

almost all the other Councils approached, approved, but Glasgow considered the movement premature.

A meeting was held in Edinburgh at the end of 1895, at which the principal Councils, except Glasgow, were represented, and an 'Association of Parish Councils in Scotland' was provisionally formed, with Mr. D. Forbes Dallas, S.S.C., then, if we remember aright, a member of the Edinburgh Council, as interim Secretary.

The Local Government Board, while not actually disapproving of the movement, appeared to consider the payment of subscriptions (which were fixed too high at first) as a probable illegal payment. After some negotiations the rate of subscription was reduced. It was thought, too, that statutory authority was required for the expenditure on subscriptions and travelling expenses, and so a Bill, entitled the 'Parish Councils' Association (Scotland) Bill,' was framed and introduced into Parliament in 1899 by Mr. Hedderwick, Mr. (now Lord) Haldane, Sir Lewis M'Iver, Mr. (now Sir Charles) Renshaw, and Mr. Parker Smith. The Bill consisted of practically one clause, which authorised a Parish Council, if it thought fit, to pay out of the General Parish Fund a sum not exceeding per annum, and also the reasonable expenses of representatives, all of course subject to the approval of the Local Government Board. The memorandum attached to the Bill states that 'this Bill is practically the Poor Law Unions' Association Expenses Act of 1898, with the necessary change of phraseology to adapt it to the circumstances of Parish Councils in Scotland.'

It is interesting to note that, while the Committee of the Association of 1895-1899, were labouring against official apathy in the east, and the cold shoulder in the west, English Poor Law Unions received statutory approval. Scotland, which might and should have led the way—as it does in most other things—has had to wait for fifteen years longer to attain the same result.

That the Association is now an accomplished fact is probably due, not only to the necessity being recognised of having some medium to focus the opinions of those who are engaged in administrative work, but also, no doubt, to the recognition of those at the head of affairs, of the necessity of allowing popularly elected bodies an additional opportunity of showing that they live up to their responsibilities.

EPILEPTIC COLONY OPENED BY GLASGOW PARISH COUNCIL.-

The new Epileptic Colony of the Glasgow Parish Council at Stoneyetts, Chryston, was opened on 6th June by Mr. James Cunningham, Chairman of the Council, in presence of a large and representative gathering. The Colony is the first institution of the kind erected under Poor Law auspices in Scotland. The guests were driven from the Chambers in George Street, Glasgow, in brakes to Chryston. The company included Lord Provost

Stevenson, the Master of Polwarth, Mr. Ewan Macpherson, of the Local Government Board; Dr. John Macpherson, of the General Board of Lunacy; Bailees M'Connell and Maclure, Deacon-Convener Service, Dr. A. K. Chalmers, Medical Officer of Health Mr. J. W. Forbes, Advocate; Councillors James Stewart and Dott Mr. James Gibson, Chairman, and Mr. Kyd, Clerk, of Edinburgh Parish Council; Mr. J. Braidwood, Chairman of Govan Parish Council; Miss Quarrier; Dr. Mackintosh of the Western Infirmary; and Mr. Jas. R. Motion Clerk to the Parish Council.

Mr. Robert Tannock, on behalf of the contractors and measurers, presented Mr. Cunningham with a gold key, with which he opened the door of the principal building and declared the Colony open. The company then assembled in the hall, where several short addresses were delivered.

The address of the Chairman, Mr. Cunningham, was as follows:— The question of a Home for Epileptics was more or less before the Glasgow Parish Council for a number of years, but took concrete form early in 1910 when the Council resolved to erect such a Home, and appointed a deputation of three of its members with two officials to visit and report on various Epileptic Homes in England, a resolution which called forth some criticism in the public press, of which the following letter is a sample:—

'I am glad to see "Ratepayer's" letter protesting against the proposed deputation. The idea of five elderly gentlemen stravaging all over England at the expense of the ratepayers to obtain information which could be got at the cost of a few penny stamps is too ludicrous for words. Besides, if, as your correspondent states, the Parish Council election takes place in December, not one of the three members who are on the deputation may have a hand in carrying out the scheme. Hoping the Council will veto the proposed expedition on Tuesday.— REASON.'

The citizens generally, however, did not endorse Mr. Reason's views— or I suppose showed a woeful lack of reason —and did not consign the three members to that obscurity from which they should, in 'Reason's' opinion, never have emerged, but are all here to-day to see the fruition of the conclusions which followed their 'stravaging.' Some Ward Committees also gave us the benefit of their deliberations on the subject, one of them delightfully entering into a history of the sins and iniquities of the Parish Council in the past, and concluding that in view of former blunders in selling and building, that never no more should the Parish Council put their hands in the mortar tub, and all the more so that Parish Councils were doomed to speedy extinction, and the sooner the better.

Three years have passed since then—we are still alive, our temperature is normal, our pulse is good, our appetite for work is

healthy. The microbes or bacteria which so seriously threatened us have recently been singularly dormant, and to all appearances we may yet have a few years' opportunity of existence for good or evil, and I am sure our intentions are to do the best we can for the interests entrusted to our care.

In the many problems which face the Parish Council we do not always all see eye to eye, but I think I may say in connection with the establishment of this Colony we have been a united Council.

United in three propositions:—*First*— That a Home for Epileptics was necessary. *Second*— That it should be erected as economically as possible, consistent with satisfactory provision for the health, comfort and employment of the patients. *Third*— That it should be more in the nature of a Home than an Hospital, and be equipped with the view of relieving, as much as possible, the distressing accompaniments of this dread disease.

You now see in what manner the Council have carried out the work they set before themselves. It has been a great disappointment to them that these Homes were not opened last Autumn. There are various reasons to account for this. We had an exceptionally wet and stormy season to begin with, and that delayed outdoor labour. The coal and other strikes of last year involved the loss of many weeks, and we were unfortunate in delays for which some of our contractors were responsible, but at last we are within sight of a finish, and we invite you to go around and see all that has been done.

We have already 86 patients in residence, and, when quite complete, will have accommodation for 300 inmates in six villa blocks for 50 each—three for male and three for female on either side of the Administration and other public buildings. The entire buildings cover an area of about 7,000 square yards. There is a house for the Resident Doctor who will superintend the whole establishment. A gate lodge for the gardener and homes for 12 tradesmen, suitable accommodation for matron, steward, and a staff of 18 nurses, etc. A hall to accommodate 320 people with work-rooms of various kinds—all fitted up with a good water supply, steam-heating and electric lighting, the best sanitary and lavatory accommodation, and a complete sewage scheme, and all this at a cost of £40,000 or £150 per bed; but if you take the villa blocks alone, that is, the necessary accommodation for sleeping, eating, and daily life of the patients, the cost is £70 per bed, which we are sure will compare favourably with any similar institution, and proves that we have carried out the first and second parts of our resolution in a faithful and efficient manner.

Roughly, Stobhill Hospital cost about £200 per bed, buildings only; Duke Street Hospital cost about £360 per bed, buildings only; Oakbank Hospital cost about £350 per bed, buildings only; our Homes for young people at Dunoon and Kilm cost

about £50 per bed, buildings only. These latter are the only part for which the present Council are responsible, so that we do not far facing the ratepayers and giving an account of our stewardship.

You may ask—how does the cost of this Colony here compare with that of similar institutions in England? That with which we can most usefully be compared is Monyhall, Birmingham, built for the Parish Councils there, at a cost of £80 per bed for two-storeyed villas with 36 beds. In our case it was decided that one-storey buildings were safer and more easily supervised, and taking into account the lighter buildings which may be used in the milder English climate, we are satisfied that our £70 per bed has been well spent.

The visit to Monyhall was of much value to the deputation, and if 'Reason' is still in existence, we can assure him that it has well repaid the cost to the ratepayers, and done much to save them considerable expense.

The Council, with some hesitation, decided to have the plans drawn and the work carried on by their own staff, and the result, we are happy to state, has amply justified the confidence they placed in their Master of Works, Mr. Robert Tannock, who was appointed Architect, and has produced a set of buildings admirably adapted for the purposes to which they are to be put, and quipped in every detail in a manner which Mr. Tannock's long and intimate knowledge of the requirements of hospital and other parish Council buildings enabled him to devise and carry out to the best advantage.

The Colony is under the superintendence of Dr. Leonard D. L. Baugh, M.B. Ch.B., who was Senior Assistant in Gartloch Mental Hospital, and who has made epilepsy a special study. We are sure that he will do all possible to make it a success. Two years ago, when we looked into arrangements for patients in the Colony, it was estimated that we had 330 epileptics in our various institutions, of whom 200 were in our Mental Hospitals—many of these come into a condition quite fitted for the greater freedom of an institution like this, and, as opportunity occurs, will be tested and, if found suitable, transferred to these buildings; others will come from our other hospitals, &c., and we earnestly hope, in the free and open surroundings which exist here, to be at least greatly relieved, if not entirely cured, of their troubles. We look for a diminution in the frequency of the fits—a gain in health, happiness, and character. It is the first Epileptic Home erected under Poor Law auspices in Scotland, and its progress will be closely watched by public authorities.

As already said, the aim of the Council was to make this more of a Home than an Hospital. We have well-equipped hospitals at Lenzie, Gartloch, and Stobhill, and in the city, where epileptic cases requiring active treatment and close watching can be dealt

with, and we purpose this Colony for those who are able to do something for themselves and engage in work of various kinds. It is not much more than fifty years since the first idea of an Epileptic Colony suggested itself to John Bost, a Protestant clergyman in the south of France. Since that time the value of such Homes has been impressed on those whose care or duty it is to deal with numbers of epileptics. Numerous institutions have arisen in Germany, Switzerland, France, and other European countries; also in the United States and in England. In Scotland the first Home was provided by the late Mr. William Quarrier—an addition to his good work among the children—and we are glad to have Miss Quarrier here to-day.

We wish the patients here to lead as far as possible a normal, business life—not the depressing, languid, wearisome drag so often seen in Hospital Wards and Lunatic Asylums. There are numerous epileptics who, if suitable opportunities were afforded them, would be capable of carrying on a considerable amount of work towards their own maintenance, but owing to deficient training in youth, or to inability to obtain regular employment on account of fits, or from the fact that the epileptic is excluded from almost all sources of ordinary labour—Employers' Liability and Workmen's Compensation Acts have closed many opportunities for work that such persons formerly had—and employers of labour have, in many cases to their sincere regret, to decline to keep them. Hence not only amongst the poorer classes, but also among those in easier circumstances the epileptic is found to be a burden to his relatives, and any arrangements that can be made for the proper maintenance of such persons will be welcomed by a wide circle.

There can be nothing more distressing in family life than witnessing the fits of a member of the family, and not only for the patient but for the friends it is better that they should be removed. Even in Hospital life it is desirable that epileptics should be segregated. Fits taken in ordinary Hospital Wards are distressing and disturbing to the other patients, and we hope this Colony will not only do good to those brought here but be a relief to our other institutions. The location of the Colony may perhaps be criticised, but it was purposely chosen that the inmates might be saved from the overlooking of a sometimes thoughtless public. It is rather difficult of access, but as you see it is in a delightful country district with ample scope in the fields around for outdoor employment.

In declaring this institution open we commend it and all connected with it, either as officials or inmates, to the blessing of Him who when on earth healed the sick and had ever a tender and sympathetic ear to the cry of distress, and who yet,

'Pursues in heaven His mighty plan,
The Saviour and the friend of man.'

Lord Provost Stevenson explained the methods which he had seen adopted in Germany for the treatment of epileptics and said that the work being done by the Parish Council removed a reproach which was a disgrace. Those who had experience of epileptics must have known what a terrible thing it was for poor families to have epileptic members and no means of getting them treated properly. The disease had all sort of beliefs connected with it. In the old days it was looked upon as a Divine Infliction or a Divine benediction. It was called the 'Malady of Hercules,' because Hercules was an epileptic. Julius Caesar and Napoleon were also epileptics. He expected that many of the inmates of the colony would be a credit to the future.

Mr. Macpherson, of the Local Government Board, said that from the time Parish Council contemplated taking the very advanced step which they had taken they had been in constant intercourse with the Board on the subject. He thought the colony marked a very important epoch in Poor Law administration. It was a thing which could hardly be over-estimated. It was a reproach to this country that nothing had been done before. For once Scotland had fallen behind England. He hoped other great cities would follow Glasgow in the course which had been taken. On behalf of the Board he congratulated the Parish Council not only on the public spirit they had shown but also on the care they had devoted to attaining as near as possible a perfect scheme.

The Master of Polwarth said that as a prison Commissioner he had again and again come across in prisons people who were epileptic, and who, wherever they ought to be, ought not to be in prisons. He regarded the colony as a very important step, and he hoped public administration in Scotland would be further helped by the of the passing into law of the Mental Deficiency Bill, which he was sure was desired by all who came into contact with that class of people. He only wished they could be more sure of it passing.

Dr. Macpherson, of the Board of Lunacy, said the provision for epileptics in Scotland had been in the past practically none at all, and consequently all the epileptics who needed any care had to be provided for in the lunatic asylums. The presence of these people in lunatic asylums was regarded as very undesirable both from the point of view of superintendents and from the point of view of the welfare of the epileptics.

Dr. Mackintosh, of the Western Infirmary, congratulated the Parish Council on the cheapness and extent of the ground which they had acquired for the colony and on the small cost at which the buildings had been erected.

Mr. James Gibson, Chairman of Edinburgh Parish Council, also spoke, and the proceedings terminated with votes of thanks to the speakers, proposed by Mr. Stephen Henry.

Tea was afterwards served and an opportunity was given to the guests to inspect the buildings.

THE MENTAL DEFICIENCY BILL.—The following interesting article recently appeared in the *Glasgow Herald*:— This Bill will sink or swim according to the weight of criticism launched against its two leading principles, viz.:— (1) Its definition of mental defectives and (2) the District Boards of Control. The first has been for a considerable time before the country, and the Government must now have a shrewd idea that the opposition is not deadly the second and least important is so startlingly new and unexpected that the Bill may be lost on this minor issue unless the Government are prepared to receive suggestions in the way of amendment.

At the present time the District Lunacy Boards are, in the seven chief parishes of Scotland, composed of the Parish Councils, and in the rest of Scotland of representatives from County Councils and Town Councils. The lunacy rate is levied along with the county and municipal rates. Apart from these seven parishes, Parish Councils have no control over the administration of asylums. This has long been urged as a grievance by Parish Councils. They have represented that they supply either all or most of the patients that fill these asylums; that they pay the whole or nearly the whole cost of maintenance out of the poor rate; that they know intimately the class of people from whom the patients are drawn, and that therefore they should be represented on the Boards that erect and manage the institutions, and that this representation should be one-half. The County Councils, unwilling to share any patronage to which they have been long accustomed, and not being hampered by audit restrictions like Parish Councils, have been able up till the present time, by deputations to London and otherwise, to checkmate the claims of Parish Councils to such representation. Now that the Government have taken time to look seriously into the matter, destruction threatens to descend on the present Boards, as the Bill proposes to sweep them away entirely. The new Boards are to consist of representatives nominated by the chairmen of Parish Councils, and School Boards. School Boards have been brought on the scene by the introduction of an entirely new principle in local administration; a principle that will be as severely scrutinised and as fiercely criticised, probably even by School Boards, as that of the definition of mental defectives.

Hitherto the dealing of School Boards with mental defectives has been confined to the education of such as were educable in special schools, and to supplying them with dinner during school hours. Parish Councils have dealt with other idiot and imbecile children incapable of education by maintaining them in private homes or institutions. The Bill proposes to alter this. School