should be not only separation, but distinct superintendence and management. But although I differ from him on that subject, we both agree entirely as to the propriety of some fresh action being taken, and some better legislation devised. The subject is such a very large one, that I don't at all intend to enter into the various points, and therefore I will venture to propose a resolution. I think I am in order in bringing this resolution forward upon the paper which Dr. Lalor has read. I intended bringing the subject forward a year ago in Dublin, but until I knew the resolutions which the Committee ultimately adopted, I hardly felt justified in asking the Association to express even a general assent to the action taken by the Charity Organization Society. I think a very general resolution would strengthen the hands of that Society without at all asking you to give your adhesion to the details—"That this Association, having had the proceedings of the Charity Organization Society in regard to idiots, imbeciles, and harmless lunatics brought under its notice, desires, without committing itself to the immediate line of action the above Society might think proper to take, to express its satisfaction that it has taken up the subject of educational and custodial establishments for this class." I think there are probably many points of detail from which some of us would dissent, especially with regard to harmless lunatics, but I think a general resolution of this kind would leave us quite unshackled. When a Society outside ourselves has been considering a subject of this kind for so long, I think it is about time we should appreciate their intentions, at any rate.

The PRESIDENT—They have kept their proceedings rather quiet, but I shall have great pleasure in seconding the resolution.

Dr. HACK TUKE—The Editors of the Journal are going to give the resolutions in their next number.

The motion was then put and carried.

Dr. LALOR said he would next propose a vote of thanks to the President and Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians for the use of the room, not only on this, but on former occasions.

Dr. CLOUSTON seconded, and the motion was carried.

Dr. BUCKNILL then proposed, and Dr. HACK TUKE seconded, a vote of thanks to the President, which was unanimously carried and acknowledged.

The proceedings then terminated.

The members of the Association and their friends dined afterwards at Greenwich.

IDIOTS AND IMBECILES.

The following resolutions have been passed, after full discussion, by a Special Committee of the Charity Organisation Society in regard to idiots and imbeciles and harmless lunatics:—

In reference to the question, "How far capable of Improvement," the following resolution was agreed to:—

"That a small proportion may be made self-supporting; that a further larger proportion may be trained to do some useful work; and that, as a general rule, the habits of the remainder can be improved so as to make their lives happier to themselves and less burdensome to others."

The Committee then proceeded to consider the several heads of the second Section, entitled, "General Principles of Treatment," and the following resolutions were come to, after discussion, in reference to the five first heads:—

1st. "That idiots and imbeciles should be treated distinctively from other classes."

2nd. "That they ought not to be associated with lunatics in asylums."

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.22.99.503 Published online by Cambridge University Press

3rd. "That they ought not, unless in exceptional cases, to be associated with paupers in union houses."

4th. "That the distinctive treatment suited to idiots and imbeciles ought to be applied collectively, especially in the earlier stages of education;" and

5th. "That idiots and imbeciles cannot with advantage be placed in ordinary schools with other children."

A motion made by Sir Charles Trevelyan, that "Feeble-minded Children ought not to be associated with Adult Idiots," was discussed in detail, and on its being shown that, under certain circumstances, mutual aid might with advantage be interchanged among those diversely afflicted, and the elder might act as nurses and helpers to the younger, and having regard also to the improvement likely to be effected by early training in the habits of this class, the motion was withdrawn.

The Committee then proceeded to consider the remaining heads of the second Section of the agenda, entitled "General Principles of Treatment," and passed, after discussion, the following resolutions:—

6th. "That the improvement of idiots and imbeciles would not be promoted by boarding them out, but in certain cases, boarding out, under proper supervision, is not unsuitable to harmless lunatics."

7th. "That the education of idiots and imbeciles should be based on physical considerations."

8th. "That the education of idiots and imbeciles should commence at the earliest age at which they can dispense with a mother's care, and the subsequent stages should depend upon the capacity developed by them."

9th. "That idiots and imbeciles should have a thorough industrial training, so as to enable them, as far as practicable, to support themselves, or at least to contribute towards their support, when circumstances render it necessary;" and—

10th. "That idiots and imbeciles of all classes should, as far as may be prudently done, be also encouraged to cultivate any literary, scientific, artistic, or mechanical faculty they may happen to possess, or be otherwise furnished with employment, so as to promote their self-respect, and to make them feel that they are of some use in the world, or, at any rate, to occupy them pleasantly."

The Committee next considered the third section of the agenda, entitled "Treatment of Adults," and, after discussion, passed the following resolutions:—

1st. "That the treatment of adult idiots and imbeciles must depend upon the degree in which the character and faculties have been developed by previous education and training."

2nd. "That a small proportion may be permanently improved, so as to take care of themselves, either at their own homes or elsewhere, and to earn their own living."

3rd. "That a larger proportion may be improved so as to support themselves under proper safeguards."

4th. "But that there is also a large proportion of cases which, having achieved a certain improvement, are unable to get beyond this, and are, indeed, liable to retrograde, and for these cases suitable institutions, or departments of institutions, where suitable classification may be carried out, are indispensable."

5th. "Not only can idiots and imbeciles in asylums be employed with advantage to themselves, and the asylums be managed as industrial establishments for manufacturing or agricultural industry, but it is essential to the moral and mental well-being of the class that such a system should be adopted; and, under good management, it may be made advantageous to the institution in a financial sense by diminishing the cost of maintenance."

The Committee then considered the first five heads of the fourth section of the agenda, viz., "Administrative Arrangements," and passed the following resolutions:—

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1st. "Voluntary charity has directed attention to the claims of this neglected class, and made great progress towards the establishment of a model for general adoption; but it has not proved equal to providing a remedial machinery co-extensive with the evil."

2nd. "Assuming that the returns of the census of 1871 are within the mark, only about three per cent. of the idiots and imbeciles in England and Wales have been suitably provided for by voluntary charity."

3rd. "Adequate provision for all the idiots and imbeciles in England and Wales of the poorer classes, whether juvenile or adult, cannot be made without the intervention of the State."

Under the 6th head letters were read from Mr. Jonathan Pim and Professor Hancock, stating that the provision made in Ireland for idiots and imbeciles was simply that they might be confined in Lunatic Asylums as being insane, or in prisons as criminals, or in workhouses as paupers, excepting only the Stewart Asylum, established about eight years ago, in which there are at present 43 inmates; but that a report is being prepared by the Charity Organisation Committee of the Dublin Statistical and Social Inquiry Society, under the several heads of the agenda, so that the Committee may have uniform information for all parts of the United Kingdom, as a basis for an uniform law for the helpless classes.

The existing arrangements for the education and care of idiots, imbeciles, and harmless lunatics in Scotland were then considered, under the sixth head of the fourth section of the agenda, and letters were read from Dr. Mitchell, member of the General Board of Commissioners in Lunacy for Scotland; Mr. Skelton, secretary to the Board of Supervision for the Relief of the Poor in Scotland; and Dr. Ireland.

Under the seventh head of the fourth section it was determined to postpone the consideration of new legislation until it shall be seen what arrangements may be recommended to be made.

Under the eighth and ninth heads it was resolved "That the arrangement which has been made for idiots, imbeciles, and harmless lunatics in the Metropolitan Asylum District is applicable, in its main principles, to the rest of England; viz., that idiots, imbeciles, and harmless lunatics should be removed from workhouses and county lunatic asylums, and that young persons of those classes should be suitably educated and trained."

Under the tenth head it was resolved "That the education and care of idiots, imbeciles, and harmless lunatics should be conducted by governing bodies specially appointed and responsible for that purpose; that such governing bodies should be composed—

"1. Of representatives of the local magistrates;
2. Of representatives of the local guardians; and
3. Of persons appointed by the Crown."

Under the eleventh head, "That such governing bodies should also be charged with the education and care of blind and deaf and dumb children of the poorer classes."

The Committee then had before them the fourteenth head of the fourth section of the agenda, "Administrative Arrangements," and after considering a paper, prepared by Mr. Millard, on the number of idiots, imbeciles, and harmless lunatics, under and above 20 years of age, who had to be provided for, unanimously passed the following resolution:—

"That the country should be divided into districts each sufficiently large to fill an asylum containing not more than 2,000 adults, and schools containing, at the utmost, 500 young people."

And under the fourteenth head the Committee resolved, by 10 to 5—

"That, besides the supervision of the Commissioners of Lunacy, the schools and asylums should be inspected and reported upon to the Local Government Board."

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.22.99.503 Published online by Cambridge University Press