

—some long-trying friends—have shown kindness in this manner. Kind gifts have been brought, invitations to tea given, &c., and many tokens of sympathy evinced.

3. *Postal communications* have been very numerous and varied. Letters, books, magazines, pictures, Christmas, Easter, and other cards, almanacks, flowers, postage stamps, &c., have been forwarded, and given much pleasure.

---

#### POSTSCRIPT ON THE LUNACY BILL.

Since the observations on the Bill in the "Notes of the Quarter" were written, the representations made by the Parliamentary Committee of the Association and other bodies to the Lord Chancellor on the very unfair and injurious clauses it contains have had a favourable effect, and his Lordship, on the Bill going into Committee on March 18th, introduced certain valuable amendments and promised others, which materially modify the clauses referred to. A communication was made to Lord Esher, in which stress was laid upon the necessity of still further protecting medical men by the introduction of a clause requiring the sanction of a judicial functionary before a civil action can be brought against medical men, and the granting of power to the defendant in a threatened lunacy action to require the plaintiff to give security for costs.

It may be observed that there was a marked improvement in the general tone of the debate in the House of Lords on going into Committee in the references made to the branch of the medical profession practising in lunacy.

Putting aside minor points upon which the Association has made suggestions, the main proposals and protests have reference to:—

1. More complete protection of medical men signing certificates, and of private persons and institutions receiving patients.
2. Prevention of frivolous actions brought by discharged lunatics by requiring security for costs.
3. Prevention of the confiscation of the vested interests of the proprietors of private asylums.
4. Single patients.
5. Examination of alleged lunatic by medical men, and not the magistrate, in cases in which the latter defers the granting of an order for admission into an asylum for the purpose of a further examination.

The Chairman of the Committee, Dr. Rayner, writes:—

The following suggestions (many of which have been adopted) were forwarded to the Lord Chancellor prior to the second reading of the Act, and in a second communication to his Lordship the Committee expressed the opinion that Clause 43 "was a veiled confiscation of the vested interests of the private asylum proprietors," and that Clause 26, s.s. 1, by compelling every person suffering from mental disorder requiring treatment away from home to be "incarcerated" in a public asylum and branded by legal process as a lunatic would inflict grievous harm and much social suffering in many cases of acute and transient insanity. This was exemplified by cases of puerperal mental disorder. To each communication his Lordship returned a courteous reply, promising attention to the suggestions and criticisms forwarded.

**SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS AND REMARKS ON THE "LUNACY ACTS AMENDMENT BILL" (H. L.), 19TH FEB., 1886.  
BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE OF THE MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.**

Clause.	Sub-section.	Page and Line.	Suggested Omissions.	Suggested Amendments.	Remarks and Inquiries.
3	7	p. 3, l. 27		It is suggested that the name and address of the usual medical attendant (if any) be inserted in Form 2.	What constitutes a person? The "usual medical attendant?"
3	15	p. 4, l. 43			In cases of postponed petitions, in which the petition is refused, what protection from actions for libel is given to the signatory of a medical certificate? The patient may have recovered during the period between the signing of the certificate and the refusal of the adjourned petition.
3	12	p. 4, l. 26	Omit "of or."	After "to do," line 27, insert, "appoint two medical persons to."	Objection is made to the Judge visiting a supposed lunatic to determine a medical question. It is suggested that he should appoint two medical persons to visit for him.
3	13	p. 4, l. 34			"Summon." Under what conditions are the persons summoned to attend? How are their expenses or remuneration to be paid?— <i>e.g.</i> , in the case of physicians summoned from a distance, what penalty is incurred by neglect of summons?
3, 4	16, also in 8	p. 5, l. 9. p. 6, l. 41.			"Taking" by whom? By the petitioner or his agents, by the asylum authorities, or by public authorities?
3	17	p. 5, l. 17		After "him," l. 17, insert, "or his agent."	The petitioner, by age, infirmity, &c., might not be able to attend personally.

3	20	p. 5, l. 35		After "made," l. 35, insert, "or dismissed."	
5	2	p. 7, l. 29			After "Justice" should not "Stipendiary Magistrate" or "County Court Judge" be inserted?
8	4	p. 10, l. 16			"Affidavits" are privileged. "Certificates" are not. Is it the intention of this sub-section to put certificates on the same footing of privilege?
8	4	p. 10, l. 16			As the clause stands no protection is given to a medical man who does an act for the purpose of signing a certificate but does not so sign it, and generally no protection is given to any one, as the door will be opened to litigation in all cases by the term "good faith."
31	1	p. 21, l. 30			By this section the present power given to Visitors to grant leave to boarders is withdrawn, which will in many cases lead to delay.
33	1	p. 23, l. 15		After "person" insert "other than a husband or wife or relative within the first degree."	Without this provision the mere fact of insanity in a family would render them liable to an inspection of all the family circumstances and "property," and render the position of the family extremely dubious. Does this prohibit the introduction of fresh licenses in existing houses?
43 44	1 9	p. 30 p. 31, l. 11			It is proposed to omit this section, for generally, the authorities have sufficient power to increase their accommodation, and specially, such institutions are useful in case of temporary want of room in county asylums, by reason of destruction by fire, by rapid increase of demands for admission, by alterations in county buildings, as in cases of epidemic disease.
Forms 2 and 10		p. 45, l. 52	Omit the question as to the occurrence of insanity in a near relative.		The objection is that it will increase enormously the present objection on the part of the relatives to sign any papers.