from Rev. Edgar Sheppard, Sub-Dean of the Chapels Royal, that H.R.H. the Princess Christian had graciously consented to become patroness of the "After-Care" Association.—At a meeting in the autumn, at Bethlem Hospital, Dr. Savage in the chair, for the purpose of selecting from the candidates the most eligible person for secretary, the choice fell unanimously on H. W. Roxby, Esq., Emblewood, Osbaldeston Road, Stoke Newington, N., whose appointment was ultimately confirmed by the President. He enters upon his work provisionally to the end of 1886. Thus the review of the Society's history—1879-1886—is completed.

Acknowledgments are due to Mrs. Ellis Cameron for her exertions on behalf of the Society, and to the ladies of the "After-Care" Working Society for their help in aid of friendless female convalescents. The Association is under special obligations to Dr. D. Hack Tuke and Dr. G. H. Savage (among others) for the active interest they have evinced in its promotion.

If it be inquired whether the seven years of its existence has been fruitful in any results, it may be replied that not a few convalescents have been benefited, directly or indirectly, through the action of the Association; that some "Homes" have shown themselves kindly interested in the "after-care" of mental convalescents; that the approval of physicians, well qualified to appreciate the value of the movement, has been accorded; and that the attention both of the Press and of the public is being awakened in a project which its first President (long and intimately acquainted with remedial measures on behalf of the mentally infirm) considered to possess a real *raison d'être*, and of which he predicted the ultimate success.

To the foregoing sketch by Mr. Hawkins, we have little to add. The whole question of the success of such a society rests, in our opinion, upon whether a case has been made out for its existence. If the "after-care" which it proposes to apply is not really wanted, the sooner the fact is realized, and the operation of the Society suspended, the better. The limited enthusiasm which it has evoked from the Superintendents of Asylums, the small number that have enrolled themselves among its members, and the sparse attendance of those most nearly interested in county asylums at the meetings of the Association, might seem to imply that the question we have raised must be answered in the negative. Among the exceptions, however, must be reckoned the Superintendent of the Banstead Asylum, Dr. Claye Shaw, who has all along been convinced of the importance of the objects of this Association, and

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has been indefatigable both as a member and as its treasurer in helping on its progress. The fact that a man of Dr. Shaw's large experience, not only at Banstead, but at Colney Hatch and Leavesden, should hold the strong opinion which he does, appears to us a most important argument in favour of the energetic support of this attempt to provide "after-care" for a certain class of convalescent pauper lunatics. It remains now for the Society, after having tided over the difficulties of its formation and infancy, to place itself in a position to show to a much greater extent than it has hitherto been able to do, the beneficial results of its organization, in the shelter afforded to recovered female patients in the interval between leaving the asylum and entering into service. Lord Brabazon has shown not only a warm interest in the Association of which he has consented to be President, but has been willing to sacrifice his time and to give the Society the benefit of his judgment in matters of practical detail, facts which augur well for the future success of its operations.

It is intended to open a Home for the class of poor women for whom temporary care is desirable, as soon as sufficient funds are obtained. It is believed that they will be forthcoming when the object in view is fully known to the benevolent and philanthropic. We now make an appeal for donations and subscriptions. These may be paid to the Treasurer, Dr. Claye Shaw, (Medical Superintendent, County Asylum, Banstead, Surrey), to the "After-Care," Account at the Union Bank of London, Argyll Place, W.

Idiots and Imbeciles in Lunatic Asylums in England and Wales.

In the July number of the Journal, Dr. Ireland published an article on this subject, read to a meeting of the Medical Psychological Association, at Carlisle, in April last. The result of the reading of this paper was the issue of a number of circulars with the object of obtaining information as to the number of idiots and imbeciles in asylums and work-houses, classified as to age, whether under or above fifteen. A few statistical returns were given in the number of the Journal already referred to. Dr. Ireland has forwarded to us a continuation of these valuable reports, and we are sure that they cannot fail to prove both important and interesting to the readers of this Journal.

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