

The following Committee was appointed to consider and report on the formation of Colonial branches:—Drs. Beach, Hayes Newington, Urquhart, and Robert Jones.

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#### THE EDITORSHIP OF "BRAIN."

The Annual Meeting of the Neurological Society was held at 11, Chandos Street, on February 14th, the meeting having been postponed from the date originally fixed, on account of the death of Her Majesty Queen Victoria. The address was given by the in-coming President (Dr. W. Julius Mickle) on the subject of "Mental Wandering." The most noteworthy change in the list of officers of the Society is the disappearance of the name of Dr. A. de Watteville from the editorship of 'Brain,' the journal of the Society. With reference to this the Council make the following remarks in their report:

"It is with great regret that the Council announces that Dr. A. de Watteville has resigned the Editorship of 'Brain.' When accepting his resignation, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—The Council accepts with great regret Dr. de Watteville's resignation of the Editorship of 'Brain,' and desires to take this opportunity of recording the deep debt of gratitude that the Society owes him for the way in which he has conducted the Journal for the past twenty years. The Council feels that parting with Dr. de Watteville is an event of great moment to the Society, for he has not only brought 'Brain' to a high standard of perfection, and secured for it a great European reputation; but even the existence of the Journal at the present time is due to his energetic action at a critical juncture in 1880. Moreover, the Council is mindful that the Society itself took origin on Dr. de Watteville's initiative, at a meeting held at his house, on November 14th, 1885."

We are sure that our readers, many of whom are members of the Neurological Society as well as of our own Association, will fully endorse the regret expressed above. The task of Editorship is very materially lightened for the future by the reputation secured to 'Brain' by Dr. de Watteville's labours in the past, and we may express the hope that it will still be maintained. The new Editor is Dr. Percy Smith, who will be assisted in the selection of papers by a Committee.

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#### THE CONSTRUCTION OF ASYLUMS.

ON February 18th, at the Royal Institute of British Architects, Mr. George T. Hine, F.R.I.B.A., contributed an interesting paper on "Asylums and Asylum Planning." In the course of his address, which was read by Dr. HAYES NEWINGTON, he said:

Asylums were built for people who had to be watched, nursed, and provided with employment and recreation under conditions inapplicable to sane people, and to provide for all these, while the subjects were under detention, a special knowledge was required to make their lives bearable, and, as far as possible, pleasurable.

Existing types of plan were all more or less developments of the corridor and pavilion systems. In the early days the corridor system, consisting of a long gallery, with single rooms opening out of it, was the only recognised principle on which an asylum could be built. The form was usually quadrilateral. After 1845, while the internal arrangements savoured less of restraint, the principle of the corridor system still prevailed. The first development was an attempt at classification by the introduction of a ward for the sick and infirm on each side of the building; the number of cells was reduced, and more patients were allowed to sleep in associated dormitories. In the seventies special provision began to be made for epileptics, and the Lunacy Commissioners in 1874 published a plan, designed by Mr. Howell, for an epileptic ward, which had been adopted with trifling variations in nearly every asylum designed within the last twenty years. In the decade 1871-80 the pavilion system came into vogue, the transition stage being represented by the asylum at Whittingham. Architects designing asylums should give first consideration to the site. In many of the plans coming under his official