

The *réunion* of the Association in Manchester has afforded another proof of the wisdom of meeting occasionally in the provinces. Much regret was felt on account of the enforced absence of Mr. Rooke-Ley. Mr. Mould exerted himself to the utmost to make the meeting a success, and entertained the members of the Association in the most hospitable manner. On Friday, the day following the meeting, a party met at Cheadle, on Mr. Mould's invitation, and visited the Manchester Royal Asylum and the Villas on the Estate. Too much praise cannot be awarded to Mr. Mould for the perseverance, energy, and judgment (to say nothing of his scrupulous regard for the Lunacy Acts and the bye-laws of the Commissioners) with which he has carried out what, in the first instance, was largely experimental, but which has proved in his able hands to be a great success. We are sure that with all who inspected the outlying houses there was but one feeling of satisfaction and admiration, while even those who had visited them before were afresh impressed with the importance of the example which Mr. Mould has set to others engaged in the same work. We only express the sentiments felt by those who examined this remarkable cluster of home-like residences for the insane, when we express the hope that the genial and able director of this institution and of its appendages, will long be spared to continue his labours, and that the system which he has shewn to add so greatly to the comfort of the insane may be extended by other superintendents of asylums wherever practicable.

The dinner of the Association took place at the Queen's Hotel, Manchester, March 13th, the President, Dr. Newington, in the chair, many members of the medical profession in Manchester attending.

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#### LUNACY CONSOLIDATION BILL.

There appears to be no reason to doubt the easy passage through Parliament of the Bill, intituled "An Act to consolidate certain of the Enactments respecting Lunatics," and which has by the House of Commons been referred to a Select Committee. It will be the means of greatly facilitating a knowledge of Lunacy Law. There are 342 clauses, occupying 164 pages.

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#### CORONER'S CENSURE OF A SURGEON.

An insane father in Cambridgeshire killed his two children in February last. Mr. Baldwin, F.R.C.S., of Royston, a Magistrate for the above County, received a telegram from the medical man in attendance, Dr. Kidd, stating that Walter Lawrence, of Litlington, was suffering from homicidal mania, and it was necessary to remove him to the Fulbourn Asylum that day. When he arrived at the house, where he was met by the relieving officer of the district, he found that a policeman had already been, but had not taken any action in the matter. After

consulting with Dr. Kidd, he decided to send the patient to the County Asylum, he having been the recipient of parish relief for some time. Two policemen came to the house, but Mr. Baldwin advised them not to apprehend Lawrence. One of them accompanied him and the relieving officer to the asylum. When the inquest on the bodies of the children was held on February 20th, the Coroner expressed his disapproval of the action Mr. Baldwin had taken in advising the police not to arrest Lawrence, and for sending him to the Fulbourn Asylum. He asserted that no one had a right to take a man out of the custody of the law, and send him to a lunatic asylum.

It appears to us that the law in regard to criminal lunatics before their trial ought to be clearly understood. Mr. Baldwin unquestionably did the best thing for the patient, and if the existing law does not allow of such a course being pursued, it ought to be altered accordingly.

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#### THE ROYAL EDINBURGH ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

The annual meeting of the Corporation of the Royal Edinburgh Asylum for the Insane was held on February 24th, 1890, Lord Provost Boyd presiding.

The Treasurer, Scott Moncreiff, Esq., submitted the report of the Managers, which stated that the daily average number of patients during 1889 was 824, an increase of seven on the previous year. The patients in the East House, Craig House, and Myreside Cottage numbered 127. Intermediate class, 132; pauper patients and private patients at lowest rate of board, 565. The cost of maintenance of pauper patients per head for 1889 was £31 8s. 8d., being an increase of 9s. 2½d. upon the cost per head for 1888. For the erection of the new asylum the managers have accepted tenders amounting in all to £65,494 6s. 5d. Negotiations with the City Parochial Board, in order to acquire the summit of Craiglockhart Hill, have been successful, and there is no danger of the new asylum being overlooked from that quarter.

The LORD PROVOST moved the adoption of the report, and observed that last year they were somewhat at issue with the Corporation of Edinburgh, in regard to the proposed additions to the grounds where the new house was being built. At that time they were only contemplating proceedings, whereas now they were fairly launched on the scheme. It was very gratifying that the only obstacle had been removed by the Corporation giving way in regard to the eastern portion of Craiglockhart Hill. In concluding, the Chairman referred to the eminently satisfactory character of the official report upon the Institution, and expressed the indebtedness of all who were interested in the asylum to their physician-superintendent, Dr. Clouston, and to the medical gentlemen who acted along with him.

The report was adopted.

Dr. CLOUSTON, in his report for 1889, stated that the admissions were 323, the total number of patients under treatment having been 1,149; the discharges were 248, the number who died being 77. From 1875 to 1879 the number of admissions of patients over 70 was only 47, while during the last five years it was 69, an increase of 47 per cent. of senility. It was this class of patients that reduced their recovery rate, for under the care and diet they got in the asylum their life was greatly prolonged. He had long maintained that certain forms of mental disease were scientifically a sort of premature death of a portion of the brain, while the rest of the organ and the body lived on and did their lower functions; the practice, therefore, of treating active insanity and dotage in the same institutions seemed to rest on a certain scientific basis, however inconvenient its practical results might be. After showing that sanity